

# Whickham School and Sports College



## British Values

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## Whickham School – Promotion of British Values

At Whickham School we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and considered them to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At Whickham School these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at our school, and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### Democracy

At Whickham School the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community and beyond, for instance the mock elections which we ran to coincide with the general election of 2015. The principle of democracy is explored in Citizenship for Life as well as in History and Religious Studies. Related themes are also explored in tutorial time and assemblies, with 6<sup>th</sup> form students having the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and a local MP joining a Government and Politics lesson to explain our country's democratic process.

### The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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 and Fire Service are regular parts of our Citizenship Programme and help reinforce this message.

### Individual Liberty

Within Whickham School 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 empowering education. 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 E-Safety in computing and their tutor time activities.

## Mutual Respect

Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is modelled by students and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. Through our volunteering programmes we see our student logging hundreds of hours of their time giving valuable service to our local community as well as further afield on programmes such as World Challenge.

In line with our commitment to democracy, students at Whickham School learn to voice their opinions through debate, and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Our code of conduct and behavioural expectations promote the values of respect and responsibility. The school council also provides the students with an arena where they can bring up and discuss any issues that may undermine the school ethos.

## Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through 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. All students experience a structured approach to SMSC through our tutorial programmes where global themes and cultures are explored. Citizenship sessions in all year groups examine the Changing Nature of UK Society looking at diversity in their school and local community as well as their own identity as a citizen of the North East of England. Supporting these sessions and the school curriculum we also run numerous trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Furthermore, our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. History students have had the opportunity to visit WW2 sites in France and Belgium to understand the impact of historical intolerance.

## Prevent

Whickham School & Sports College fully supports the government's Prevent programme.

We recognise that it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' and childcare providers' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Students and staff have an obligation to understand British Values and an obligation to share concerns where it is felt that these values are not being supported.

Should you feel that the school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns to Mr Turnbull, Associate Headteacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is undermining these values you should report this to Mr Turnbull.