



*Saint* GREGORY'S  
*Bath*

# **Promoting British Values at Saint Gregory's**

**September 2017**

**In Christ we flourish**

At Saint Gregory's, we are fully committed to actively promoting British values in line with Department for Education (DfE) recommendations and the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 to keep children safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain. We welcome the DfE's focus on strengthening the 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) standard' by actively promoting the 'fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and encourage students to respect other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010'.

In October 2014, the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan further reinforced this; "We must not be shy about talking about fundamental British values... and schools should promote values such as 'mutual respect' and equality between girls and boys, she said, adding ideals such as democracy and tolerance must be 'woven' into the curriculum' (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29627391>).

Our School Development Plan states our vision very clearly. We are inspired by Gospel values and actively promote British values, which in our view arise from those Gospel values which have been part of the fabric of our society for many hundreds of years. We have developed six Hallmarks of an Education at St. Gregory's which has allowed us to 'map' our coverage of Gospel values and British values cross our assembly programme to ensure that our students are invited to grow in these values and take their place as principled and productive citizens in modern Britain. Our values document can be found on our website:

<http://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/our-school/gospel-values-british-values/>, accessed 9 November 2017

We also promote many of our core British values through a highly effective Citizenship programme, led and co-ordinated by our Humanities Faculty. How Humanities deliver Citizenship across Key Stages 3 and 4 can be found at:

<http://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/useful-information/key-documents/>, accessed 9 November 2017

## **Democracy**

Democracy is a fundamental value of our school community and integral to all that we do. Students have many opportunities to develop their understanding of democracy, for example:

- students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our school senate and student questionnaires.
- Our first PSHE day of the academic year focuses on Democracy, with visiting Councillors promoting the democratic process in talks, the election of house captains, tutor and charity representatives based on student voice and votes, and tutor-led activities on creating a political party
- All students have the opportunity to participate in the Youth Parliament Elections and Make your Mark and to participate in an Equalities Team. Topical issues such as the Scottish referendum and General Election are explored where appropriate
- Students cover the development of our political system and the operation of parliament in History

- Assemblies such Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day are powerful reminders for the students of the sacrifices people have made to protect our democratic system

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws is explored in a variety of ways, for example:

- The Behaviour for Excellence policy is based on a fair system of consequences and rewards and is reviewed annually by the students. The school behaviour code promotes our high expectations regarding what is right and wrong and how to make appropriate choices. Students and parents are fully involved in the process of updating this policy.
- Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, how they govern and protect us and the responsibilities and consequences when laws are broken. Within our school curriculum, we provide many opportunities for students to take part in activities around this topic, for example through mock trials in drama and coverage of the legal system in the UK in RE and History.
- RE also explore the background to legal frameworks in the Western world by examining the role of the ten commandments and the relationship between church and state

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, students are actively encouraged in a number of ways to value their individual liberty:

- As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for students to make safe and informed choices within a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to exercise these safely. For example through our e-safety and PSHE activities
- Our focus on vocation and exploring the person you really want to be is a feature of our tutor-led programme. Every student in the school recently answered the question, *What kind of person would you really like to be?*
- The liberty of the individual is a key dimension in our inspiring careers programme, supported by a highly positive and aspirational school culture
- Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment and extra-curricular residential visits, trips and clubs which are open to all.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect for the individual is a deeply embedded reality in our school and we maintain and develop that by:

- relentlessly focusing on preventing and tackling all forms of bullying and harassment, which is “rare” according to our Ofsted report 2013;
- ensuring that our students understand and are protected from cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying relating to special educational need, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment;

- giving our students the opportunities to flourish as rounded individuals in a learning environment which is explicitly Christian but open and respectful of differing viewpoints. Our curriculum provides young people with a context for understanding themselves and the world in which they live, in order to prepare them for their future as responsible citizens within our society. We endeavour to develop the self-esteem and self-discipline of our students, and develop their talents so that they realise their potential to the full;
- developing our international links and programmes so that they are a feature of our school. The many visits from foreign students and the many trips our students undertake help to embed the culture of mutual respect for all cultures which permeates the school. Saint Gregory's recent Ofsted report (July 2013) stated that our school 'is strongly committed to international partnerships and considers it vital that students understand what it means to be part of a global village and to further develop their respect for other cultures';
- ensuring that the focus on equality which is so strong in the student creed is seen maintained and developed as a reality in the school.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Saint Gregory's is an inclusive and diverse community, where all are valued irrespective of faith and traditions:

- Aspects of the curriculum are linked to raising students' awareness and respect for, the faith and traditions of other communities – both on a local and global scale.
- Together with this, there is the strong emphasis on the development of social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills where students are encouraged to think and decide for themselves, and be tolerant of the views of others.
- In RE, students investigate world religions and explore moral issues from different faith perspectives and those of no religion.
- Our assembly programme celebrates Judaism and Islam, e.g. on Holocaust Memorial Day
- In geography, students study migration and multiculturalism in the UK and why it is important to live in a tolerant and non-discriminatory society (please refer to the Citizenship across the curriculum document for further examples).