

British Values Policy

Sandhurst School recognizes our responsibility to equip students with the knowledge and skills to live healthy, happy lives and to make a positive and active contribution to our country and the wider world. We understand the important role we play in preparing young people for life in modern Britain and are committed to ensuring that the fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of our school.

We are committed to:

- Giving students the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- Encouraging students to explore and develop what animates themselves and others;
- Giving students the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful;
- Actively developing an ethos within which all young people can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected;
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals;
- Promoting teaching styles which value students' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns;
- Enabling students to make connections between aspects of their learning;
- Encouraging students to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, e.g. asking 'why', 'how', and 'where', as well as 'what' and 'when'.

All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE, PAL and Citizenship programmes of study may provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. All students are encouraged to embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and are expected to demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives. We are aiming to develop:

- Honesty.
- An agreed sense of right and wrong with the confidence to stand up for what individuals believe in.
- Consideration for others and an appreciation of their uniqueness and qualities.
- The concept of "fair play" -winners and losers - in sport and games.
- Drug awareness and personal safety.
- Responsibility for self and others.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. Actively promoting 'British Values' also means challenging students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views. At Sandhurst School, values of tolerance and respect permeate all areas of school life. This engenders a climate within which students feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential. Student voice

plays an integral part in driving the school forward and school rules at different levels are seen as the foundation upon which this can be achieved.

British Values at Sandhurst School

Mutual respect and celebration of difference

Our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around core values such as 'Respect', and students have been part of discussions related to what this means and how it is shown. Valuing the diverse backgrounds of all students, staff and families is a vitally important part of the ethos of Sandhurst School. We actively seek to celebrate diversity and difference through a range of lessons, events and extra-curricular opportunities, emphasising the importance of understanding, tolerance and respect for all those who share our community and also those in the wider world. We have achieved Beacon Status for our work in this area. We aspire for our students to go far beyond mere tolerance of difference. We hope that they will instead learn to celebrate difference and diversity. We want our students to become “active upstanders” rather than “indifferent bystanders” when faced with the oppression of their fellow human beings.

Examples of activities:

- The celebration of diversity and the understanding of the catastrophic effects of prejudice and discrimination are key elements of our Beacon School genocide education programme. The opportunity to hear the stories of genocide survivors, as well as to visits site of genocide in Poland, Rwanda and Bosnia reinforce this message. (See Beacon School and Reaching Rwanda sessions for more about these programmes).
- Our Reaching Rwanda programme connects students at the school with young people in Rwanda, fostering mutual respect and lasting friendships.
- Our termly charity fundraising days promote understanding of and respect for those less fortunate.
- All staff model mutual respect in their dealings with one another, with students and parents, with a focus on manners.
- Classroom codes of conduct stress the importance of sharing and valuing differing beliefs.
- A large proportion of our students originally come from other countries, most notably Nepal. We value and respect the students' first language and culture whilst supporting families to feel welcomed and fully integrated into the everyday life of the school.
- Students who go above and beyond to support others are celebrated in the weekly newsletter and by the Headteacher's Award.
- The concept of 'fair play', being magnanimous in defeat and participation in activities that promote kinship and affiliation with others are actively promoted in school.
- Debating is a regular part of lessons and students are encouraged to listen to and respect different viewpoints.
- Tolerance is promoted through diverse resources eg. Books that describe different religions, family circumstances etc.
- The PAL and Citizenship programmes of study focus on the nature and effects of all types of prejudice, including racism and homophobia. The

programmes are enriched by visiting speakers, ranging from Stonewall to Amnesty International and Positive Living (an HIV awareness charity).

- All incidents of racism or any form of bullying related to disability, sexuality, religious or other issues are recorded and dealt with in line with agreed procedures.
- The RE curriculum reflects all world religions and is taught across the school. The curriculum is enriched by a range of visiting speakers from and visits to different faith communities.
- We ensure a staff and governor representation that celebrates diversity and tolerance and the school community.
- The opportunity for students to visit a wide variety of countries across the world enrich our understanding and appreciation of different cultures and ways of life.

Democracy

Democracy is an integral part of school life. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student Council and student questionnaires.

Examples of activities:

- Members of the student council are elected by their peers.
- Regular meetings of the student council ensure the reinforcement of democratic processes, the application of freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns
- The Head boy/girl, senior prefect and House Captain teams are decided through democratic means
- Candidates from the school stand in the Bracknell Forest Youth Parliament elections and all students have the opportunity to vote in these elections.
- The PAL and Citizenship programmes of study focus on differences between local and national roles for politicians, the democratic process and the importance of voting as well as ways for concerned citizens to affect change in society through peaceful and democratic means. Visits from social activists and politicians enrich this programme. The active citizenship aspect of the Citizenship programme of study entails students working in groups to affect a positive change in the world.
- All students have the opportunity to consider freedom and sacrifice in world wars through remembrance events.
- Our Beacon School genocide education programme focuses on what can happen in a society when democracy and the rule of law break down.
- Books are purchased for the library reflecting the various issues in our world : tolerance, equality, different faiths

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those rules that govern the classroom, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour. Students are taught the value and reasons behind boundaries, rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences should rules and laws be broken.

Examples of activities:

- Students learn a sense of 'right' and 'wrong' through the setting of classroom rules- within an overall behaviour policy with its clear rewards and sanctions. Classroom codes of conduct are created through discussions with students around rights and how students and teachers will ensure these rights are respected
- School and class rules are shared with parents and carers
- Annual events like Black History Week and assemblies introduce work around civil rights through Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela
- PE lessons promote the concept of fair play
- Sporting events, a range of visits and use of outdoor education centres are planned to ensure students' experiences are broad, meaningful and varied
- Anti-bullying is an important focus and involves a range of events and activities
- Regular training is provided for students and parents concerning internet safety
- The PAL and Citizenship programmes of study focus on the effects on crime and the importance of laws and legal processes. Visits from agencies such as the Police; prison and probation services the fire service and armed forces reinforce this message.

Individual

Liberty

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe 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 empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are guided on how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, PAL and Citizenship lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record or participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.

Examples of activities:

- Students are encouraged to make the right choice through being made aware of consequences of choices and actions.
- Student views about their learning is regularly canvassed so that individual learning styles can be taken into account and reflected in teaching and learning
- Assemblies reflect the theme of liberty
- The Citizenship and PAL programmes of study as well as our Beacon School genocide education programme focus on the importance of human rights and responsibility.

British History within the Curriculum

Our school offers a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to Britain both past and present. As a school we encourage knowledge of current affairs that are significant to us as a nation. There is a comprehensive annual cross-curricular audit

to ensure all curriculum areas are able to contribute to the whole school ethos and policy.

Examples of activities:

- Celebration of the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the birth of Prince George.
- In 2012 the school celebrated the Olympics, with opportunities to learn about the history of Olympians in this country
- Across all years, there is a strong focus on the work of famous British figures both past and present; these include Florence Nightingale, Winston Churchill and Queen Victoria. The students enjoy learning about people from the past and in particular those who have had an impact on the modern world and our community.
- The World War 1 centenary was an important event, which saw the community gather together to celebrate and remember the fallen of the Parish. A number of activities were planned in school to mark the centenary, including a Remembrance Day Service, wreath-laying at the memorial and money-raising events for our armed forces charities.
- The school is proud of its historical links with Sandhurst Military Academy and is regularly represented at events there.