



Bishop Stopford's School

Promoting British Values: A  
Statement of Commitment

July 2016

## **Promoting British Values: A Statement of Commitment**

At Bishop Stopford's School Fundamental British Values are embedded in our daily school life. The British Values that shape our school are met in a range of experiences from the curriculum to assemblies to school visits and charity work. Bishop Stopford's School is proud of its multiculturalism and the richness and diversity it brings to our school community and we are proud of the British Values that we seek to promote and cherish.

The following explores the Fundamental British Values as taught in school and lists some of the ways our students engage with them:

### **Democracy**

***Democracy is a system whereby all people are given a voice in decisions or policies that affect society, the most powerful examples are government elections. Democracy could be seen as the most important British Value as through it all other values flourish.***

In school we promote the importance of democracy through:

- A process of application and interview for some roles of student responsibility; for example: peer mentors and Senior Six
- The free and fair process of the appointment of Head Boy and Head Girl.
- Students electing their school council representatives.
- School council members acting as a voice for the student community.

### **Individual Liberty**

***Individual liberty refers to the choices and freedoms that shape us as individuals, the freedoms that are not controlled by government and society. With choice comes responsibility.***

In school we promote the importance of individual liberty through:

- A range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that students can choose to participate in at different times of the day.
- A balanced range of choice of GCSE and A Level subjects.
- The freedom of Post 16 students to not wear uniform and to have home study.
- A balanced choice of nutritious and healthy food to choose from at lunch time.
- The freedom of students to pursue their own causes and charity raising ventures within school.
- The freedom of students to use the school libraries to choose a range of books.
- The opportunity for students to express themselves, their ideas and opinions in debates and discussions both within and outside of the classroom.

## **The Rule of Law**

***All people and organisations are subject to laws to keep society safe and just; these laws are fairly applied and enforced equally.***

In school we abide by the Rule of Law by:

- Following the school rules.
- Learning about laws and rules in the wider world and following these at all times.
- Knowing our Safer Schools Officers and their role in the school community.
- Knowing how to approach an adult or the police if we think there is a crime being committed.
- Using the internet safely and knowing when and how to report inappropriate material.
- Being aware of the law on cyber bullying and the sharing of inappropriate images and never engaging in it.

## **Respect**

***Respect is an important part of British Culture and its values; respect means being thoughtful and considerate to others and their feelings at all times, in essence it simply means treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves.***

In school we show respect by:

- Knowing and adhering to the school values and ethos.
- Being empathetic to someone who is upset and supporting them appropriately.
- Being polite and courteous.
- Listening to others when they answer in a lesson or present their work.
- Being aware of how our behaviour impacts others, for example; by not being noisy or domineering in the corridors.
- Listening and responding appropriately in assembly.

## **Tolerance**

***Tolerance is about being aware that we are all different and that there is no hierarchy in terms of who we are, what we believe in and who we love. Tolerance is about accepting everyone regardless of their gender, race, age, sexuality, religion or ability.***

In school we show tolerance by:

- Learning and understanding about all faiths in Religious Studies, assemblies and in Citizenship lessons.
- Never denigrating or judging someone because of their lifestyle or choices.
- Being thoughtful and considerate to our peers in lessons and accepting we all work differently.
- Being mature and supportive to a friend or peer who may be lesbian, bisexual or transgender.
- Never engaging in negative racial or cultural stereotypes.
- Being patient to the elderly or less mobile in the community and on the buses to and from school.