



# British Values Policy

September 2021



# AIMS

We seek to fulfil the needs of learners in a caring, happy environment, enabling them to realise their true potential as young people and citizens.

We aim to enable our learners to:-

**P**REPARE for adult life in a happy, caring and purposeful environment

**A**CHIEVE their full potential regardless of individual need

**C**CARE for everyone and encourage respect and tolerance

**E**ENJOY education and rejoice in success



## Statement of intent

This policy sets out the framework in which The Whitby High School will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are officially taught through the Religious Education (RE) and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.

Respect, tolerance for others and inclusiveness permeate our school community. Every individual is valued and encouraged to believe they can succeed.

We use the five Fundamental British Values to underpin all our work in school, building a greater sense of self identity and awareness of our place in the wider world;

**Democracy** - all are free to express opinions, willing to listen to others with different views, have a role in influencing decision-making.

**Rule of law** - laws protect everyone, no one is above the law. All are aware of rights and responsibilities.

**Mutual respect and Tolerance** - raising understanding and tackling prejudice so all are treated with dignity and respect.

**Individual liberty** - freedom, for example the right to act, believe and express oneself in a manner of one's own choosing.

## **1. Legal framework**

- 1.1. This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:
  - Ofsted, School Inspection Handbook, 2015.(updated 2021)
  - Equality Act 2010
  - Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
  - DfE, Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils, 2014.
- 1.2. This policy is carried out in conjunction with our following other policies:
  - Positive Relationships Policy
  - Equalities Information and Objectives Policy
  - Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
  - PSHE/SRE Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

- 2.1. The Whitby High School understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.
- 2.2. The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.
- 2.3. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- 2.4. Students are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Positive Relationships Policy.

## **3. Aims and objectives**

Through our policy and procedures, we aim to ensure that our students have:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies, such as the police and the army, can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.
- An understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

#### **4. Democracy**

- 4.1. At The Whitby High School students have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through student voice and the student-elected School Council.
- 4.2. Our students are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn to instill an understanding of democracy for their future.

#### **5. The rule of law**

- 5.1. The Whitby High School has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.
- 5.2. At The Whitby High School students are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their well-being and safety. Students are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.
- 5.3. The Whitby High School organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.
- 5.4. The Whitby Way embodies the rule of law and teaches students that all aspects of life have boundaries. The Whitby Way is our 'rule of law' within the school to ensure we create a positive and safe environment for all.

#### **6. Individual liberty**

- 6.1. At The Whitby High School we foster a safe and supportive environment where students are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.
- 6.2. Students are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through our teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

#### **7. Mutual respect**

- 7.1. Respect forms a core pillar of The Whitby High School's PACE ethos. students are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and staff with respect.
- 7.2. This is reinforced through our Positive Relationships Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

#### **8. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- 8.1. The Whitby High School acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through students' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for students to experience such diversity.
- 8.2. Throughout the year, assemblies are held focusing on bullying, with reference to prejudice based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.
- 8.3. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.
- 8.4. We encourage our students from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

## **9. Staff training**

- 9.1. At The Whitby High School staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction.
- 9.2. Staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.

## **10. Review**

- 10.1. This policy will be kept under regular review by the Headteacher and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.

Review Due: September 2022