



# Statement of British Values

**September 2023**

**Review Date: September 2025**

## Statement of British Values

### 1.0 - Introduction

**1.1** - Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy is required under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 to promote the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of pupils. As of November 2014, schools also need promote fundamental British values as part of the school curriculum.

**1.2** - Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy 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.

**1.3** - 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. Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy 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.

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

**1.5** - Pupils are expected to display knowledge of the fundamental aspects of British values.

**1.6** - According to the departmental advice produced by the DfE, to promote British values academies and maintained schools should:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- enable students to distinguish between right and wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law in England
- encourage 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
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- encourage respect for other people
- encourage respect for democracy and support participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

Overall, pupils should have a good appreciation and understanding of the democratic process; the rule of law; the separation of executive power; and freedom of belief. Pupils should also be tolerant of other beliefs and views contrary to their own, and be able to identify and combat discrimination.

**1.7** - Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy does not have to promote or teach any particular belief, view or way of life that contradicts our outlook or ethos; however, we will not promote discrimination, or accept intolerance against people or groups, on the basis of their belief, opinion or background.

### 2.0 - Strategies to Instil British Values

The academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy seeks to instil British Values.

<b>Democracy</b>
<p>At Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy, we ensure all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to. We do this through regular communication with our pupils through whole school and class election processes and voting opportunities, pupil surveys, discussions and school council representatives. We demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as our pupil council, pupil advocates and class advocates. We also ensure that pupils have exposure to voting for a variety of issues. E.g. school pet, play equipment and book choices. During this time, and during English lessons, children have the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.</p>
<b>The Rule of Law</b>
<p>The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy. Each class discusses aspects of our Behaviour and Relationships policy - we ensure that this is clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Each year we invite authorities in to visit the children to deliver messages about rules, responsibilities and consequences of choices.</p>
<b>Individual Liberty</b>
<p>Our children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering learning. Our children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and RSE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our numerous extra- curricular activities - our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.</p>
<b>Mutual Respect</b>
<p>Respect is one of the core values of our school and it is deeply embedded in all that we do. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone - old and young, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of respect underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom and in and out of the school.</p>
<b>Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs</b>
<p>Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through Religion and Worldviews; RSE work; visits to other schools in different settings to participate in celebrations such as Diwali; welcoming visitors from other schools and communities and enjoying a depth of study during themed weeks. Beliefs, traditions and customs are studied in depth, with visitors being invited in to our school to enrich and extend our children's and our community's understanding as well as visiting different places of worship throughout their schooling. Through this our pupils gain a deep understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and of their place in our global community.</p>