Story: United by British Values

Teaching notes

Lesson objectives:

To understand the core British Values.

To practise speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in English.

To encourage learners to reflect on their own values and how they compare with British values.

To encourage discussion and reflection.

Key vocabulary

- Values
- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance
- Diversity

You could use pictures and simple sentences to explain each value. See below.

Simplified examples of British Values:

Democracy

People vote to choose their leaders, for example, during local and government elections.

Rule of Law

Everyone must obey the law, for example, stopping at a red light or recycling.

Individual Liberty

People can choose what they want to do and/or believe, for example, their job, their beliefs, equality and gender-based rights (within the law).

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Respecting others who are different from you, for example, religions, cultures, and traditions.

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Photo source: *https://pixabay.com/illustrations/ai-generated-inclusion-community-8109142*

In Britain 2024, there are many neighbourhoods where people from different countries and cultures live, each bringing their own traditions and stories. This is not new.

Britain is a country with a rich history of immigration, building the nation we are today. These values have evolved over centuries, shaped by Britain's historical, cultural, and social development.

In the context of Britain's history, the core British values typically include Democracy; Rule of Law; Individual Liberty; Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

This is a story about how British values helps bring these diverse communities together.

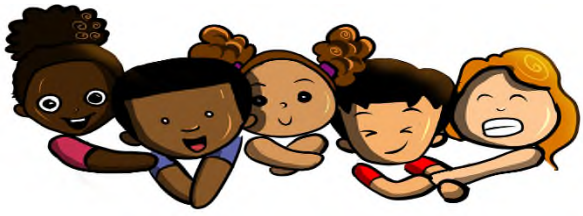

Image source: *https://pixabay.com/illustrations/diversity-equality*

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Amina is a 10-year-old girl who recently moved to the UK with her family. They came from another country to find a safer and better life. Amina's day shows how British Values help her feel welcome and included in her new home.

Today is an important day at Amina's new school. It's time to vote for the new school council. Amina listens as students give speeches about how they want to make the school better. She feels excited because she gets to vote too. Even though she is new, her vote counts just as much as everyone else's. Everyone has a voice. This teaches her the meaning and value of democracy.

After school, Amina goes to the park with her new friends. They play on the swings and slides. Amina sees a sign that says, "Please Keep the Park Clean." She thinks about a lesson today where they talked about something called British Values and her teacher saying that everyone must follow the rules to keep places safe and nice.

She notices some litter on the ground and wonders why people have not put it in the bin, which is very close. It makes her sad to see the mess, so she decides to talk to her teacher about it and ask her school to help plan a clean-up day. Amina thinks it will be a good idea to ask everyone in the community to help.

Later, Amina goes home and spends time drawing pictures. She loves to draw, and her parents encourage her to express herself. Her brother likes to play football, and their parents support both of their interests. Amina enjoys the freedom to choose her hobbies and activities. She feels happy knowing she can be herself in her new home.

She also feels proud of her own heritage and culture and knows she can still integrate and keep her own family's traditions. She knows some people feel shy and scared about their new neighbours and confused about what they should do.

There are many children and families like Amina's. She learned that her school is going to hold a regular community festival. The festival celebrates different cultures with music, food, and dances from around the world. It is the annual "Cultural Harmony Festival." The festival celebrates the different cultures and traditions of the residents in the area.

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People set up stalls with food, crafts, and traditional clothing from their home countries. There are performances of Indian dances, Chinese dragon dances, African drumming, and many more. Families share their traditions with each other, and children learn about different cultures through fun activities. The festival shows how much the community value and learn from each other's differences. She likes that idea and encourages her family to go.

Amina tastes delicious foods from various countries, listens to different types of music, and watches traditional dances. She meets people from many backgrounds and learns about their traditions. This helps Amina understand mutual respect and tolerance, as she learns to appreciate and enjoy the diversity around her. She sees her friends and their families are really enjoying getting to know each other.

As Amina gets ready for bed, she thinks about her day. She feels proud of voting in the school council, following the park rules, enjoying her drawing, and learning about different cultures. Amina realises that these British Values help everyone live together happily and peacefully.

They make her feel welcome and included in her new community and help people to respect and understand each other. Amina is excited to practise these values every day, helping to create a better and more inclusive world for everyone.

Image source: https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/01/15/16/17/hands-600497_1280.jpg

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Questions

1. Why did Amina and her family move to the UK?

_____

2. What important event is happening at Amina's new school?

_____

3. How does Amina feel about voting in the school council election?

_____

4. What does Amina learn from participating in the school council election?

_____

5. What does Amina do after school?

_____

6. What does Amina think about the litter in the park?

_____

7. What is the annual festival called at Amina's school?

_____

8. List three activities that happen at the festival.

_____

9. How do British values help Amina in her new community?

_____

10. What does Amina hope to do with the British values she has learned?

_____

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Extra tasks

In groups share some of the traditions from wherever you are.

or

Prepare a small presentation to show the group at the next lesson.

or

Write about a festival or event in your community that brings people together and describe the activities.

- ✓ Remember to use capital letters and correct end punctuation.
- ✓ Write 25 -50 words