

Statement of British Values

Northgate School



Approved by: Management Committee

Date: November 2021

Last reviewed on: June 2020

Next review by: November 2022

Statement of British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At Northgate School these values are taught in the following ways:

Democracy:

One of the fundamental values at Northgate School is the right of all members of the community to be heard and the responsibility of others to allow this to happen. This is taught and reinforced through all lessons, teaching and modelling of young people, how to make their needs and wishes heard in a way that society and school life finds acceptable. This is done throughout every lesson and taught explicitly through General Studies, PSHE and Ethics, but also through experiences of the wider curriculum including enriching activities. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through weekly tutorials and through student council. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards which further seek to affirm student voice.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws or rules, whether they are those that govern the classroom, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. During induction and throughout their time in the school, students are taught the value and reasons behind the schools rules, what they mean and how they look when people are following them. There is part of the PSHE curriculum discussion and debate about the rules that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws and rules are broken. Visits from a range of organisations form part of our regular curriculum and often part of individual packages needed to support young people. The fundamental and principal right to feel and be safe is paramount in all aspects of the school.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, young people are actively encouraged to make positive choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, staff with whom they have a positive and supportive relationship and boundaries that are secure. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised as to how to exercise these safely. In addition, students are encouraged to consider their responsibility in making their choices and how these will impact on themselves and others in the immediate and long term future. This maybe in PSHE, target setting or at any point within the school day.

Mutual Respect:

Part of our aim for every student is to develop a healthy respect for themselves, to build self-esteem, self-worth and confidence as a learner. This informs our core purpose to ensure that every student does better than they thought they would. It is threaded through learning and teaching, and safeguarding policies. It is part of daily discussions about personal behaviour targets, weekly targets setting and taught directly. It is modelled daily by all staff and an expectation of the whole community.

Tolerance of Difference:

This is achieved through deepening the understanding of students' own needs and those of others. It is impressed upon them that they belong; to the school community and their world community. Much of the work at Northgate School is about overcoming anxiety about differences but equally celebrating and embracing difference through celebration of achievements, developing understanding of diversity through working with visitors from a range of cultures and belief systems. PSHE learning involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are routine and 1:1 work following any incidents reinforce this learning. Staff are skilful in the use of Restorative Justice strategies to support 'moving on' after an incident. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.