

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

The academy actively encourages students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in Britain, practically demonstrating democratic processes through our student voice and student leadership programmes. Form Representatives and the Student Council are elected through a democratic process, providing students with direct experience of voting systems. Regular student voice opportunities are created to allow students to express their views on a wide range of academy matters and contribute to school improvement. Through the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum, democracy is explicitly taught to students. It is introduced in year 7, with a focus on UK Parliament, it progresses throughout key stage 3, students are taught about the difference characteristics of a democracy and what makes a country democratic. At key stage 4, students are taught to think critically about democracy with a focus on how to vote. This is reinforced by the implementation of Student Council and Form Representatives.

The rule of law

The academy actively encourages students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the law of Britain, enabling them to understand the importance of individual choice and responsibility. The academy behavior system ensures students have a clear understanding of the academy rules and provides consistent consequences and sanctions when these are broken. Expectations around behavior are reset at the start of each term through targeted assemblies for each year group. The local police regularly visit the academy to reinforce messages about behavior and the law. Within PSHE lessons, students look at the legal system, with a focus on laws in year 8, including how they are created and how they are different from rules. This progresses in key stage 4 to discuss potential legal consequences and how trials work. Embedded within student life is an understanding of the protected characteristics, through assemblies, lessons and behavioural discussions.

Individual liberty

The academy supports and encourages students to make individual choices both within the curriculum and beyond, including engagement with enrichment opportunities, social action projects, career pathways and GCSE and post-16 choices. Through the assembly programme, PSHE

curriculum and behavior system, the academy creates a culture of individual responsibility, supporting students to consider the impact of their choices on themselves and others. All incidents of bullying are taken seriously and anti-bullying policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure their effectiveness. The PSHE and tutor time programme are designed to provide a safe environment for students to discuss opportunities and choices with peers and teachers.

Mutual respect

The academy encourages students to develop their own opinions, self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-confidence whilst respecting the views of others. The academy values of respect, resilience and aspiration are exemplified through the weekly assembly programme and the House points system so that students are provided with concrete examples of and encouraged to demonstrate respectful behavior. Within the PSHE curriculum, key stage 3 students are taught about prejudice and discrimination and at key stage 4, students consider the importance of human rights and international law.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The academy supports and models tolerance between and the understanding of different cultural traditions and beliefs by regularly recognising and celebrating the cultural diversity within the academy. This is achieved through a rich and varied assembly programme alongside whole academy celebrations of religious festivals and awareness days. The curriculum is designed to enable students to explore and understand a variety of different faiths, cultures and traditions across different subjects.
