



West Kirby Grammar School

British Values Statement

West Kirby Grammar School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance, which ensures that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. West Kirby Grammar School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.

The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values. Our teachers ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in our school. The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy which clarifies how schools can demonstrate how they meet the requirements of the 2002 Education Act and latest guidance on the teaching of SMSC (November 2014) and OFSTED (January 2015). The five British Values are:

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

West Kirby Grammar School uses strategies within the curriculum, and beyond, to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways WKGS seeks to embed British values.

Democracy - The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced at WKGS, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the School community, for instance, elections being held for Senior Prefects and Prefects positions, Form and Sport Captains and Student Council members. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in form time, PSHE, citizenship lessons 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 West Kirby Grammar School. Students were consulted in the development of the Code of Conduct. Student Voice is regularly consulted on a range of issues. They are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the student code of conduct and student expectations. Students are 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service reinforce this message.

Individual liberty - At West Kirby Grammar School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at WKGS educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Individual pathways are provided to ensure students' needs are met.

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 e-safety and work in form time.

WKGS has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour Policy.

Mutual Respect - Respect is a strong part of WKGS and is part of its mission statement, aims & values. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the School community are expected to treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.



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Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment with West Kirby Grammar School's aim being to ensure that all students and staff maximise their potential in a supportive, happy and vibrant community where everyone can 'be the best they can be.'

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs - This is achieved 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. Everyone is unique and we celebrate individuality as well as community. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, including partnerships with students from other continents and cultures. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the School and to celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. The Religious Studies curriculum, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures and visits are organised to local churches, synagogues and mosques.

WKGS School is part of an Erasmus Partnership; the school promotes cultural diversity in its PSHCE programme and has a broad enrichment programme, all of which were recognised by Ofsted for their contribution to students' SMSC and curriculum knowledge about global issues. WKGS has also been accredited with the International Schools Award, four times, in recognition for our works in partnerships with schools overseas, for example China, to teach students about life in other countries and develop them as global citizens as well as being proud of their country and school.

Curriculum themes and topics - Our curriculum prepares students for life in British Society; this includes developing their understanding of politics, debating skills, collaboration, teamwork and discussion, higher level research skills and gives students the confidence to develop and voice their ideas and opinions. Curriculum themes include historical and geographical study in the context of the United Kingdom as well as national and international comparisons. Topic examples: World War I and II, the great fire of London, racism and prejudice, gender issues, sexuality and so on. Humanities subjects and PSHCE follow themes that emphasise British values. In Drama, many issues are explored, such as bullying, harassment, isolation and relationships – all in a supportive environment.

Daily acts of collective worship/ whole school assembly - Our assemblies uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. Local religious leaders are invited to take assemblies and student participation is encouraged. All reinforce these traditional values.

PE - Promotion of the concept of 'fair play', following and developing rules, celebrating and rewarding success, accepting defeat and participating in activities that promote cooperation with others and inclusion for all, form an integral part of the PE curriculum.

Involvement in key local and national events: We have celebrated key events such as the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, our own centenary with special events, assemblies and themed lessons. Each year Armistice Day is remembered and students are encouraged to reflect on this. We have enjoyed a World War I day where the whole school commemorated and remembered those who made sacrifices for us. We also hold an annual holocaust day. All students get involved in charity events and activities, raising funds for those in need. School Charities have included Shelter, Help the Aged, Macmillan, Maggie's Centres, Rock of Joy Trust and many more. Each year there are special collections at harvest time for the local food bank and at Christmas for Operation Christmas Child. At election time, the School holds its own elections with campaigns and internal voting. The Sixth Form all do community service and many students achieve silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards; a major part of this is service to the community.

West Kirby Grammar School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of British values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our Society.

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