

British Values Statement

We are committed to serving our community and recognising the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role the academy plays in ensuring that groups or individuals within the academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equality guidance which endeavours to ensure there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all our students.

The five key British values* are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to instil British values.

** Definition set by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.*

Democracy

Democracy is pivotal to our Academy. Each week our students cover an issue related to current affairs and the curriculum. This issue is discussed by year 7 and 8 in their family breakfast/lunch and by the whole of the Academy in Reflection Time. The votes of each class are sent to the head girl who sends the results out to the whole Academy so that students can see the vote. Our Academy's result is then sent to the 'Votes for Schools' team who put together the votes of all the other schools involved and this national picture is sent back to the students. Assemblies are also linked to the themes in Votes for Schools so that the students have a comprehensive and cohesive programme.

Policy changes and practices can come from the School Council and they are consulted about any changes in policy for their views. Student voice is consulted by each department and year team as a matter of course. If there are National elections our Academy holds mock elections so that students can understand the political processes. In History students study Power from 1215 to the present day which explains how democracy was fought for over many centuries and how it is so important to protect it. Our Academy also sends students to take part in council debates at the local council and there is an annual visit to the Houses of Parliament. Students also study Sociology which develops political literacy as does the PSHE programme. Students, staff and parents are consulted for their views on a regular basis.

Our students have made up the acronym 'DRIMT' to help them to remember British Values, Democracy, Rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and Tolerance.

The rule of law

Our students and parents are told about our rules and values explicitly and why we value them so dearly. All our students have to learn our rules and values and would be able to explain them and why we have them to any visitor. The culture of open discussion in form time, breakfast debates, lunch debates and classrooms allows the students to debate the rationale for these values and rules. "Manners Maketh the Man" is an Academy mantra and the students can explain this code of conduct to each other and to all staff members. Visitors from the Police, road safety, different faiths and the community reiterate and support our values. Our Outstanding judgement for SMSC reflects the culture of respect for rules and for other people.

Individual liberty

Our students are well informed through a comprehensive PSHE/Careers programme. Reflection Time each week, which all students take part in, and Assemblies open students' minds. A comprehensive enrichment programme of cultural visits to cities, theatres, the opera, major sporting events, the Battlefields, Spain and New York widens the cultural capital of the students to enable them to make excellent choices. Students visit universities and other post 16 providers to enable them to make the right choices. We have a multi-agency lead on site who advises and supports students through a range of services such as mental health support, access to counselling services, nurture groups and family support agencies. The pastoral team guide students through the various options to help them to make the right choices. The option process is designed to maximize the achievement of all students and give them a range of options from which they can choose.

Mutual respect

All our students can explain British values and they can explain what mutual respect means. The philosophy of the Academy is treating others with respect by addressing people properly, opening doors for each other, not interrupting each other and being kind to one another. Family lunch and breakfast debates include affirmation which allows students to be thankful and to applaud students who thank people and organisations for their help. The use of oracy stems helps discussions to take place in a respectful manner as students have learned the tools of speech to help them to listen and formulate a response to some else's view. PSHE, Reflection Time, Assemblies and the curriculum, including the books chosen to be read in 'Dear Time' by the form teacher, reflect our values of mutual respect for each other.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Tolerance, or the embracing of peoples' beliefs who are different to our own, is fundamental to our Academy. This is achieved within the general culture of respect and "Manners Maket the Man." In Reflection Time and PSHE different religious beliefs are addressed so that Lent and Ramadan are covered for example. Visits take place to churches, Sikh temples, Mosques and Synagogues. In Religious Educations the spiritual beliefs of all faiths are developed. Assemblies cover the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. Events such as the Holocaust and Remembrance are very important in our Academy and the students prepare and deliver assemblies on these subjects. These events are commemorated with total respect in our Academy. Students are educated about differences in faiths so that they understand, appreciate and respect differences.
