Subject: Life Studies Year 8 The British Values

Key Vocabulary…

Laws	Rules which are set by the government that every single person must follow.
Election	The event at which people vote to choose the government.
Respect	Giving consideration to the feelings, wishes, needs or abilities of another person.
Racism	Prejudice or discrimination based on someone's skin colour or place of origin.
Sexism	Prejudice or discrimination based on someone's gender or biological sex.
Prejudice	Making judgements about someone based on their gender, race, sexual orientation or religion.
Discrimination	Mistreatment of someone based on their gender, race, sexual orientation or religion.
Protest	A public demonstration of dissasitisafaction with the rules.
Liberty	Freedom, the right to make decisions about one's own life.

The British Values and Some Other Rights

Democracy	The idea that the people should be able to collectively choose their leaders.
The Rule of Law	The idea that all people should follow the law and be treated equally by the law.
Individual Liberty	The idea that people should be free to choose their own path in life.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance	The idea that no one should be mistreated based on their race, gender, religion, disability or any other difference.
Freedom of Speech	The idea that people should be free to express themselves and their views without fear of punishment.
The Right to Protest unfair Treatment	Within certain rules, UK citizens are legally allowed to protest against treatment or rules that they deem unfair.
Human Rights	The basic rights which are considered to be common to all people rather than having to be earned.

The Big Idea

In many countries the rights and freedoms of the people are not guaranteed and protected by law. We are very lucky in Britain to be living in a country which protects us in this way and allows us to live our lives as we choose, as long as we don't have a negative affect on others. It has been a long journey through history to gain these rights and freedoms. Democracy, for example, has developed over more than 800 years, beginning with King John being forced by his barons to grant them some basic rights in a document which we now call Magna Carta, signed in the year 1215. Over this period, there have been many people how have fought for the rights of the British people, brave campaigners such as Annie Besant and William Wilberforce, who both worked hard to make sure that eventually all British people would be free and have a say in how the country is governed.

Without these rights and freedoms there would be nothing to stop us being put on trial or in prison for voicing an unpopular opinion, and nothing to stop a dictator such as Adolf Hitler or Josef Stalin taking over the government, and making laws which are cruel and ruin people's lives. These rights and freedoms essentially give us the chance to lead a happy life. They don't guarantee a happy life, they just give us the opportunity, as there are many more ingredients to leading a happy life and these will be different for each person. However they give us the opportunity to have an education, to learn all that we can about the world and try to find our place in it, and they give us the freedom to campaign for change in our society, where we see injustice such as racism or gender discrimination. These rights and freedoms give us the opportunity to chose our own path and attempt to follow it.

Activity – Research the five key British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and freedom of speech. Create a fact-file explaining how these rights and values are protected in Britain.