

Promoting fundamental British Values at PCSA

The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2015. At PCSA these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Students have regular opportunities for their voices to be heard. Each tutor group votes for two representatives each year to sit as a rep on the Student Council. They meet at regular intervals to discuss issues raised across PCSA. There are also student voice panels in many faculties. Students are regularly involved in the interview process for new staff. In GCSE history and sociology and AS level government and politics students must study what constitutes a democratic voting system. Every year, one term's "Thoughts for the week" are focussed on how democracy is achieved in the UK.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they are the ones that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the curriculum. Our Behaviour for Learning policy gives students clear guidance of what is expected of them. In humanities lessons students will look at the effects of crime, and the purposes of punishment. They also compare religious laws with secular ones. In year 7 English students examine military laws and court marshalling. In PE discuss the importance of rules in games and the consequences of breaking laws, such as those surrounding performance enhancing drugs. Finally, all year 9 students spend a day looking at the court system in the UK before visiting the local Magistrate's court.

Individual Liberty

Within PCSA students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As an academy we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Whether it is through choice of learning challenge or through participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices. There are many areas within our curriculum that allow students to reflect on the importance of liberty and freedom. For example, in humanities we cover the slave trade and the Holocaust. Our curriculum and options process at KS4 enable all students to make guided choices regarding academic pathways.

Mutual Respect

Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the academy community treat each other with respect. Staff and students alike model this value. Lessons are tailored to ensure progress for every single learner, through all

ability ranges. Again, there are many topics in lessons that focus on mutual respect. For example, in GCSE RE we consider the problems of homophobia and racism. In lower school history, students study the Civil Rights movement in the USA. In PE there is a clear ethos of gamesmanship, as well as the opportunity to explore inclusive sports.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

The work that is done during RE lessons clearly demonstrates that all faiths are welcome and important at PCSA. All six major world religions are studied as part of the lower school curriculum. One RE assessment is to design a multi-faith centre that exhibits tolerance to all religions and allows community cohesion to take place. In GCSE we tackle issues with Islamophobia, racism and inequality. In lower school geography we examine the nature of migration in the UK and deal with stereotypes that have arisen. In English students are often given opportunities to engage with texts from different cultures and beliefs.

We actively challenge students expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including any 'extremist' views. All staff have up to date training on relevant issues, such as Prevent training and regular safe-guarding updates.

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