



## Our British Values

The Department for Education identify this five-part definition of British Values:

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

We believe these sit comfortably with our own ten Core Values of:

- Respecting traditions & the past
- Working hard and doing your best
- Being decent to people
- Being friendly, polite and courteous
- Looking out for other people
- Getting involved
- Respecting the environment
- Thinking of others less fortunate
- Encouraging global citizenship
- Understanding life is about more than money or material things.

These Values are at the heart of our school and we use every opportunity to celebrate them with governors, pupils, parents and staff; they are fundamental to our school ethos and culture.

Pupils encounter these Core Values throughout their school journey, from their first glimpses of QES at our Year 6 Open Evening to their attendance at our Leavers' Church Services, and we believe they are crucial in creating our atmosphere of mutual respect and warm relationships. In 2018 we are revisiting our understanding of our Core Value of '*developing global citizenship*' ensuring that we react to national and global events in ways that help young people understand an individual's rights and responsibilities for the kind of society in which they want to live.

Listed below are just *some* examples of our approach to these Values in our school community; it is certainly not comprehensive summary but it gives a flavour of some of the ways in which we look at this important aspect of a young person's moral, philosophical and political education.

### Democracy

Key Stage 3 RPE lessons consider how democracy, justice, diversity, tolerance, respect and freedom are valued by people with different faiths. Moral and philosophical issues including, in Year 8, *Inspirational Individuals* are considered, as pupils articulate their responses to Rev Dr Martin Luther King's campaign for democratic social justice.



Personal Development lessons across all Key Stages review politics and the voting process. Whenever the timing allows we have Year 13 Politics Immersion Days near General Elections. The Sixth Form Student leadership play a strong role in our school. They are elected by students and contribute to school improvement through authentic and meaningful opportunities and activities.

## The Rule of Law

Throughout their lives our pupils will need to understand the laws and rules that govern society. We want them to understand the importance of the law and the impact laws can have. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in 'Mock Trial', they can join our school 'Amnesty International' group and they have Personal Development lessons in which legal issues related to staying safe are considered, from drugs and alcohol awareness to law relating to coercive control.

## Individual Liberty

We believe that we have a culture in school that enables young men and women to feel safe in offering their opinions and where they appreciate and respect each other's human rights. We explain the differences between rights and responsibilities and we encourage all young people to 'look out for other people'. The distinction between liberty and 'licence' is a focus in Personal Development lessons and ongoing work regarding social media, for example.

## Mutual Respect

We believe that quality relationships between pupils and staff are central to QES and whether that be in the dinner queue or in the classroom, our expectations are very clear. We treat one another cordially, we care about everyone in our community and we respect the rights of others, including their right to their own opinions, which is fundamental to learning. For instance, in Year 9 RPE pupils consider how moral decisions are made and explore human rights as an absolute and universal guide for moral decision making.

## Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

In discussing this 'British Value' with students and staff, there was much debate about the word 'Tolerance', which illustrates the importance of our *appreciation* of diversity rather than simple tolerance of it. The student and staff group who reviewed our understanding of British Values in October 2017 felt that '*Respecting* those of different faiths and beliefs' was more in keeping with our understanding. We believe this is crucial in preparing young people to be the 'global citizens' we highlight in our Core Values.

Our assembly schedule, (which includes a platform for our student led '*Diversity Group*' who were instrumental in reviewing our Equality Policy) and our RPE curriculum helps children to become knowledgeable and responsible citizens. As a non-denomination school we do have close ties with St



Mary's Church in Kirkby Lonsdale and celebrate different church services throughout the year, from Year 7 events to our Carol Services. These are broadly ecumenical services celebrating 'traditions and the past'.

## In Summary

Through our curriculum, our daily routines, our inclusive and ever vigilant approach to pastoral care and our high standards and expectations, we believe we can fulfil our aim to develop young people who are independently minded critical thinkers who will leave QES with the ability to use their intellect and skills alongside their compassion in making decisions in the wider world. They will leave knowing that there are Values they can call upon to act as a measure and guide for adult life.

Throughout 2018 a newly formed staff working party are reviewing our approach as we continue in our journey in preparing young people to make positive contributions to their community and live happy and successful lives.