

Southfields Academy

British Values Statement

Southfields Academy is committed to serving its community. The Academy embraces the belief that at the heart of a modern ever changing, multi-cultural and multi-faith community is the acceptance of the key British Values which it is its responsibility to promote. By doing this, our learners will be able to grow as individuals and citizens in the community and country in which they live.

The Academy believes that this is something achieved not just through the curriculum but through the Academy's core values and ethos as well as its provision for students beyond their formal lessons.

It is the Academy's duty, therefore, to instil in its students the core British Values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

The Academy takes its responsibility, as set out in "Promoting Fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC in Schools" (November 2014), very seriously. The display of "British Values" posters (Appendix i) in all areas of the Academy reminds students of these values as they make their way from lesson to lesson and in social time.

In undertaking this responsibility it does so with the aims of:

- Enabling its students to develop knowledge of themselves, increase their self-esteem and their self-confidence,
- Enabling its students to distinguish right from wrong and respect the civil and criminal law of Britain,
- Encouraging its students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely,
- Enabling its students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in Britain,
- Encouraging respect for other people, and
- Encouraging respect for democracy and support for participation in democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in Britain.

Through schemes of work in: Personal & Social Education, Religious Education, History, Geography, English and Expressive Arts and cross-curricular and extra-curricular work in assemblies, clubs and tutor time, during special days set aside for the study or celebration of

specific events or themes (Democracy Day, Remembrance Service, International Evening and Harvest Festival) the Academy ensures all its students gain knowledge and understanding of:

- How citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process,
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety,
- There being a separation of power between the government and the judiciary, and that while most public bodies such as the police and the army are held to account through Parliament, the courts maintain independence,
- The freedom to choose and hold a religious faith and beliefs (or none), which is protected in law, and the duty to avoid any prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour.
- The importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

By holding an annual Democracy Day for the whole of Key Stage 3 the Academy demonstrates the democratic process, the formulation of policies, and the use of consensus and then on a large scale the election of members that can directly influence and petition the Academy's senior decision makers through the School Council.

The school council is run democratically and all students elect spokespeople from their tutor groups who join their year group's council. The year group council elect two members to sit on the school council. The council then is able to petition the senior leadership team and becomes involved in policy decisions made by the Academy management team.

The system of democracy is described through the History curriculum, from its origins in Ancient Greece. Students also study Magna Carta, the struggle to obtain equality and the right of votes for women, and the fight against Nazism in the Second World War.

Students at the Academy are taught about law through their Personal & Social Education lessons. In these lessons students are taught about their rights and responsibilities in relation to the law. The increasingly important role taken by digital and computerised communication is recognised by the Academy and students are taught their legal rights and responsibilities and how to stay safe online through their Personal & Social Education and Computing curricula.

The ethos of the Academy embodies the freedom that is enshrined in Britain's values and in the law to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs. The acceptance of those of different faiths is fostered through assemblies and in the Religious Education curriculum which covers all six main global religions and touches on many of the others and also on the opinions and ethics of those who have no religious belief. By encouraging students to visit and engage with the places of worship and religious leaders of faiths that they do not share the Academy seeks to foster mutual acceptance and tolerance.

Discriminatory behaviour is actively forbidden through the Academy's Equality Policies and through the Academy Behaviour Policy. Contraventions of the Academy's Equality Policies are dealt with in the strongest terms under the Academy's Behaviour Policy and can lead to exclusion.

In conclusion:

The Academy makes sure that its students feel they are truly immersed in British culture and that they feel part of and proud to be part of British society. It hopes to engender respect for British institutions and the core British values in order that its students may become valued, valuable and contributing members of the society they live in, regardless of their background or family origins.

Promote British Values: Proud to be British

**Believe
in yourself**

**Show you
know right
from wrong**

**Contribute
to your
community**

**Accept other
people's
beliefs**

**Respect
those who
keep us safe**

**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**

Southfields
Academy