

The Hastings Academy British Value Statement

Promoting British Values

The Hastings Academy is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we play in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly or illegally influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, gender, sexuality, political or financial status or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that The Hastings Academy promotes and reinforces British Values to all its students.

The Government requires that key British values are taught in schools.

The five British values are:

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

The examples that follow show some of the many ways that The Hastings Academy seeks to embed British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at The Hastings Academy, with democratic process being used in important decisions within the school community. For instance, the school ran its own general election to educate our students, involve them with the voting process of this country and develop their understanding of the different political parties. In addition to this, elections are also held for school council positions, with candidates participating in a hustings. The principle of democracy is also explored in history through the English civil war and through PSHE lessons as well as in form time and assemblies.

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 The Hastings Academy

Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school. They are taught the value and the reasons behind the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. In PSHE students examine rights and responsibilities, drugs and alcohol, e-safety, cyberbullying and hate crimes. In addition, during tutor time and assembly students examine road and fire safety. Visits from authorities such as the Police and the Fire Brigade reinforce these messages.

Individual liberty

At The Hastings Academy, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

Staff at The Hastings Academy educate students to make informed choices and through a safe environment and an empowering education they provide them with boundaries within which they can make these choices.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to do so safely, for example through e-safety and Citizenship and PSHE. In addition to this our students are encouraged to try something new and exercise their freedom through experiences and trips beyond their curriculum. Even when our students no longer study drama, we want our students to pursue their interests. This is why we have a healthy and wide ranging enrichment programme, offering everything from ski trips to bike building.

At The Hastings Academy we are proud of our robust anti-bullying culture and our comprehensive Behaviour to Achieve Policy.

Mutual respect

Respect is a strong part of The Hastings Academy and is central to our values. Students learn that their behaviours have 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 our teaching and learning environments. Our students are actively working towards Passport to Success during form time, lessons and after school clubs. Academic review days and assemblies regularly focus on respect and students' responsibilities towards each other with regard to religious and racial tolerance. We have a very diverse tutor programme with students actively engaging with other faiths and beliefs. In order to empower our students and demonstrate the role they play in developing mutual respect, we have SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation for our students as well as Student Council, Peer Support Students and Senior Students. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment.

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 providing opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. The tutor time programme, PSHE curriculum and assemblies programme support a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

The Hastings Academy has also been accredited with the International Schools Award and works in partnerships with schools overseas to teach students about life in other countries and develop them as global citizens. Our students communicate with schools in France and Spain and we regularly host visits from schools abroad.

The Hastings Academy strives endlessly to ensure that our students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and make a significant contribution to our society.