

Our Statement in support of the Promotion of British Values

At Bexhill Academy we believe every pupil and staff member is a unique human being and as such has a right to the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are actively promoted through a carefully coordinated programme of PSHE lessons, along with assemblies, guest speakers, tutor time activities and following our four core values of Focused, Aspirational, Independence and Resilient.

We monitor the provision within the curriculum both inside and outside lessons to ensure that all pupils receive a broad and balanced experience that reflects today's modern British Culture. Pupils are involved in democracy, elected by their peers and have a significant voice in terms of future planning and feedback.

Furthermore, our safeguarding procedures ensure that our young people only come into contact with adults who have passed full and comprehensive background checks.

At Bexhill Academy we promote British Values across the curriculum to ensure that our pupils and staff have:

- A knowledge, understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process both through the taught curriculum and pupil voice and leadership opportunities
- Respectful consideration and an understanding that people have the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs and how these are protected in law
- Acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and should not be the cause of any prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

The academy takes opportunities to promote our values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful Student Leadership Team and Student Council. We include real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting our values also means challenging students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental values, including 'extremist' views.

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Equality

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our academy. Students have the opportunity to have their voice heard through our Student Council. The elections of members of the Student Leadership Team and the Student Council are based on student votes. Student, staff and parent views are sought regularly so that these views can be used to develop the Academy using the democratic process.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the academy or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular academy days. Our 'on call' system' for behaviour is aligned to an agreed set of rules. Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police reinforce this message. Restorative justice is practised as a matter of course. Students are responsible and co-operative. The majority of students respect the rules and the academy environment.

Individual Liberty

Within the academy, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for our students to make choices safely. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching. Students are encouraged to exercise self-discipline and to work independently.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the core values of our Academy. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The students know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing students' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community. Equality is at the centre of the work of the Academy. The assembly schedule for each year includes celebrations for some of the major faiths and also explores other beliefs and communities.