

British Values

British values are defined as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths, cultures and beliefs. At Allenbourn Middle School we recognise the need to promote the fundamental principles of British Values as part of our general approach to outstanding provision of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). This is supported through PSHE lessons, Values Day, assemblies and classroom displays.

We understand that life in the 21st century will be strongly dependent on social interaction, locally and globally. We believe that the ability to form excellent relationships will be critical to our students' learning and success in the future. We aim to maximise the chances of such relationships. Central to this is the need to ensure that British values are recognised and embedded in the school community.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for the School Council, and for other leadership roles for students.

The Rule of Law

The importance of civil/or criminal, state or religious laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the ethos of every school day, when dealing with learning behaviours and through SMSC provision. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police (our attached Police Community Support Officers) and Fire Service help reinforce this message. In addition 'Rights and Responsibilities' are an integral element of both our RE and PSHE curriculum.

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Individual Liberty

Students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an education that encourages independence and empowerment. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of ESafety in computing and their tutor time activities. Human rights are also explicitly covered as part of the RE syllabus.

Mutual Respect

Respect, personal behaviour and self-discipline are at the core of our school ethos and these are modelled by students and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments. Aligned to our commitment to democracy, students at Allenbourn Middle School are able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect

is embraced throughout the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE, to the student 'buddy' programme which promotes mutual respect and support between students across different year groups.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

We are inclusive of all faiths and those with no specific faith and we promote a strong sense of community. This is achieved by equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Students are offered a number of trips both at home and abroad throughout the academic year, enabling our students to gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Our Religious Education and assembly curriculums demonstrate examples of a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Guidance

The Department for Education published guidance in November 2014 on promoting British Values in schools as part of SMSC to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.