



Bexhill
Academy

BRITISH VALUES

Adopted: November 2020
Next Review: November 2021

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.

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 and our House Representatives.

Students supporting in reviewing and changing academy policies. In 2020, Year 8 students worked to gain views and adapt the academy's Friendship and Anti-Bullying Policy. Students also have a role on advising the academy's tutor programme, including work with out LGBTQ community.

Students participate in other local elections, such as the Youth Parliament elections. 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 through the assembly and tutor 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.

Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school, sign a HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT stating that they and their parent/carers understand and agree to follow rules.

The rule of law is explored through PSHE lessons in which students learn about law making and administration. It is also emphasised that all people are equal before the law

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.

Staff at Bexhill Academy work hard to provide a positive culture – educating students and providing them with boundaries enabling them to make informed choices, through a safe and empowering education. Students are ALL encouraged to seek to challenge themselves in individual classes, giving them more freedom to determine their own success. We offer a range of enrichment activities, which students have the right to choose from, based on their interests.

Students have the opportunity to access services independently within the academy to support their emotional well-being. These include the Listening Service, our Mental Health Open Door sessions and the School Nurse Service. The academy has a number fully trained Mental Health First Aiders, including a member of staff coordinating the Open Door Project. This is supported by our Mental Health Trailblazers who work within the academy two days per week.

At Bexhill Academy, we aim for students to become independent, believing this can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

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.

Bexhill Academy School promotes equality within its ethos of **RESPECT** and students are regularly reminded of academy and UK policy as well as being given an array of opportunities to self-express.

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.

Annual celebration of European Language Week.

Students are widely taught about anti-discrimination laws as well as understanding diversity in the UK.

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 Principal. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is undermining these values you should report this to the Principal.