

## **Promotion of British values**

At George Stephenson High 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. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and considered them to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At George Stephenson High School these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community.

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

### **Democracy**

At George Stephenson High School the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community and beyond, for instance the nomination and election of students to the North Tyneside Youth Council and the Young Mayor, and the annual nominations and voting for our school charity. The principle of democracy is explored in History and Religious Studies as well as in tutor time 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 throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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 Fire Service are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **Individual liberty**

Within George Stephenson High 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.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect is at the core of our school ethos 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 George Stephenson High School are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. The development of George Stephenson Learning Habits across the school develops

mutual respect throughout the curriculum and our code of conduct promotes the values of respect and responsibility.

### **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 them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. All students experience 'Dimensions Days' in year 7 where global themes and cultures are explored. We also run a number of trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Should you feel that the school is not meeting this requirement, you should contact the school office and request to express your concerns with the Headteacher. Likewise, if you feel that anyone working at the school is undermining these values you should report this to the Headteacher.