

British Values Policy

Ashcroft School



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**Completed by:** Chris Gallagher

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At Ashcroft School we ensure that through our vision, values, expectations, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

We take our duty to prepare our students for life in modern Britain very seriously, keeping them safe and promoting multicultural values. We promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), races, genders, ages, disability and sexual orientations (and other groups with protected characteristics).

## General Overview

Our commitment to British Values is demonstrated through our PSHE/EDGE programme and emotional literacy sessions. We work to encourage developments, support individuals and promote harmonious relationships between all members of Ashcroft; also, through interactions with the wider community, through charity work and work experience. Members of Ashcroft develop a sense of value, personal worth and dignity. Students are prepared for life in modern Britain through being given an awareness of E-safety, healthy relationships, financial matters, progression routes, academic integrity, the British political process and democracy.

The importance of positive role models, and participation in enrichment opportunities and supporting national events and celebrations is also emphasised, Students are also encouraged to learn how to work both independently and collaboratively.

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Our current PSHE/EDGE and emotional literacy tutorial programme includes the following topics:

- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education
- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Economic, Political and Financial awareness
- Healthy Relationships
- e-Safety
- National Events and celebrations e.g. Remembrance, Holocaust Memorial week
- Internationalism
- Careers advice and guidance

We regularly celebrate and fundraise for charity events. On a general level, Ashcroft undertakes an assembly programme which upholds traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. These are also taught within the tutorial programme.

## Promoting British Values

An enrichment programme provides opportunities to develop a wider skill set to support life in modern Britain. Relevant activities include:

□ Duke of Edinburgh □ Work Experience □ First Aid □ Student Council □ Debating Society

Our commitment to British Values is also demonstrated through our academic curriculum offer.

For example, in Health and Social Care students will explore safeguarding, rights of the child, and health and safety.

In Computer Science, students are taught about the legal implications of posting offensive / slanderous material on social media, cyber-bullying and cyber-security.

An understanding of the terms equal opportunities, discrimination, stereotyping, inclusiveness and prejudice are explored in Outdoor Education.

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by all politicians. At Ashcroft these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

**Democracy:** Democracy is clearly evident within Ashcroft. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through a variety of activities. The local MP has visited the school and discussed how parliament works. The political process is a key part of the tutorial process with views of all parties, including extreme views, being discussed and analysed.

The election and activity of the student council and completion of student questionnaires puts into practice the concept of democracy. Our recognition system has rewards which the students have suggested.

**The Rule of Law:** The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern learning, Ashcroft expectations, or the wider community, is consistently reinforced through assemblies, as well as when addressing misconduct and through the tutorial programme. 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. Students sign a home school agreement and there is a positive reward policy. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Road Safety and Fire Service are regular parts of our community links programme and help reinforce this message. The concept of the Rule of Law is also reinforced through teaching activities in our tutorial curriculum.

## **Individual Liberty**

Students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. At Ashcroft we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make choices safely, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how to do this safely, for example through our E-Safety programme.

Ashcroft supports enquiry based learning through the curriculum and in particular through the Ascentis Program. Students are able to choose their curriculum pathway as well as enrichment options. Many subjects offer a choice of investigation, project or research.

## **Promoting British Values 2016-17 4**

Ashcroft acknowledges Remembrance Day through an assembly/ presentation. The Local MP has also been invited for an active political discussion to demonstrate the British tradition of democracy and free speech.

## **Mutual Respect**

Part of Ashcroft's ethos and conduct policy revolves around core values, such as respect and free speech, and students have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is demonstrated.

Additional mentoring support, including peer mentors, is given to individual students to help develop self - esteem and the concept of respect.

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

This is achieved through enhancing student understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are regularly held, in addition to opportunities to discuss different faiths and beliefs. The annual holocaust week also tackles the issues behind free speech and respect for other cultures and faiths.

Here at Ashcroft we feel our values are a true reflection of British Values.