

## **Statement On The Promotion Of British Values**

### **Background and Rationale**

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

- The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

*'The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives'*

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

*'Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'*

- These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

### **What is meant by "British Values"?**

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness
- Participation in community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes that Brockington College values and seeks to inculcate in its young people.

## **How does Brockington College go about promoting these values?**

At Brockington College we believe that our statement of aims and values, found on the school's website, makes explicit our fundamental belief in many of these values. This statement and our values are the foundation of all our work with our pupils.

British values are embodied in the following specific ways:

- Our school's motto is "learning to live life to the full". All pupils are regularly spoken to about the importance of this aim. Examples of how to do this are provided regularly for pupils within assemblies, spiritual reflection and lessons.
- We are very proud of our seven values, which reflect British values and Christian distinctiveness. These values are displayed prominently in the courtyard for the benefit of the pupils, members of staff, our community and for visitors. Additionally, each week one of the values is highlighted across the school within assemblies and spiritual reflection time through its link to our theme of the week.
- All our pupils study Religious Studies from Year 7 -11. All pupils take the subject as a GCSE and study Christianity as part of the GCSE course. We consider Christianity to be a fundamental British value.
- The Religious Studies curriculum contains the following elements which are directly applicable to promoting British values:
  - Year 7 – Atheism, theism and agnosticism, being a Christian, Sikh and Muslim in Britain today
  - Year 8 – The problem of evil, prejudice and discrimination, inspirational figures and science and religion
  - Year 9 – Christian and Buddhist beliefs in British Society
  - Year 10 – Religion, peace and conflict, relationships
  - Year 11 – Religion and life, crime and punishment
- Pupils participate in one hour per week of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) from Years 7-11. These lessons are taught by staff on a carousel basis in order that they can work in particular areas of expertise.
- The PSHCE curriculum has a citizenship module in each of Years 7-11 and this contains the following directly relevant elements:
  - Who has the say? (Year 7 ) – Democracy, participation in community life
  - Be the change (Year 8) – Democracy, individual liberty
  - Usual suspects (Year 9)- Treating others with fairness, respect for the rule of law
  - If I ruled the world ( Year 9) Participation in community life, democracy, appreciation of the rights of other citizens
  - Everybody get up (Year 10) – Democracy, participation in community life

- One world (extremism and radicalisation) (Year 10) – Individual liberty, treating others with fairness, appreciation of the rights of other citizens
  - Risk taking and the law(Year 11)- Respect for the rule of law, individual liberty
- School assemblies, are held every day and are led by a senior member of staff or a member of the clergy. They focus on our theme of the week which is linked to one of our seven values, which in turn is distinctly Christian.
  - The school has a thriving student voice. Students always show visitors around the school, interview every candidate that applies for a job at the school, are always available to support the school reception, take part in environmental duties at the end of break and meet regularly with the SLT to give their views.
  - The school has a thriving compassion committee that runs charity events across the school. Our annual charity fun run regularly raises over £5K whilst regular non-school uniform and other charity events support a range of local and national charities.
  - Koinonia Café runs at lunchtimes and is hosted by members of our clergy. All pupils are invited to attend in order to spend the lunchtime with fellow pupils and adults.
  - A Christian Lunchtime Club and Eco-Warriors are both popular with pupils.
  - The school supports two schools in the Mtwapa area of Kenya. Trips to Mtwapa are organised on bi-annual basis and pupils have to raise in excess of £2K from charity events in order to take part in the trip which is humanitarian based and provides essential support to the two schools. Over the years, the school has raised thousands of pounds for 'Kash for Kenya' and pupils have built classrooms in Kenya.