



# Statement of British Values

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Reviewed by: SLT

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STATEMENT OF BRITISH VALUES

Cornerstone Academy is committed to serving our community and surrounding areas. We recognise that the United Kingdom is a richly diverse, multicultural and multi-faith country, and understand our responsibility in promoting and encouraging a culture and ethos that upholds British Values.

Our school is highly inclusive and reflects British values in all that we do. We nurture our Students on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our students 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.

The information below reflects how Cornerstone Academy works to promote British Values through the ethos and culture of the school.

The Department for Education defines British Values as:

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

At Cornerstone Academy we actively promote British Values in the following ways:

### **DEMOCRACY**

- All Students are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve them. Students also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through student questionnaires and student surveys.
- Students contribute in the construction of the timetable, both in terms of what they would like to study and also extra-curricular activities.
- Students have input on the rewards system.
- Students will have active involvement in the selection processes of new staff.

### **RULE OF LAW**

- School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.
- Students are always supported to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and in the local and wider community.
- Students are encouraged to respect the law and The Cornerstone Academy will promote strong links with authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, etc. to help reinforce this message. **This will go further to include all public institutions such as Health, Police and the court systems. Students will be taught about these on different levels through our Careers curriculum, PSHE & RSE curriculum and through debate in**

subjects such as RE and English. Cornerstone Academy will encourage strong links with these institutions on both a pastoral and educational level.

- The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out clear expectations with regard any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to students, staff and parents and carers.
- Students are part of the school council and the anti-bullying message is delivered through PSHE & RSE, Form time as well as wellbeing interventions. Linked with this is education regarding healthy relationships and how to recognise unhealthy ones (linking with Operation Encompass)

## **INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

- Within school, students are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. eg. by signing up for adventurous activities, residential trips and extra-curricular sessions. A log of engagement with these opportunities will be filed within each student's student profile, and increase in engagement is celebrated.
- Students are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience.
- Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our intensive pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.
- Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our esafety teaching, OSHE & RSE. **Direct teaching of the nine protective characteristics as well as the topics presence in every aspect of school life, we will ensure that all our students treat adults and their peers with mutual respect. Similarly, no adult will force their own ideas onto students. Our students will be encouraged to make their own decisions and develop their own views, beliefs, ideas, individuality and moral compass.**
- Vulnerable students are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong antibullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents using our CPOMS system.
- We actively challenge any individual expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views.

## **MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE OF THOSE WITH DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS**

- **Our students are taught that under the Equality Act, there are nine protected characteristics, religion or beliefs being one. Students will be taught that acceptance and understanding of different faiths and beliefs are integral within a multi-cultural society. Through our Religious Education, British Values curriculum and PSHE & RSE curriculum students will receive a holistic and inclusive education.**
- Respect is one of the core values of our school. The students are helped to know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone.

- Students are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and Students are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- Through the PSHE & RSE curriculums and the ethos of the Academy, 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.
- We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which we help students understand the contribution that all faiths and cultures have made on British society and a global dimension to our work is embedded in many of our Creative Curriculum topics