

British Values Statement

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote British Values more actively from September 2014, and to ensure they are taught in schools.

The Duchess's Community High School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. The Duchess's Community High School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five key British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways The Duchess's Community High School seeks to instil British Values.

Democracy
School council plays a very important role in the shape and future of our school community. It is constantly evolving and improving taking its lead from past pupil voice. School council meetings are run regularly and pupils get a chance to get their voice heard. They take place in all year groups and are often run by pupils. Time is spent responding to concerns/ future decisions and these responses are shared in tutor time with the whole school community. Departments also involve pupil voice in their monitoring and evaluation process and use the outcomes of pupil voice to drive future targets. Important upcoming school decisions are also sent home and posted on the school website. Parents and pupils are welcome to have their say before any decisions are made. Pupil questionnaires also regularly take place in form time to drive future policies and pedagogy. Recently a new pupil's society's initiative has been set up in school and pupils are allowed to get together with a group of their peers and set up their own society. All pupils in the school also vote for the Northumberland Youth Cabinet and Parliament. Northumberland Youth Parliament is run by young people, and provides opportunities for 11-18 year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. We have a pupil who is part of the Youth Parliament and has recently had her voice heard in the houses of common. We also have a year 9 pupil who is currently campaigning to join.

The rule of law

All pupils have all the school policies in their planners. At the start of the year the pupils look through the school rules and codes of conduct and are taught the value and reason behind the policies. They are also very clear of the consequences when these policies are broken. Every classroom in the school has the positive behaviour management policy displayed on the wall. Pupils can clearly see the numerous ways they can be praised and the consequences of making the wrong decisions. These are discussed with pupils in the morning in tutor time. Pupils are praised for good behaviour. If they have shown poor behaviour they have individual mentoring session with the head of year or in the behaviour unit so they can learn the reasons behind the school rules and adapt their behaviour. Pupils are also very clear of our vision for behaviour at the Duchess's Community High school. At the heart of what we value are; Honesty, Empathy, Ambition, Respect and Tolerance. These are in pupils planners and displayed in all classrooms. Pupils refer to these and complete HEART activities in some form times. We also display Three Ways Forward in all classrooms concerning Respect, Equipment, Attitude, Punctuality and School Uniform. All year 11 Pupils are taught about the criminal justice system as part of their PSHE curriculum.

We also have outside authorities who visit the school to reinforce the message of following rules for example assemblies from the Police Force focusing on careers and rules that must be followed to allow access to certain careers. We also have visits from the Fire Brigade who reinforce health and safety laws for example near the 5th November.

In year 11 pupils are taught a unit called War and Peace in their Religious Education lessons. Through this they learn about different religions and their laws and they learn to understand that the law of the land takes precedence over religious law.

Individual liberty

All pupils at the Duchess's Community High School are encouraged to make individual choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. Our school has a very robust anti-bullying culture and policy in place. Pupils fully understand that bullying will not be tolerated. They are informed where to go to seek advice. Anti-bullying themes also run through tutor periods for example specific activities take place during anti-bullying week. Staff are fully aware of the anti-bullying policy and practices in place to tackle it. Pupils are also taught in assembly about cyber bullying and are equipped with strategies to help protect themselves.

Mutual respect

Pupils at the Duchess's Community High School are taught to respect all members of the school community. The first principle of our three ways forward whole school approach is respect. Pupils clearly understand that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and the rights of others to learn. They know to treat each other with respect. The positive behaviour system ensures that all pupils treat each member of the school community with respect.

All year 9 pupils take place in the Face to Faith programme. One of the key principles taught is that of respect. The principles learnt in lessons can then be applied to the whole school community. Respect is also a key theme that runs through the year 9 PSHE curriculum.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The Religious Education department run a fantastic programme called Face to Faith set up by Tony Blair. This allows all pupils in year 9 to take part in their R.E lessons. The aim of the programme is to work across the world to deliver a pioneering education programme to help prevent religious conflict and extremism. All year 9's are taught a series of lessons about Respect and Tolerance. Once they have completed these lessons they are able to take part in video live conferences. Pupils are given the platform to discuss topical issues with their peers from other cultures and countries around the world. Once the pupils have received the series of lessons they are qualified to take part in the video conferences. This means pupils continue to voluntarily take part in the conferences as they move through the school. This

also allows pupil to have discussions alongside their peers from different year groups. To date the school has successfully taken part in around 30 video conferences. After completing the series of lessons pupils are offered access to the Face to Faith website where they can continue conversations after conferences. This often enables a deeper learning and understanding to take place as pupils communicate with people with different cultures and religions. The site is constantly monitored so moderators can intervene and help remind pupils about the key values of tolerance and respect. The programme believes that Educating for the next generation is the way to plants seeds of peace. Through this programme all pupils are able to fully understand the fundamental values of Tolerance and Respect which will help them live in harmony in a British Culture in their future. This work is complimented by work with the Anne Frank foundation promoting tolerance as part of the Holocaust Memorial day remembrances which often includes a visit from a Holocaust survivor.