

# Our Values

## Statement:

At Fir Vale School we are committed to developing key skills and values for life so that our students are able to reach their full potential.

We teach tolerance and respect for others and we're proud that our values of opportunity, kindness, respect, achievement, togetherness and determination underpin everything we do.

Our school is committed to actively promoting values to ensure our students leave us fully prepared for life in modern Britain (sometimes known as 'British' values).

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach students about these values. We take every opportunity to promote the fundamental values of:

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

We promote these values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos.

### **Democracy**

- All students elect the Junior Leadership Team (JLT).
- Two students from each year group form the pupil parliament.
- Roles are established for students, e.g. prefects, pupil parliament, sports leaders, dance leaders to allow pupils opportunities to develop and display leadership skills.
- Students' voices are heard through pupil parliament and questionnaires.
- Parent and student voice is carried out and comments are used to make improvements to the school.
- Engagement with local councillors and MP's to learn more about local democracy, elections and their role. Visitors include, Abtisam Mohamed, Mark Jones and Gill Furniss.
- All students are provided with opportunities to build balanced arguments and form opinions, e.g. by taking part in debates and public speaking.
- Votes for schools is used during tutor time to provide information and opportunity for students to voice their opinions on relevant and challenging issues.
- Taught within the curriculum (see subject mapping document).

### **The rule of law**

- External visitors reinforce students' understanding of responsibilities linked to various professions. I.e. Emergency services.
- Students are taught about adults who fulfil roles designed to help others, including staff members, friends and family.
- Regular presence from the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), who is also involved with restorative justice.
- Whole school behaviour system is promoted and consistently applied to ensure that students' understand consequences and learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Social time rules are enforced.
- High expectations are set and enforced for attendance, punctuality and behaviour.
- Reintegration parent agreements to clarify expected behaviour.
- Students are provided with opportunities to celebrate the lives of people who have influenced the course of history.
- Taught within the curriculum (see subject mapping document).

### **Individual liberty**

- E-safety and anti-bullying lessons are delivered.
- Students are taught the importance of speaking up and sharing their problems with a trusted adult.
- Rigorous safeguarding to protect individuals.
- During tutor time and within lessons, students are given a chance to share their feelings and opinions in a safe way. This allows them to reflect on their differences and understand that people are free to have a difference in opinion.
- Extracurricular clubs and opportunities are available for all students.
- Students are taught about difference races and cultures.

### **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

- An annual anti-bullying week is held where students are taught to value differences and respect others.
- Events are celebrated, including, LGBT+ History Month and Black History Month.
- Students and families are encouraged to support charities.
- RE is taught within the Ethics curriculum and as an option at KS4 – Students learn about six major religions of the world, atheism and humanism.