

ASHLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Promoting British

Values Policy/SMSC

This policy was updated: Sept 2021

This policy was last reviewed: Sept 2023

This policy will be reviewed: Sept 2024

**Policy on Promoting British Values at Ashley High School**

**BACKGROUND**

In November 2014 the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance on: Promoting British Values in Schools. The aim is to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The DfE Guidance states that all have a duty to ‘actively promote’ the fundamental British values of:

* Democracy
* The rule of law
* Individual liberty
* Mutual respect
* Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We believe that these values are embedded in the ethos and culture of our school.

**HOW DO WE PROMOTE THESE VALUES?**

**Democracy**

Democracy is an integral part of our school. Pupil Voice is highly valued and respect and tolerance for the views, opinions and rights of others is actively promoted. Our award-winning School Council and Committees provide opportunities for promoting core British Values. Our School Council chamber proudly displays it’s Mission Statement; Article 12 of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child);

***‘Everyone has the right to say what they think and to have their views listened to’.***

**The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at Ashley High School. Our class and school Charters are reviewed regularly with all pupils contributing to any revisions.

We have regular visits from authorities such as the police, fire service etc. which also help to reinforce these messages.

**Individual Liberty**

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at our school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils 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 teaching. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices, e.g. signing up for lunchtime clubs, volunteering for various committees.

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**Mutual Respect**

Our pupils are taught about the UNCRC (United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child) and are becoming ever more aware of their personal rights through our ongoing Rights Respecting School programme. We were accredited by UNICEF in Autumn 2017 as a Level 1 Rights Respecting School and now are working towards achieving Level 2 status. We encourage our pupils to show respect for themselves and for others and to understand that along with rights come responsibilities. This philosophy is built into our whole school approach.

**Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through enhancing pupils’ understanding of their place in a multi-faith culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience diversity in the local community and beyond (eg. Visit to local Buddhist temple, local mosque, visits to school from faith members). Global Learning across the curriculum creates regular opportunities to explore and learn about different cultures (Indian Culture Day, International Week). Our students are regularly involved in projects linked to the promotion of tolerance and equal rights (FairTrade Project, Anne Frank Trust UK exhibition, Holocaust Memorial Day Service). We use opportunities such as the World Cup and festival days from different religions to study and learn about life and culture in other countries.

**Whole School Programmes**

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through Collective Worship and through our whole school Global Learning and Rights Respecting School Award Programmes. We have strong links with organisations such as the British Legion.

Whole school assemblies and events promote aspects of British life and values such as Remembrance, Perseverance, Fairness, Hard Work, Charity, Respect, Tolerance and celebration of Success.

**Curriculum**

British Values are taught explicitly through PSHCE, RE, Beliefs and Values and P4A lessons. Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC) creates further opportunities to develop pupil awareness and tolerance of others through visits and community links (eg. visits to different places of worship, taking part in community projects such as Wonky Garden, visits to Runcorn Town Hall and Houses of Parliament). Other subject areas such as History promote key British values (eg. The Development of Democracy; Magna Carta as part of Medieval Britain History unit; Crown & Parliament as part of the Tudor’s and Stuarts unit).

**Philosophy for Children (P4C)**

P4C sessions can be used to facilitate pupil discussions about key British Values such as respect and tolerance. These sessions .are delivered explicitly through Personal Development (Critical Thinking) lessons at Key Stage 3 and are also used in other areas of the curriculum (eg History, English) as a way of promoting critical thinking, debate, speaking and listening skills. Pupils are learning to develop their thinking skills and to think critically about ‘Big Questions’ such as ‘What is respect?’ and ‘Should we take refugees into Britain?’

Photographic evidence of the promotion of British Values across the curriculum can be found in displays and in Big Books.