**British Values**

At Walton-le-Dale High School we value the diversity of backgrounds of all students, families and wider the school community.

**‘We acknowledge that every person is unique, with individual strengths and weaknesses, needs, likes and dislikes, regardless of age, sex, race or ability and we seek to value everyone equally. As a learning community Walton-le-Dale prides itself on concern for the individual. Each person is unique, with their own individual strengths. We value everyone equally.’**

**‘Senior leaders promote consistently and effectively a culture of care and support. Pupils are actively encouraged to be who they want to be. Difference is recognised and celebrated. Pupils and parents recognise and value the strength of this aspect of the schools’ provision. Parents’ positive views were demonstrated by the comments in Ofsted’s survey, Parent View. The comment that ‘the teachers allow each pupil’s personality to shine’ typified the view of many. As a result, pupils enjoy positive interactions with one another and with adults.’**

**(Ofsted 2018)**

**‘Pupils, parents and carers value the school inclusivity. Peoples’ differences are recognised and valued. Pupils say they feel safe and cared for at school’**

**(Ofsted report 2018)**

The Department for Education states that there is a need:

*“To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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”.*

The Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

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

Our school reflects British values in all that we do.  We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

**WHAT ARE BRITISH VALUES ?**

**WHAT DO THEY MEAN AT WALTON-LE-DALE HIGH SCHOOL?**

**TOLERANCE & RESPECT**

**This means that all members of our school family are welcomed into our school community no matter what belief, colour, sexuality or ability. We do not judge or discriminate on this.**



**DEMOCRACY**

**This means being able to contribute and give suggestions to one another. For example, in form you might get to vote for your student council representative and give your own opinion on an issue.**



**INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

**This means that you can choose which activities you want to take part in when you are not in class. It means in year 9 you can choose some of the subjects you wish to study further. It means you are free to move around.**



**THE RULE OF LAW**

**This means respecting the rules we have in school. This means understanding they are not there to stop you but there to make sure all members of our community feel safe and are treated equally and fairly.**



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At Walton-le-Dale High School, we actively promote British values in the following ways:

**Democracy**

* Election of School Council.
* Pupil Voice is addressed through student focus groups and questionnaires.
* Informal voting on issues within form times and lessons.
* We hold a mock election in our year 8 Opening Minds curiculum.
* The principles of democracy are explored in the whole curriculum e.g. turn taking, sharing and collaboration, as well as during assemblies and special projects.
* Achievements are celebrated both in lessons, in our weekly Headteachers Commendations and termly celebration assemblies. Rewards are embedded into our school culture and ethos.
* We promote a school environment where questions are valued and encouraged.

**The Rule of Law**

* The school's ethos promotes and encourages respect and helps pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
* Our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parent and carers.
* The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day.
* Through our enrichment programme students 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.  Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

**Individual Liberty**

* We pride ourselves on a school culture and ethos that builds respect, tolerance and resilience.
* Both in and out of lessons students are actively encouraged to make the right choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
* Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and our enrichment programme.
* We have a robust anti-bullying culture (refer to Anti-Bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy)
* Our school environment is one that promotes independence and individual communication. Our aim is to work towards pupils having full independence.
* All students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and are supported to learn to make safe choices that enable them to grow as individuals and reach their own potential in all aspects of their learning
* As students move up through the school they are supported to understand their rights and personal freedoms and are given appropriate advice to enable them to make independent decisions.

**Mutual Respect**

* Respect is one of the core values of our school.  Our students know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children.
* Displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy.
* Both in and out of the classroom students are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other opinions, cultures and ways of life.
* Staff and students are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. All such incidents are recorded.

**Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

* Discussions about prejudices and prejudice-based bullying in form time.
* Recognition and discussion of religious celebrations in lessons, form times and assemblies.
* Through the curriculum students are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.