

British Values

The DfE emphasises the 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 government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At The Belsteads School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Promotion of Fundamental British Values.

The school has British Values at the heart of its ethos and curriculum. We actively promote them and challenge those who contradict them in word or actions.

To promote Democracy:

The school operates a system of Restorative Practice to resolve conflicts in peaceful and fair ways. Every person involved has a voice in this process.

In PSHE and Humanities lessons, students are given general knowledge of public institutions and services and how these are held to account.

In all lessons, students are encouraged to express and argue their points of view in an atmosphere of respect.

To promote the Rule of Law:

Students are actively taught to distinguish between right and wrong, and to make reparation as needed.

Students are taught that there are positive and negative consequences to their actions, and that breaking school rules has clear and predictable outcomes, as with British law.

An emphasis on sports, and the rules of team games in particular, promote awareness of the necessity of laws.

Individual Liberty:

Our school aims to help each student achieve self-confidence, initiative and independence.

We actively teach students to take responsibility for their behaviour as well as knowing their rights.

We challenge stereotypes in all areas of the curriculum.

We are truly inclusive, so that all students can participate fully in all areas of the curriculum.

Bullying, though rare, is taken seriously and addressed swiftly.

Freedom of speech, and the responsibilities that come with that, are modelled through student participation that ensures protection of vulnerable individuals.

Respect and Tolerance:

The curriculum and ethos promotes respect for individual difference. Curriculum areas including PSHE, Humanities, Art, Music, PE and English, help students acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.

Focus days that include celebration of festivals such as Diwali and Eid or explore cultures from around the world help students understand a range of faiths and traditions.

Prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is challenged and recorded, with students made aware of the seriousness of such incidents.