



BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

Horizon Community College

At Horizon Community College we are committed to British Values and equipping our students with skills they need to take their place in a multicultural, multi-faith local community and ever changing United Kingdom. We are genuinely passionate about promoting equal opportunity for all regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and to ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values at all times.

The Government set out its definition of British values within its 2011 Counter Terrorism PREVENT Strategy. The DfE document Promoting Fundamental British values in Schools as Part of SMSC in schools (found [here](#)) outlines the roles schools must play in promoting these.

The four British values identified are:

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

Our Citizenship curriculum (see Curriculum section of the website) ensures that these very important values are understood, promoted and debated. We also examine other societies in order to fully understand why we are lucky to live in Britain and what we can do, as active citizens, to encourage all societies to promote these human values. In addition to this, our Religious Education curriculum and assembly and form period provision are also used as opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students as well, as these fundamental British values.

The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to embed and promote British values at Horizon Community College:

Democracy

We equip our students with an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process through a 14 week Year 9 Citizenship scheme of learning about Political Systems. The overarching question for this unit is 'Is the UK an example of a fair and effective political system?'. Students explore the history of democracy in the UK, how the UK Parliament works and the importance of taking part in a democratic process. An important part of this unit is the gaining a global perspective on our political system; hence we also learn about examples of theocracies, anarchies, monarchies and dictatorships so as to enable us to appreciate our own context more fully.

Each year, our students take part in the annual Make Your Mark ballot. The ballot decides what members of the UK Youth Parliament should debate. In 2016 the chosen issue was the need to do more to tackle racism and religious discrimination. One of our year 10 Students, Ali Khosravi, is a member of the UK Youth Parliament and represented the young people of Barnsley at the House of Commons in November.

The Rule of Law

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Individual Liberty

Our students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they do so in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised about how to do this safely, for example through lessons on e-safety and responsible internet use in both Computing and Citizenship lessons.

In Year 7 our students explore the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and understand their rights and responsibilities under this convention. In Year 9 our students learn about healthy relationships and what to do if you suspect a relationship is not healthy. As part of this scheme of learning, students learn about how to assert themselves in a relationship and to ensure their rights and value as a person are affirmed. Students also explore the different types of abuse in relationships, sexual consent laws and child sexual exploitation and the subtle ways it begins.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:

In Year 7 Citizenship students explore the 2010 Equality Act and to what extent its aim of tackling discrimination based on gender, sexuality, disability, race and religion has been accomplished. They also learn about the roots of prejudice and the impact this has on others.

Islamophobia is a growing concern in the UK. In Year 7 Citizenship our students also learn about the scale of the problem, the role the media play in fuelling this and the impact on Muslim people within school communities. This important work to tackle Islamophobia continues in to Year 8 RE where students explore the true nature of Islam through a scheme of learning called 'Can a True Muslim ever be a Terrorist?'



At Horizon every student completes a GCSE in Religious Studies. This develops and encourages the qualities of tolerance and respect, vital when we live in a society as diverse as ours. The GCSE course helps students to realise that difference is to be celebrated not feared.

This is just a brief sample of the wide ranging, important work that promotes British values and student wellbeing to all at Horizon Community College. Please be assured that we continually strive to ensure that our students leave a strong, values-based foundation on which to build successful lives and make positive contributions to our society.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Miss F Winterburn (fwinterburn@horizoncc.co.uk).



Horizon Community College 2017
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