

Our promotion of British values in school



The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These were reinforced in September 2014 due to recent events and the Department for Education has required 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”. These new regulations will sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of schools.

Schools will be expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

Promoting British values at All Saints Academy

We agree with the Department for Education’s five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At All Saints Academy students will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. Our school has been described by Ofsted as being, “happy and harmonious”.

Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at All Saints Academy. Our pupil elected school council is involved in making school a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils decide as a class key questions they would like the answer to in subjects and this is used to inform the teacher’s planning. Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, we encourage independence of thought and, where appropriate, encourage children to choose the way of completing the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. Through our E-Safety and philosophy for learning we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. At All Saints Academy we believe that being reflective on choices made in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Our pupils learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around school and in the classrooms. Our Academy motto is "Building Futures. Shaping lives" and this is seen throughout the desire to shape the adults of the future – with respect for themselves, others and the wider community.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At All Saints Academy we offer a curriculum in which major religions are studied and respected. We are a school with its basis in the Christian Faith but strongly believe that tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable, understanding and well-rounded citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.