

## **British Values Statement**

### **Promoting British values**

St Bartholomew's School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multicultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St Bartholomew's School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum serving the whole community and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government sets out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways St Bartholomew's School seeks to embed British values.

### **Democracy**

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at St Bartholomew's School, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community. For instance, elections being part of the process for selecting Head Boy and Head Girl positions and Student Council Representatives. Students have a voice that is listened to through Year, House and subject councils/forums. The principle of democracy is also explored in History, Religious Education and Politics as well as in tutor time and assemblies. Visits to Parliament, a debating society, mock general elections and participation in Local Democracy Week support this value.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced at St Bartholomew's School.

Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the student code of conduct and student expectations. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when

laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police and the role of the CCF within the school reinforce this message.

### **Individual liberty**

At St Bartholomew's School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, in the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at St Bartholomew's School educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety and in Personal Development Programme session times, during tutor time.

St Bartholomew's has a robust anti-bullying culture and has been awarded the West Berkshire Council 'Safe in Our Hands' Anti-Bullying Award. A comprehensive Behaviour Improvement Policy is also in place.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect is a strong part of St Bartholomew's School and is part of its aims and values. Students learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment, with the school's aim to 'develop personal responsibility and respect'.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. The flags in Luker Hub are a clear representation of this and reflect all the nationalities of staff and students within the school. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, including students from other continents and cultures. The school has links with schools in Ghana, China, France and Spain. Holocaust Memorial Day is marked every year by an assembly and follow-up work with Year 10. The Religious Education curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of key Stage 4, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. The syllabus helps students to have a broader understanding of the spiritual, moral and sociological issues and encourages them to think about their own spiritual development.

St Bartholomew's School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.