



# Promoting British Values at the Burgate School and Sixth Form

The DfE has reinforced 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.

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all students, staff and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We teach our children to be tolerant and respectful towards others, embracing the differences in our community and the wider world. At the Burgate School and Sixth Form these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

## **Democracy**

Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student Council (both in the main school and the sixth form) and a variety of student working groups, such as the Amnesty group and the Eco team. We also have a team of prefects in year 11, led by the Head Boy and Head girl and supported by the Top 6 team.

The Top 6 and prefect team and School and Sixth Form Council are directly elected by the staff and the students. Every student has the opportunity to put themselves forward. They are encouraged to consider thinking about what they can do as a representative of the student body to lead the school forward.

The students and the Top 6 meet regularly as a team and with senior members of staff to discuss the themes and issues which affect their life in school and in the wider community. All students actively involved in any student voice working group is genuinely able to effect change within the school.

In addition, students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through Student Voice activities whereby subject leaders meet with students to discuss their learning.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The PSHE and PDL programme plays a part in dealing with issues of law.

## **Individual Liberty**

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. These choices underpin our school expectations of “Be safe, be respectful, be ready to learn”. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our young people to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Students 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 and PSHE lessons and assemblies. Whether it is through choice of challenge, of which courses they wish to follow in Years 9, 10 and 11 or of participation in our extensive extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.

## **Mutual Respect**

We have a values-led approach to school assemblies and our Burgate Expectations. “Respect” is one of our core values and students take part in discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Students also are mindful of others within their classes who are also demonstrating such values. Our ethos emphasises respect and the desire for every student to feel valued for who they are. This is reiterated through our practice and through policies (such as Behaviour Policy) We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all.

Although numbers from some groups may be low, our community is still made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds. We aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of different faiths and cultures both within our school and the wider world.

We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment and adopt a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and bystanding. This includes cyber-bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to appearance, SEND, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

At The Burgate School and Sixth Form we will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including "extremist" views.