

British values statement

We are committed to serving our community and recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role the academy plays in ensuring that groups or individuals within the academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equality guidance which endeavours to ensure there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all our students.

The five key British values* are:

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

The academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to instill British values.

** As identified by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.*

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Ormiston Denes. Democratic processes are regularly used for important decisions within the school community, from selecting our student leadership representatives to providing feedback in our 'You Said, We Did' forums. The principle of democracy is also explored in the history and religious studies curriculum, as well as in form time, including a weekly Votes for School session, and assemblies.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Ormiston Denes. Students are explicitly taught and modelled the rules and expectations of the school which are reinforced through consistent expectations, regular assemblies, the student code of conduct and bespoke student INSETs returning after each term.

Students are also taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our PSHE programme, History and English curriculums explicitly supports this, and we engage external speakers to reinforce our message.

Individual liberty

Students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. In all curriculum areas, lessons offer students space and freedom to discuss and debate current issues and world-influencing literature and ideas. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through digital safeguarding (online safety), form time sessions and under the guidance of expert teachers and pastoral teams.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith is a core belief of all members of our school community – 'Respect' is one of our three core values at Ormiston Denes.

Students learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the academy community treat each other with respect, and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments. In doing so, each form has a kindness ambassador who supports the anti-bullying lead in the kind point system, where students through kind word, support of other and respectful actions can be awarded kindness points.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment through frank, open discussions in all curriculum areas, our wider curriculum enrichment and after school enrichment offer.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Tolerance is taught through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Students benefit from many international visitors, including students from other continents and cultures. This is reinforced regularly through our bespoke assembly and form time programme.

Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year.

The Government's 'Prevent' agenda and the teaching of British values is embedded in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries. Additionally, all PSHE lessons with every year group contain a starter question that asks about the British Values (naming or explaining or considering what life would be like without one).
