

Promoting British Values at Ringwood School



The DfE has 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 the Prime Minister has reiterated these values this year.

We value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all students, staff and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate these. We teach our children to be tolerant and respectful towards others, embracing the differences in our community and the wider world. At Ringwood School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy

Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student Voice Structure and through a variety of student working groups, for example, learning and teaching, community, political voice, ecoschool and sustainability, fair-trade and leisure and welfare. Student Leadership meetings are chaired by the Head Boy and Head Girl, with an Assistant Head Teacher present. In these meetings students are able to discuss themes and issues which affect their lives within and beyond the school. The Student Leadership Team is genuinely able to effect change within the school and in the local community.

In addition, students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through the School’s Teaching and Learning Reviews where the Senior Leadership Team meet with the students’ to discuss their learning. The students take an active role in the interview process for new teacher appointments acting as tour guides and lesson observers.

The Rule of Law

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The Life Choices curriculum plays a part in dealing with issues of law.

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 our young people helping them to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering discussion and debate. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-Safety assemblies and Life Choices lessons. Whether it is through the choice of which courses they wish to follow at the end of Key Stage 3 or participation in our extensive extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

At Ringwood School our ethos emphasises respect and tolerance for others. This is reinforced through the consistent implementation of our Behavior for Learning and Anti-Bullying policies.



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We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all.

Although numbers from some ethnic groups may be low, our community is still made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds. We aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of different faiths and cultures both within our school and the wider world through assemblies, Life Choices and debate and discussion in a wide range of subject areas.

We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment (this includes cyber-bullying, prejudicebased bullying related to appearance, SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment).

At Ringwood School we will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including "extremist" views.

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