



## The big debate

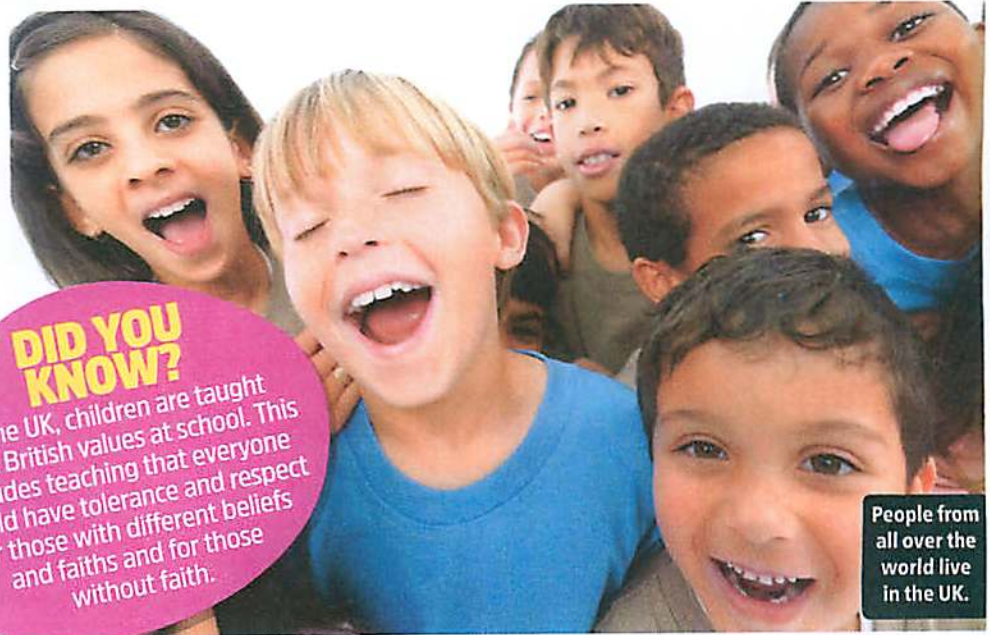
# Newcomers should be expected to “fit in” to live in the UK



Some people adopt the British way of life while others prefer to keep their own customs. Does it matter?

### What you need to know

- The International Day for Tolerance is on 16 November and raises awareness about how we can best live together.
- Tolerance is when you accept that other people have a right to their own opinions, beliefs and faith, even though you may not share or agree with them.
- Some people think that people who move to the UK should be expected to fit in, whereas others believe that everyone should live as they choose.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
In the UK, children are taught about British values at school. This includes teaching that everyone should have tolerance and respect for those with different beliefs and faiths and for those without faith.

People from all over the world live in the UK.

The UK is home to many people of different nationalities. That includes immigrants who have moved here permanently; migrants looking for work and refugees escaping danger in their own country. During the EU referendum some voters said they wanted to leave the European Union because they hoped it would lead to fewer people from other countries coming to live in the UK. Some of them felt that their influence had caused Britain to be less “British”. So, should newcomers to the UK be expected to fit in, for example by learning the language and not wearing clothes that make them stand out? Some say this would result in less resentment. Others say that everyone should be allowed to live as they choose and that the influence of other cultures is one of the things that makes the UK great.

### Fitting in can make life easier

Every country has its own identity and values, and if you live there you should expect to adapt to them. Many people choose to come to the UK because they like the British way of life. If you only speak your own language, practise your own customs and don't mix with the local community, it may cause resentment among people who have always lived there. What's more, by adopting the ways of their new country and learning the language, newcomers will be able to communicate better, make friends more easily and feel at home faster. It's perfectly possible to keep up your own customs in private and behave in a British way in public. Everyone will be happier if people from other countries make an effort to fit in, and they are likely to feel more welcome.

### Differences can make life more interesting

No-one has the right to tell others how to live – and besides, who would decide what “fitting in” is? Expecting people from other countries to fit in to the British way of life could make them feel as if their own ideas and customs are wrong or less important – and that's unfair. It is especially hard for people who have not even chosen to move to the UK but have had to come because it is too dangerous in their own country. Having a mixture of inhabitants with their own beliefs and ideas is good for the UK. It results in a rich, interesting culture where people can learn about and experience different customs, foods and festivals. This gives people a greater understanding of each other, and so creates a happier and more tolerant society.

### 3 reasons FOR for immigrants being expected to fit in

- 1 It is important that countries do not lose their own identity and values or they will all become the same.
- 2 If newcomers make an effort to fit in, it is easier for them to become part of the community.
- 3 If immigrants mix in with the population, there won't be the feeling of “us and them” and so they may feel more welcome.

### 3 reasons AGAINST immigrants being expected to fit in

- 1 No-one should have the right to tell others how to live their life.
- 2 Expecting people to fit in gives the impression that their own ideas and customs are less important.
- 3 Having a variety of people and a range of different cultures makes a country more interesting for everyone.

### What do you think?

Now you've read a bit more about it, tell us what you think by voting in our online poll at [theweekjunior.co.uk/polls](http://theweekjunior.co.uk/polls). Vote **FOR** if you think newcomers to the UK should be expected

### Last week's poll



Last week our debate motion was: More children should be encouraged to study science at secondary school. Most of you

