



**Bexhill**  
Academy



# British Values

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Reviewed by: D Lindsay

Date	Changes	Page number

## Promotion of British Values

At Bexhill Academy we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and considered them to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At Bexhill Academy these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community. We value the diversity of backgrounds of all pupils, families and the wider school community and promote British values by demonstrating

- respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- support for equality of opportunity for all
- support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at Bexhill Academy and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### **Democracy**

At Bexhill Academy, the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for Head Students, Senior Student Leaders and tutor group Representatives. These students have regular meetings in which they can relay the ideas and opinions of their peers and report back to them on decisions made.

Student voice plays an important part in decisions at all levels, ensuring there is a representation of student views in academy decision-making processes. The Student Board also work alongside the Senior Leadership Team on issues selected by the student body, including the environment and mental health.

Students participate in other local elections, such as the Youth Parliament elections, and take part in mock elections to learn about the general election process. The principle of democracy is explored in Humanities as well as in tutor time and assemblies.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the academy, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with our Culture for Learning and through the assembly programme. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **Individual liberty**

Within Bexhill Academy students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in computing and their tutor time activities. Vulnerable pupils are protected and stereotypes challenged throughout the academy in assemblies, PSHE and tutor time. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents.

LGBTQ+ students have access to safe spaces throughout the academy, and staff allies wear rainbow ribbons. There is an allocated session once a week in Milo's, the Mental Health resource space. The school holds the Rainbow Flag Award.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is modelled by students and staff alike. The academy promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments. In line with our commitment to democracy, students at Bexhill Academy are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE to the Student Leadership programme which promote mutual respect and support between students across different year groups within the school.

### **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 them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. We also run a number of trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school. Our KS3 Religious Studies curriculum and assembly programme provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Should you feel that the school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns with the Head Teacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is undermining these values you should report this to the Head Teacher.