

The Promotion of Fundamental British Values in Box Hill School

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Policy rationale

The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These were reinforced in Sept 2014 due to nationwide events. This policy also takes account of the government's guidance published 27 November 2014. These new regulations sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of school. This policy takes into account the Independent School Standards: Guidance for independent schools April 2019 government document.

Schools are expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

The School is fully committed to ensuring that the pupils' development will enable them to play a confident, informed role in society, have a fully developed values system and be able to interact with other people in a positive way.

Promoting British values at Box Hill School

We agree with the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Box Hill School students will encounter these principles throughout everyday School life. Much of this instruction comes through our School culture based around the 'ideals' of Round Square. We actively promote British values in an age appropriate way across the School.

The curriculum is mapped in detail across the whole School and includes, but is not limited to; PSHEE lessons, assemblies, tutor/house time, work of the School Council and schemes of work in relevant curriculum subjects.

Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine, and there is zero tolerance with regards to abusive behaviours.

Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our School community:

Democracy

The School enables its students to develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process. Democracy is a core tenet of the Round Square (RS) 'IDEALS'. Round Square is a movement of fifty years' standing of which we are a founding member school (www.roundsquare.org). All pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and frequent other committees and student questionnaires. In general election years the School holds a mock election run along the same lines as that being held nationally. As part of this process differing political views will be discussed however the School makes it clear that no member of staff should seek to convince students that a particular political position is correct. Where speakers of a particular political position are used then appropriate steps are taken to ensure that debate and challenge are an integral part of the event.

The elections of Guardians, Syndics and House Captains, as well as other positions each year, allow students to have input into School policy and development, as well as encouraging leadership through service.

Pupil voice is significant in regard to life at Box Hill School. Our School committees play a strong role in our School. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making Box Hill School a better place to be in and learn in. Pupils have a great amount of input with regard to what and how they learn. Students are encouraged to come forward with proactive initiatives.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the School, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. Box Hill students develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

This understanding of the importance of rules are consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. It is important that pupils understand that rules are there to protect them as individuals and are essential for their wellbeing and safety. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of or discussion of some of the School rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Through philosophical enquiry in our critical thinking lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise both the importance of the rule of law for our pupils and develop an understanding of public institutions. We work hard to allow our students to develop an understanding that there is a separation of power between the

executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our School, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, learning tasks can sometimes be left for the child to decide upon. We encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. Through our E-Safety, theory of knowledge and general sessions, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. Box Hill students develop an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law. At Box Hill School we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily School life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives. Individual liberty is strongly connected to the IDEALS of Adventure, Leadership and Service that are actively promoted through our Round Square programme.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our School life. These are enshrined in the unwritten tenets of Respect for self – Respect for others – Respect for property. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around Box Hill School and in the classrooms. This partnership is seen throughout the various relationships between students and staff. The RS environment IDEAL is important in promoting a spirit of respect for the world around us, including its citizens and inhabitants.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Box Hill School we offer a culturally rich and diverse environment made up of students from over 30 different nationalities. At Box Hill School we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge, experience and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily School life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future. Box Hill students develop an understanding that people who have different faiths or beliefs to oneself (including those who leave their faith or those who hold no faith) should be accepted and respected and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in PHSEE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the School. This actively promotes the PREVENT duty (*The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, DfE Prevent Duty Guidance 2023*). Box Hill students develop an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating unfair or illegal discrimination.

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