



Bishop Luffa School British Values Statement

Promoting British values

Bishop Luffa is a Church of England School committed to serving both its locality and faith¹ communities. British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation². We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role the school has in ensuring that groups or individuals are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing unduly, or illegally, to influence them.

We comply with legal obligations and follow equal opportunities guidance to ensure that there is no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult lives and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values.³

The Department of Education have stated 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.”*

Democracy

At Bishop Luffa School we take democracy seriously. Our students are actively encouraged to share their views and opinions regularly in a variety of ways, for example through our School Captains and other student leaders, participation in staff interview processes, student voice, School and Sixth Form Councils. The principles of democracy and free speech are explored in the History and Religious Education curriculum as well as in tutorial time and assemblies. We also hold our own election to mirror general elections. In recognition of this we take part in the British Youth Council ‘Make your mark’ scheme and have achieved the silver award.⁴

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced throughout the school. Through our PSHE programme, students are taught the value and reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Individual liberty

Within the school, students are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices for themselves, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for students to take risks and make choices safely. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely.

Mutual respect

We understand spiritual development in terms of relationships – with myself, with others and the widening world, and God. The theological basis of our vision *“I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness” (John 10:10)* and our motto *“Always our best because everyone matters”* emphasises the equal value in God’s eyes of every individual person. Mutual respect is therefore at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviour has an impact on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. This behaviour is also modelled by members of staff at all times. We have a robust anti-bullying culture and a comprehensive Behaviour Policy is in place⁵.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We equip students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. We seek to develop student empathy alongside tolerance. Our Religious Education curriculum follows the Church of England Statement of Entitlement⁶ in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other religions, cultures and lifestyles. Students usually are able to benefit from a number of visits to and from other countries, and we welcome international visitors, whether physically or virtually, including teachers, from other continents and cultures. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school. The Religious Education curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of KS5, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. We strive endlessly to ensure that our students leave with the strongest foundation of Christian values upon which to build a successful life and meaningfully contribute to our Society. We have been re-accredited with the International Schools Award, reflecting our commitment to include international work as part of our curriculum and help embed it within our school's culture.

Preventing radicalisation and extremism

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups⁷. The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as: “vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values”⁸. The Governors of Bishop Luffa School have a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all members of the school community. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our students protects them from exposure to negative influences.

We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values as outlined above.

The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Students are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), main school PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Sixth Form PSE (Personal & Social Education) programmes ensure that SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) is embedded across the curriculum. Students learn about all major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible. They are also taught about online safety. We believe that extra-curricular activities are also an important part of the development of good citizens with strong values. Extra-curricular activities develop students' ability to work together in different settings, e.g. Bar and Magistrates Mock Trials, Debating, Young Enterprise, Drama and Sports competitions. Our students also have many opportunities for volunteering open to them within the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, the school community and beyond.

Procedures for referrals

It is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to refer any concerns through the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Staff training

Through INSET opportunities in school, including annual safeguarding training, we ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Notes

Much of the detail behind this statement can be found in the school's SEF, and on the website www.bishopluffa.org.uk

1. See Admissions information
2. The Church of England Vision for Education focuses on the common good of the whole community through educating for areas that include wisdom, hope, community, dignity and respect. This can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/vision-education>
3. See Bishop Luffa School Equality statement and the range of policies linked to equality <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/school-policies-and-procedures/>

4. See <https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament/make-your-mark>
5. Again see <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/school-policies-and-procedures/>
6. The Church of England Statement of Entitlement can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/religious-education>
7. Provided in the Prevent Duty Guidance, p.12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>
8. See Prevent guidance document <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>, point 7.

Updated November 2021.