



# STATEMENT ON BRITISH VALUES

Policy created: April 2016

Policy first adopted: April 2016

Signed chair of Governors:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. P. Hill", is written over the text "Signed chair of Governors:".

Re-adopted & signed:

9/5/16

# Promotion of British Values at Oak Grove College

The Department for Education introduced a statutory duty for schools to promote 'British Values' more actively from September 2014, and to ensure that they are taught in schools. Oak Grove College has, since it was opened, taken its responsibility to deliver the moral and social components of education that underpin society as a key part of its mission. In order to support the personal development and achievement of young people it has had to address the fundamental issues of the value, needs and rights of each person and the relationship to the society, or context, in which they live.

A key feature of the College, which is frequently commented on by visitors, is the 'extraordinary level of tolerance' and respect for the individual. The College is fully committed to an inclusive, anti-discriminatory mode of practice and continuously promotes the essential values that support positive engagement with, and contribution to, society. In order that our students can achieve their place in modern life it has been imperative that the College accepts and celebrates difference, promotes the rights and freedoms of individuals (particularly challenging barriers that curtail these rights and freedoms) and teaches due regard for the rule of law.

## Fundamental Values

### Democracy

Aspects of democracy such as the democratic process, decision making in the interest of the community and the practices of voting and representing others, are formally taught as part of the PD/Citizenship curriculum. Holistically the College consistently teaches and models respect for others, emphasises the need for compromise to meet the needs of all, and values the rights and views of the individual. Across the wide range of abilities in the College, students are empowered to make choices and taught that these have significance for themselves and others.

### Rule of Law

Understanding and awareness of the law are formally taught as part of the PD/Citizenship curriculum. The College promotes respect for rules through having college rules, with the value and impact of these rules being reinforced to ensure that students understand how the rule of law supports them in having a good quality of life. Students are encouraged to view the rule of law as something that facilitates an effective community; it is regarded as particularly important in safeguarding the vulnerable.

### Individual Liberty

The idea of 'liberty' and the rights that underpin this are formally taught as part of the PD/Citizenship curriculum. Across the College students are encouraged to make choices and to express themselves. They are encouraged to think for themselves and to recognise how rights and responsibilities work together. Students are encouraged to recognise how

'liberty' effectively functions in society in regard to respecting the community and the rule of law.

## **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those from all Faiths and Beliefs**

'Everyone matters...' is the start of the College's fundamental belief. Oak Grove College is committed to valuing all individuals irrespective of any of the ways in which people have traditionally divided. Various religious beliefs are explored as part of the humanities curriculum and the right to hold these beliefs and be free from discrimination is vigorously defended by the College. Aspects and celebrations of a number of faiths are part of the content of assemblies.

**At all times Oak Grove College is focused on preparing young people to be effective citizens; initially, within the College community but with the underpinning aim of making our young people ready and able take their place in modern British society.**