

Modern British Values

Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world. (Nelson Mandela)

The Department for Education states that there is a 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 these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. At The Iffley Academy these values are reinforced regularly to ensure that our students are equipped to resist peer pressure, radicalisation and exploitation. British values are modelled throughout our school through 1:1 intervention, whole class curriculum activities, trips out within the community and through residential visits such as the annual visit to Amsterdam.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded across the school. Daily assemblies promote students’ listening skills, a sense of community and encourage them to have concern for each other. A diverse range of opinions are shared within the assemblies including topics such as politics, religion and social responsibility. Student leaders are voted in by their peers, including the roles of Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefect which are taken very seriously and become highly respected members of our community. This process replicates the British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action. Children also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and through a discrete ‘back chat’ session which is held daily in their class groups. Students take ownership of their classrooms by working together to draw up rules and routines and expectations for behaviour.

The Rule of Law

Enabling students to understand the rule of law is one of the most important pieces of work we do. Our behaviour policy and culture is based on Restorative Justice and is non-sanction led. We promote positive behaviour management strategies and encourage our students to take collective responsibility for ensuring everyone within our community upholds the values of the academy. Students demonstrate a strong understanding of the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, and that there are consequences when laws are broken. A core principle of Restorative Justice is that those involved in conflict are best placed to find ways to move forward, for themselves. This ownership of behaviour and of the outcomes when

things go wrong is empowering for young people and allows them to make mistakes within a safe environment where they can develop the skills required to become positive members of their chosen communities when they leave the Iffley Academy.

Individuality and Liberty

At The Iffley Academy we work proactively to develop the self-confidence and self-esteem of our students so that they have the ability to express their own views in a safe and stimulating environment. We actively challenge stereotypes and promote free speech through assemblies and through the curriculum profiling pioneers of individuality, liberty and those who have suffered from persecution such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Alan Turing, Anne Frank and Emily Davidson. Our pupils are encouraged to demonstrate their ability to exercise their rights and personal freedoms within a safe and supportive environment. This is targeted specifically through 1:1 interventions promoting protective behaviours, PSHE lessons, e-safety lessons and through the personal development accreditation.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Diversity is actively promoted throughout our academy and difference is celebrated. This is represented through the wide range of ethnic backgrounds, religious beliefs and special educational needs of our students. Students at The Iffley Academy understand and expect difference, knowing that this is what makes us individuals and that they will be expected to demonstrate tolerance and understanding of other people's perceptions. This will be ensured through Restorative Justice, guest speakers from a range of local faith groups, PSHE lessons, RE lessons and through visits into the community to enhance the cultural understanding of our students. These trips have included churches, mosques, art galleries, museums, historic monuments and community links such as the local care home and animal sanctuary.