



British Values Statement

Promoting British values

Churchdown School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multicultural, multifaith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subject to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Churchdown School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life in modern Britain beyond the formal examined curriculum serving the whole community and ensuring that it actively promotes and reinforces British values to all its Students.

The government emphasises that schools have a duty to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government sets out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The four British Values are:

- ☑ Democracy
- ☑ The rule of law
- ☑ Individual liberty
- ☑ Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Churchdown School actively promotes embedded British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Churchdown School, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community. For instance, elections being part of the process for selecting Head Boy and Head Girl positions and Parliament Representatives. Students have a voice that is listened to through the School Parliament. The principle of democracy is also explored in History and Religious Education as well as in tutor time and assemblies. A debating society supports this value.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced at Churchdown School. Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the school's behaviour for learning Policy and 'Student 10'. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police and magistrates within the school reinforce this message.

Individual liberty

At Churchdown School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, in the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Churchdown educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety sessions during tutor time. Churchdown has a robust anti-bullying policy.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Respect is a strong part of Churchdown School. Students learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment, with the school's aim to 'develop personal responsibility and respect'. Tolerance is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, including students from other continents and cultures. We are looking to forge links with a school in Africa. Holocaust Memorial Day is marked every year in assembly. The Religious Studies curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of key Stage 4, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. The syllabus helps students to have a broader understanding of the spiritual, moral and sociological issues and encourages them to think about their own spiritual development.

Churchdown School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.

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