

# British Values at Hope Academy

**Preparation for life in modern Britain by promoting British values.**

We recognise the importance of allowing students to flourish academically and also our wider role to prepare students for life in modern Britain.

Part of our role, in that preparation, is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to all our students.

The Government set out its definition of British values in the *2011 Prevent Strategy*, which aims to promote British values and help prevent radicalisation, and considered them to be **democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths**.

At Hope Academy, you will see these values in action as a natural partner to our Christian vision and values throughout lessons, assemblies and in the way students relate to each other and to adults.

We also believe that values without action are useless. That is why we are proud to partner with *Free The Children*, an educational charity working across the world, to help our students become active citizens whilst making a real difference to the lives of other students.

## **How does Hope Academy promote these values?**

### **Democracy**

Student voice is strong at Hope Academy and we feel that by valuing and responding to students, we demonstrate their democracy and freedom.

We have an Academy Council consisting of two representatives from each year group. These students bring ideas from their year groups and suggest new approaches to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Students are also involved in the interviewing process when new appointments are made in the Academy. They also play a role in supporting charities and help choose which charities receive the money. Over the past few years, students from Hope Academy have supported those involved in the Haiti earthquake and victims of the floods. In years 10 and 11, students study GCSE Citizenship, where they learn about democratic and electoral processes that govern our lives in the UK.

Through *Super Citizen Days*, which will take place once every term, we are organising visits to Parliament – where students will have the opportunity to listen to debates in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and also participate in a workshop on how to devise laws.

### **The Rule of Law**

Our students will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want students to understand that whether these laws govern the class, Academy or community, they are set for a reason and must be followed.

Within the Academy, there are clear expectations and rules, which are consistently reinforced throughout the day. Students are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions. In Year 10 Citizenship lessons, students are taught about how laws are made, why they are important and the consequences of breaking laws.

We have also benefitted from visiting guest speakers from a range of agencies, including Merseyside Police, the Fire and the Armed Services. Throughout their time at Hope Academy, students will be involved in workshops regarding bullying, knife crime and gun crime. In Religious Education lessons, students learn about religious laws but understand that British law comes before religious law in the UK.

From September 2016, students will also have the opportunity to take part in the *Bar National Mock Trial Competition*. This involves young people from all over Britain battling out mock criminal trials in real crown courts, gaining an insight into the workings of the legal system.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our Christian Academy is made up of students from varying cultures and backgrounds, of students with faith and students with none. Whatever student and staff background, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others and that all members of the Academy should be treated respectfully.

At Key Stage Three, all students follow a R.E. curriculum that engages students with the beliefs, teachings and ways of life across the six main world religions and other belief systems, such as Humanism. This allows students to reflect upon and form their own beliefs, values, and attitudes as they make sense of their place in the world. Every student studies GCSE R.E., focusing on two of the world's major religions - Christianity and Islam.

We are also a *Stonewall School Champion* and promote a safe and inclusive learning environment - empowering students and staff to celebrate difference and challenge homophobia.

### **Tolerance**

Through assemblies, R.E., PSHE, Citizenship and form time, we deal with issues such as prejudice, discrimination, racism, sexism and bullying. We have planned visits throughout the year to different places of worship and other sacred spaces, including the Al Rahma Mosque in Liverpool, Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Warrington and Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool.

Following Christian teachings of love, compassion and equality, cultural appreciation and development forms a key part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all students' experiences and awareness of others.

Each year, all Year 9 students meet Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan – a focus for the need for tolerance and compassion. In the sixth form, two students are given the opportunity to participate in the *Lessons From Auschwitz* programme, delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust. As part of the programme, students visit the Auschwitz camp. On return, the students then run assemblies for all year groups to raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust and its modern day lessons.

### **Individual Freedom**

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our Academy, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. As an Academy, we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make choices about risky behaviour.

Students are encouraged to understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised to exercise these safely, through assemblies and *Super Citizen Days*. This can also include their freedom of choice when participating in extra-curricular activities.