



## **BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL**

### **FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES - STATEMENT**

**This statement applies across the whole school including EYFS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The values of our School are embodied in the mission statement and the aims of the School. These reflect the ethos of Bridgewater and our expectation that shared values are fundamental to our strength as a community.

We actively promote the fundamental British values (as defined by The Department for Education which takes its definition of British values from the Home Office's Prevent strategy) of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This is achieved by challenging opinions or behaviours in School that are contrary to fundamental British values. We believe British values are those values expected of anyone living in Britain, regardless of their nationality, culture or religious belief.

We aim to ensure that all pupils understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

#### **HOW FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES ARE PROMOTED**

Across the entire curriculum, both academic and pastoral, and through many extra-curricular activities, fundamental British values are actively promoted. The examples below describe some of the ways in which Bridgewater works to promote Fundamental British Values through the ethos and life of the School, for example through a broad and balanced curriculum, and through social, moral, cultural and spiritual development.

##### **Democracy**

- Pupils are involved in Democratic processes, e.g. the mock election in May 2015, mirroring the UK General election.
- Prep Head Boy/Girl election. A new initiative that began on General Election Day in May 2015 and continues on referendum day on June 23rd 2016. During this process Prep V children do presentations and campaign for election. All students then have a vote on polling day.
- Student Voice activities leading to whole school changes.
- Prep have a vibrant school council with members who are elected by their class peers. The council organise many activities including fund raising for our new playground.
- Student surveys about issues such as bullying encourage them to share their views and opinions with the confidence that they will be listened to.
- Pupils involved in the appointment of Senior School Head Boy / Head Girl and senior leadership team.

##### **Rule of Law**

- We have a clearly structured behaviour policy which all students understand and follow.

- Assemblies/talks are delivered with a focus on the law, e.g. Internet safety talks – with sessions for students of different age ranges.
- RS/PHSCE/History curricula deal with laws, how laws are made, difference between executive/judiciary, etc.

### **Individual Liberty**

- Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school including Student Council members, Prefects, Head Boy /Girl / Leadership team.
- Pupils of all ages are actively encouraged to make choices – educating and providing boundaries for children to make choices safely.
- Year 9 students involved in Citizenship Day – exploring ideas of being a good citizen in our local area with pupils from other local schools.

### **Mutual Respect**

- The School's PSHCE curriculum embodies values of mutual respect through units of learning such as relationships and being a responsible citizen.
- Respect is embedded within our Code of Conduct.
- The students undertake a variety of charitable initiatives in support of communities both in the UK and overseas.

### **Tolerance for those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

- Our RS curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.
- The Modern Foreign Languages Department have organised an exchange to Spain.
- Year 8 students have an annual visit to France.
- Through a rich and challenging humanities curriculum, and through a focus on key events in British History – students are encouraged to reflect upon their role in a diverse, multicultural and multi faith society.
- There are bi-annual visits to the USA and Iceland in the Senior school.
- Prep and Senior Debating societies exist to provide students with a forum through which they can explore and discuss cultural, social and moral issues in a structured way. There is a Prep version led by TG.

### **RELATED SCHOOL DOCUMENTS**

This statement is supported by the following documents:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Anti-Racism Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Sex and Health Education Policy
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Schemes of Work
- Bridgewater's Code of Conduct
- School Rules
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

## **SUMMARY**

All staff and students at Bridgewater School are expected to behave with integrity, tolerance and compassion in their dealings with one another. We provide opportunities for all pupils not only to explore their own cultures but also to understand how these align with British values and how we can work together as a community for the greater good. Every member of the community has a part to play in enshrining the core values and beliefs so as to build a strong, united and democratic school. Where unfairness or bullying is found to exist it will be routed out, and democracy and the rights of individuals will take centre stage.