

# British Values Statement.

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# British Values Statement

## Promoting British values

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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. Samuel Ward Academy is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

The academy uses strategies within the National curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Samuel Ward Academy seeks to embed British values.

### Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Samuel Ward Academy, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for Head Boy and Girl and Ambassador positions, Leaders and Student Forum members. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Citizenship and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in meeting time and assemblies. Mock elections are also held within the school at the time of General Elections and Referenda. The process is discussed and votes analysed and published with the whole process discussed in Meeting Time. The manifestos of each party and data for candidates are displayed in the Sixth Form block and reminders are given to all students to register to vote when appropriate.

### 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 Samuel Ward Academy.

Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the Home-School Contract, the PERFORM rules and student expectations. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind 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 Fire Service reinforce this message.

### Individual liberty

At Samuel Ward Academy, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Samuel Ward Academy 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 and values-based meeting time discussions. Schemes of work in CRS also reflect on these issues in greater detail and these issues are discussed in Meeting Time.

Samuel Ward Academy has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a strong part of Samuel Ward Academy and is one of our eight core values. 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 Samuel Ward Academy's ethos and values underpinning this. Meeting Time is fundamental in our approach to respectful and meaningful dialogue and activities in Meeting Time are structured to encourage students to develop this.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

This 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. The Religious Studies curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of Year 10, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Activities in Meeting time and assemblies are designed to increase and broaden the awareness and understanding of the wider world and helping our students gain an understanding of cultural difference and the role of tolerance in society.

Samuel Ward Academy has also been accredited with the International Schools Award – Intermediate and works in partnerships with schools overseas to teach students about life in other countries and develop them as global citizens.

Samuel Ward Academy 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.