

British values statement

We are committed to serving our community and recognises 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.

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

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the academy. Students both learn about democracy and practice it throughout the lower and upper year groups. Issues of importance are discussed and debated within the Student Voice. Sixth Formers took part in a mock general election in preparation for their real voting experience. The school council has members from across all year groups and plays an active role in sharing students' views and suggesting improvements to the academy. Students are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Students also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council, the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge, and various debating events and competitions.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the academy or the country, are consistently reinforced at our academy. Students are taught from the first day the rules of the academy. These are our own academy rules applicable at all times. Each mentor group also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood and seen by all to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Students are taught the values and reasons behind rules and laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The academy has strong links with Essex Police through the "Safer Schools Partnership" and with the Fire Service through the annual "Fire Break" course.

Individual liberty

At our academy, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety policy, and through PSHE & Citizenship lessons. Anti-bullying ambassadors are active and easily identifiable in the school. Anti-bullying week is recognized by the school and whole school assemblies promote the message to all pupils in every year group. The designated Student Support Advisors and school liaison officer are available and approachable for students who may need to talk to staff regarding issues or concerns.

Mutual respect

Respect is one of the core values of our academy. Respect is addressed in the Schemes of Work throughout years 7-11 in both Citizenship and Philosophy & Ethics. Assemblies focus on respect of others reinforce the academy's message. Mutual respect is promoted through signs displayed throughout the academy in classrooms to ensure a consistent message. Students know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, however big or small. The core value of respect underpins our work every day, both in and out of the classroom.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Tolerance and diversity of religions and beliefs are themes heavily implemented into Schemes of Work across Philosophy & Ethics, Citizenship and History across all year groups at the academy. The Philosophy & Ethics curriculum in particular fully embraces and respects all different religions, and those also with a Humanist or atheist viewpoint. All of the six main world religions are addressed in KS3 with a focus on two of these in KS4. "A" level Philosophy & Ethics at KS5 further develops these religions and differing perspectives on these in detail. The Holocaust Education Trust and survivor testimony is used annually to promote diversity, tolerance and acceptance of those of different faiths. Regular trips to places of worship allow students to consider their own religious viewpoints and also those of others. Assemblies promote acceptance of others with different faiths/viewpoints. The weekly Philosophy & Ethics club allows students to discuss their views/questions in a safe environment. A strong and regular focus on SMSC issues in mentor time allows all students to be able to freely share their thoughts, ideas and beliefs with others in a secure and safe environment.

At our academy, we actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views.
