

The Link School: Statement on British Values

The Link School 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 learners 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 learners 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 the Link School 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 the Link School we actively promote British Values in the following ways:

Democracy

- All learners 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. Learners also have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires and pupil surveys.
- At Key Stage 4 learners chose the school uniform themselves.
- Learners contribute in the construction of the timetable, both in terms of what they would like to study and also extra-curricular activities.
- Learners have input on the rewards system.
- Learners have had active involvement in the selection processes of new staff.

Rule of Law

- Our school follows our core principals of REACH, which are integral to our learning and ethos every day.
- School rules and expectations are clear, fair and regularly promoted.
- Learners are always helped to distinguish right from wrong, in the classroom, during assemblies and in the local and wider community.
- Learners are encouraged to respect the law and the Link School enjoys visits from and to authorities such as the Police, Fire Service, etc. to help reinforce this message.

- The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to learners, staff and parents and carers.
- Learners are part of the Anti-Bullying group.

Individual Liberty

- Within school, learners 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, residentials and extra-curricular sessions.
- Learners are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our intensive pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.
- Learners are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching and PSHE and SEAL lessons.
- Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying 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.
- 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

- Respect is one of the core values of our school. The learners are helped to know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone.
- Learners are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and learners are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- Through the PSHEE and RE curriculums and the ethos of the school, learners are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.
- Although our own school community lacks diversity, we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which we help learners 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, such as the Proud to be British; Amazing Amazon and Africa. These curriculum topics offer children the chance to reflect on our core values and British life.