



**Equal
Rule of Law
for Everyone**

Davidson Training UK Ltd

**BRITISH VALUES
RULE OF LAW**

British Values - Rule of Law

Rule of Law

Rules and laws create order and harmony in society. They protect and safeguard people. Laws in the UK are created by government and parliament, and are enforced by both the police and law courts. People who break these laws are punished. Punishment aims to deter people from breaking the law, to protect society and to reform criminals.

In our society laws apply to everyone and sanctions are imposed for those who break them. Criminal law is investigated by the police and leads to fines and imprisonment.

- Many British laws can be traced back to the Magna Carta or the Great Charter.
- Many countries legal systems are based on the British legal system.

The British Legal System

- You are criminally responsible at the age of 10 years.
- You have to be 15 years of age to receive a custodial sentence for a crime.
- You can join the armed service at the age of 16 years with your parents' consent.
- You have to be 18 years of age to gamble.
- You have to be 18 years of age to vote.
- The person in charge of a court is the 'Judge'.
- The person who defends or prosecutes a legal case is called a 'Barrister'.
- The group of people that decides if a person is innocent or guilty is called a 'Jury'.
- Less serious offences such as driving offences are heard in a 'Magistrates Court'.
- Serious offences such as murder are heard in a 'Crown Court'

Consider the link between rights and responsibilities

You have a Right to feel safe. You have a Responsibility to consider the safety of others

Is there a difference between a responsibility and a duty, do you think?

A duty is a moral commitment to something or someone, whereas responsibility is a condition of being responsible.

What might your duties be?

- Report crime
- Pay for things we want
- Not to vandalise
- Care for children
- Help the elderly
- Tell the truth
- Love your family
- Get a job
- Not hurt people
- Keep yourself clean
- Pay your bills

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In the past, social behaviour was conducted according to a sense of duty and responsibility to others. Today, however, there is much more emphasis on individual rights.

In 1948 the UN issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The European Convention on Human Rights did not become law until 1998.

The Convention established the European Court of Human Rights. Any person who feels his or her rights have been violated under the Convention by a state party can take a case to the Court. Judgments finding violations are binding on the States concerned and they are obliged to execute them.

In 1945, after the horrors of World War II, an international organisation was established, the United Nations. It was dedicated to maintaining peace and security and to solving humanitarian problems.

In 1948, the UN developed a code of conduct for the protection of basic human rights, this is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When human rights are ignored

