

BALSHAW'S POLICY ON THE PROMOTION OF BRITISH VALUES

Non Sibi Sed Aliis

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119, vs 105

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Reviewed By: Mrs A Wilson

APPROVED BY THE HEADTEACHER – Autumn Term 2021

Balshaw's Policy on the Promotion of British Values

Rationale

At Balshaw's High 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 Balshaw's High School these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community.

The 2012 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by: not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens. The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

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

What is meant by "British Values"?

British Values are defined by OFSTED as:

- Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; students develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Although some people may argue that these values are not uniquely "British" there can be no doubt that they are fundamental to life in Britain and as such they are actively promoted by this school in order to prepare young people for life in modern Britain.

The British Values are:

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

At Balshaw's High School we are committed to actively promoting British values and this forms part of our wider work in school with children in relation to their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC). At the heart of these values, lie good relationships in which teachers and students work together towards common goals. Much work was already in place to support and embed these values and it is our aim to ensure we effectively share this with students, staff, governors and the wider community. These values are integral to our school vision and ethos and are reinforced regularly in a variety of ways.

Aims and Objectives

At Balshaw's High School we aim to:

- Actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Encourage students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which:
- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self- confidence
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school and take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of students they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. This should be:

- While they are in attendance at the school
- While they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school
- In the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere
- Protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology etc.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governors and staff at Balshaw's High School will:

- Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of Balshaw's High School
- Ensure the curriculum is broad and balanced, complies with legislation and provides a wide range of subjects and experiences which prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in a modern Britain and a globalised community.
- Actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Promote tolerance of and respect for all people of all faith (or none), cultures and lifestyles through effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students, including by engaging students in extracurricular activity and in local and global community events.
- Ensure all students have a well-rounded programme of assemblies and Tutor Group debate, which supports our ethos as a school and the students' spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school by students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views
- Ensure that all visitors to Balshaw's High School are screened to ensure that they do not attempt to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values including extremism or radicalisation
- Ensure that our students understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety and that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law

All staff will endeavour to ensure that students:

- Are reflective about their own beliefs and perspectives on life, and the extent to which they are the same as/different to others' faiths, feelings and values;
- Show an interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues; and appreciate the view point of others;
- Have a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about the world around them and participate actively in artistic; sporting or cultural events;
- Develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

- Recognise the difference between right and wrong; understand that actions have consequences; and apply this in their own lives by respecting the law;
- Cooperate well; celebrate diversity and resolve conflicts effectively;
- Accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and 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.
- Engage positively in a democracy; and understand and appreciate the history, heritage and wide ranging cultural influences that underpin our individual and shared experience of life in modern Britain.
- Teach our students about the democracy and the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it
- Ensure all students within the school, regardless of age, have a voice that is listened to
- Demonstrate how democracy works and by developing an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making by actively promoting democratic processes such as electing a school council whose members are voted for by the students
- Reinforce fundamental British values through the SMSC programme, PSHE curriculum, Citizenship curriculum and the assembly programme
- Ensure that our students are taught a balanced RE curriculum, that is broadly Christian but, which also takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain
- Ensure that our students understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- Ensure that we develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by visiting places of worship, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths
- Enable our students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain
- Enable our students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in the community of the school. E.g. supporting younger children in lessons and delivering extra-curricular activities
- Deliver a balanced programme of assemblies which promote students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
- Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation
- Ensure that there are effective risk assessments and screening policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

Students (supported by parents & carers) will be expected to:

- Show respect for themselves, others and their environment, and accept responsibility for their behaviour;
- Display leadership and the ability to work in teams;

- Value all of their peers whatever their academic ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality or background;
- Take part in open debate by making relevant contributions and listening to the views of others
- Reflect the community they serve by being positive role models and active citizens of the United Kingdom and of the wider world