

British values statement

We are committed to serving our community and recognise 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 instill British values.

** As identified by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.*

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our academy. Students are democratically elected by their fellow classmates after hustings, to represent their house on the student council and students are welcomed at SLT meetings to put forward their point of view. Student voice is held regularly where students are asked questions about their curriculum, corridors, in fact everything about their school. This feedback is then brought to the Student Council for discussion and suggestions made. Themes of democracy; parliament and governance are also explored through assemblies and the Personal Development lessons and morning enrichment programme. Learning about democracy is a regular part of our students' experiences.

The rule of law

Students are made aware on a daily basis that the rule of law ensures that their academy experience is safe. Regular morning enrichment sessions and meetings reiterate the importance of laws whether those which govern the Academy, or the country are consistently reinforced. Students are taught the values and reasons behind rules and laws; that they govern and protect us, the individual responsibilities involved and the consequences when laws are broken within the academy and the community. The academy school liaison officer comes in to speak to students in assemblies at pertinent times of the year, i.e Halloween, to further enstate the law and consequences of breaking it. Our personal development lessons cover the law and the changes made by parliament due to advances in technology. The academy's behaviour policy is clear, understood by students and consistently applied. Rewards are given to students demonstrating good attitudes, positive acts of citizenship and good behaviour.

Individual liberty

At the academy, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. During their lessons, students have a variety of ways in which they can answer questions using a variety of techniques and they are not pressured to agree with anyone else in the class. Students know their rights and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education, such as internet safety, and morning enrichment sessions on how to keep safe walking home in the dark evenings. Our senior prefect team consists of mental health representatives and anti bullying ambassadors. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely.

Mutual respect

Respect is one of our academy's core values. We exhibit respect by holding all members of our wider community in high regard by taking their wishes, feelings and rights into account. Our Academy ethos of, "age quod agis", "whatever you do, do to the best of your ability" underpins this respect. Respect is modelled by students and staff alike. It is common place for doors to be held open by students for other students and staff on the corridor. Respect for both others and ourselves are concepts which we highly value, underpinning everything we do being reiterated through our classroom and learning environments and corridor behaviour. Our standards assemblies and five step entry to the classroom illustrate respect. We hold all members of our wider community in high regard by taking their wishes, feelings and rights into account

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE to the many examples of teamwork opportunities across the academy. Personal Development lessons and the ground rules within which we deliver these lessons and our tutor programme, all reflect our commitment to mutual respect. Our student led charity fundraising develops our links with the local community whilst supporting our teaching of mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We endeavour to enhance students' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by providing them with opportunities to experience such diversity. We offer trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages and welcome visiting teachers and students from other countries and faiths who share their language and culture with our students thereby enriching their experiences. Additionally, key dates for the major world religions are celebrated through our tutor activity programme throughout the academic year, Morning Enrichment Religious Education, (MERE) and assemblies. When we drop off 'goodies' to our needy families, we are observant and mindful of diet diversity. We celebrate 'European Day of Languages' and in addition, all of the teachers in the MFL department are native speakers of Spanish. Our canteen food regularly hosts food from around the world giving students the opportunity to try different foods from different cultures. We provide a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudices based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in personal development lessons, core RE and the pastoral curriculum. Our demograph is becoming more diverse and to represent this fully we have a senior prefect to represent our EAL students.