

Human Values Statement

As part of broader requirements relating to the quality of education and to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, there is an explicit requirement for all schools in the UK to promote what are referred to in the legislation as 'British Values'.

These are defined as:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Although the school whole-heartedly endorses and promotes these values, we do not see them as exclusively British and to refer to them as such would not be a true reflection of the ethos of our school. It is also very likely to cause offence in a multi-cultural community such as ours.

Regardless of the statutory duty to do so, we have always promoted, through our curriculum and policies, what we see as fundamental human values. These include:

- the right of the members of any society to decide how and by whom they are governed.
- respect for the fact that the laws of the country in which we live have been instated by the consent of our elected representatives, and therefore represent the collective will of the people and apply equally to all.
- the freedom of every individual to think and believe whatever he/she likes, and to express and act on those thoughts and beliefs within the law of the land as long as they do not harm anyone else or inhibit anyone else's freedom to do so.

We believe that these three more than encompass the spirit of what is meant by 'British values' in the legislation.

This statement is published in the Student, Staff and Parent Handbooks so that everyone is clear about the values that are promoted in the school.

As well as ensuring that our own staff respect these human values, we ensure that any visiting speakers or teachers – whether invited by staff or by students – are aware of and respect them. Visitors are always appropriately supervised.