



BRITISH VALUES AT THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

We 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 list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of students as a result of us promoting fundamental British values.

- 1) an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- 2) an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- 3) an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- 4) an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- 5) an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
- 6) an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

As a worshipping Catholic community, we recognise these values within our own focus on Christian and shared values, and we are active in preparing our students for a future in multicultural and multi-faith Britain in the 21st century. These core values are promoted not only through dedicated PSHE lessons but they also are embedded within our school ethos and across the curriculum. At The John Fisher School we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum.

Our Christian and shared values encourage self-esteem as we are unique in creation, and we celebrate each other's unique talents. At all times, we encourage respect for others, and within our Behaviour for Learning policy, we are conscious at all times of God's love and forgiveness.

The John Fisher School has a very strong and healthy extracurricular life, which seeks to involve a full range of students of all ages in participation in sports, creative arts and academic activity.



Our commitment to school sports is unique in state schools, in terms of the numbers of members of the community involved every Saturday throughout the season in participating in team sport. Through a rugby fixture list that involves the principal public schools in the South of England, and through participation in national festivals against top national public schools, our students are exposed to the traditions and values of the best of the private and state school sectors. This sporting commitment is also reflected within cross-country and athletics. Through our commitment to sports, our students learn to value team-work, perseverance, admiration for others, respect for tradition, tolerance of others, stoicism in the face of defeat and modesty in the face of victory.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British Values at The John Fisher School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

Democracy and the Rule of Law

- Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Croydon Magistrates are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. Within PSHE, Year 9 students explore 'Crime and the Justice System' and in Year 11 students study a module focussing on 'Crime and British Law', and another focussing on the laws surrounding 'Gun and Knife Crime'. Within PSHE, Year 7 students explore 'Democratic Participation' and in Year 9 students study a module focussing on 'Politics and Democracy'.

In addition to specific teaching within PSHE, RE and History, we also promote democracy through:

- Head Boy elections
- School Council
- Sixth Form prefects
- Behaviour for Learning policy, in which students are made aware of reasons for rewards and consequences
- Our commitment to bus stop duty before and after school reinforces our students' understanding of the importance of right and wrong behaviours.



Individual Liberty, diversity and social responsibility

Within The John Fisher School students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in computing and their tutor time activities. Within PSHE, Year 8 students explore 'Human Rights' and Year 10 students study a module focussing on 'Rights and Responsibilities'.

In addition to specific teaching in PSHE, RE, History, Geography, Science and others we also promote this through:

- high expectations of conduct and behaviour – Behaviour and Safety was judged as '**Outstanding**' in our most recent OFSTED inspection Oct 2013 and we were '**Outstanding**' in all categories in our most recent Section 48 inspection Nov 2013.
- Very low incidence of racism and homophobic bullying
- Members of our Sixth Form created the TalkEasyTrust in 2012, which has been paramount in raising a focus on mental health issues amongst teenagers. Its founder, Aidan McNulty was celebrated as the inaugural Young person of the Year for London 2014. We raise money each year on 'World Mental Health Day'.
- Year 10 in 2014-15 has a focus on the Giving Nation, which commits all forms to charitable activity throughout the year. We have regular calendared mufti days, which focus on specific charities and issues.
- Each House has a responsibility during the year to lead collections for the Purley Food Hub.
- In 2012, as a culmination of a focus on Fair Trade, we took a trip to Ghana to give the students the opportunity to see the products of their efforts in school.
- Our Chaplaincy team has involved students in developing activities that celebrate community.
- We have an annual student-led whole school Remembrance service, which celebrates the local involvement as well as the diversity of the participants. When our Year 9 students visit the battlefields, they are expected to lay individual crosses to commemorate specific local individuals who have been researched by Sixth Formers.
- We celebrate Languages day, to recognise the diversity of languages within our community.
- Our traditions are a core of the school, including an Old Boys association, links to former students, recognition of the many successes through our Honours boards, assemblies which celebrate traditions of The John Fisher School.
- We have a strong Business and Economics department with annual competitions that focus on enterprise, entrepreneurial spirit and ethical consumerism.



Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

At the heart of the Christian message, lies love of all humankind without exception. Whilst we are a model of a Catholic community, with a strong religious life of shared worship, Benediction, Reconciliation and faith discussion, we do recognise the diversity of modern Britain. This is achieved through equipping 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 run a number of trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school, whilst actively promoting Catholicism. We do this through:

- Year 7 visit to the Morden Mosque, and a study in History on Islam.
- Business/Language trips to Bruges, Barcelona and New York.
- History trips to the Battlefields and Berlin.
- RE teaching of Islam and other world faiths in Year 9, and at KS4 when RE is still compulsory the following topics are covered in depth: Religion and community cohesion* Changing attitudes to gender in the UK *UK as a multi ethnic society - discrimination and racism *Government action to promote community cohesion *Work of the Catholic Church to help asylum seekers and immigrant workers *Why Catholics should promote racial harmony *Differences in Christian attitudes to other religions *The UK as a multi faith society *Ways in which religion work to promote community cohesion in the UK *How all of the above is presented by the media
- In the Sixth Form, the school is open to applicants of all faiths and beliefs and all students follow a broad General RE programme.
- Literary cultures are discussed in English.
- Religious retreats for all years that encourage dialogue and reflection about tolerance and faith.

Respect is at the core of our school and is modelled by students and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments. In line with our commitment to democracy students at The John Fisher School are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE to the student mentoring programme which promote mutual respect and support between students across different year groups within the school. Within PSHE, Year 8 explore the role of the 'FA' in tackling the issue of 'Respect' and in Year 9 students study a module focussing on 'Anti-Bullying and Respect'. In Year 10, our students complete the 'Giving Nation Citizenship Project'. Our students have a long established tradition of working in partnership with St Giles School, working in arrange of activities and parability challenges and developing disability awareness.

