

# “British Values” & the prevention of radicalisation

## BRITISH VALUES

The Department of Education have 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 these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At John Flamsteed Community School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

At John Flamsteed Community School democracy is taken very seriously. Students are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **school council** is one such example. Every September we have an election week when the candidates for form representatives on the school council pitch their election manifesto to the rest of their form. A secret ballot ensues and the results are announced in the Year assembly. The students love this process and have great respect for the outcomes. The school council representatives (2 per form from Year 7 to Year 11) meet regularly then take the ideas from the meeting back to their forms for discussion.

All students also complete an annual questionnaire which provides them with the opportunity to share their views of learning at John Flamsteed Community School and suggest ways in which the school could be improved further.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the form, 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. Our schools expectations of behaviour and attitudes to learning are displayed in all form rooms, referred to regularly and consistently upheld are a practical example of this. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young 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, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, how they record their learning, participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices and make decisions.

## **Mutual Respect**

As a Community school mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

## **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

John Flamsteed Community School is situated in an area which is not culturally diverse, therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the students. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within forms and the school.

**At John Flamsteed Community School we will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.**

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

**Radicalisation** is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

**Extremism** is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing Body of John Flamsteed Community School has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. 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.

John Flamsteed Community School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At John Flamsteed Community School all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Students are encouraged to adopt and live out our Core Values. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Students are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through assemblies, SMSC and through the elected School Council members
- Students are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Students participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Students's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra curricular learning opportunities.
- Students are supported in making good choices from Year 7-Year 11, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

## **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) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision. SMSC is also embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Students learn about all major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible. They are also taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at John Flamsteed Community School to date, 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 to the Safeguarding Lead (Miss C. Hunt) immediately.