



Fundamental British Values Policy

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This policy sets out the framework in which Norton Canes High School will ensure that it actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

It is be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Equality
- Behaviour
- Online Safety
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Staff Code of Conduct

1. Introduction

Norton Canes High School is committed to the active promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We seek to show love and respect for all in a diverse, plural twenty-first century Britain and do not discriminate (either directly, by association, by perception, indirectly or through harassment or victimisation) on the basis of any of the protected characteristics named in the Equality Act (2010), (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity).

Our aim is to help all students flourish; for each to develop his or her own potential while helping those around them do the same. Acting in accordance with our school values (which are understood by every student, displayed prominently in our school and promoted throughout school life) and affirm shared values such as love, compassion, forgiveness, courage, respect, justice, equality, self-control, honesty, and peace.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:

- The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014;
- Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE, November 2014);
- School Inspection Handbook (Ofsted, August 2015).

2.2 This policy is carried out in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy and child protection and safeguarding policy.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Norton Canes High School and the Governing Board understand the importance of preparing students for life in modern Britain and will ensure the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. To achieve this, Norton Canes High School demonstrate responsibility by the following:

- Promote values through the curriculum, PSHE, assemblies and other learning opportunities;
- Actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views;
- Ensure all members of the school community are aware of their rights, responsibilities and duties as outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998;
- Provide training and development to staff and students on British Values to ensure that everyone understands and is able to protect and promote these values;
- Be proactive in ensuring that all members of the school community are aware of the risks of radicalisation and extremism, and will create a safe environment to discuss issues related to these topics;
- Ensuring all members of the community are aware of their responsibilities to protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation;

- Ensure all members of the school community are aware of the importance of digital safety, safeguarding and responsible citizenship.

3.2 The Head Teacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry this out.

3.3 Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons actively promote the fundamental British values. Staff are made aware of their responsibilities with regard to British Values during their induction.

3.4 Students are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the Norton Canes High School Behaviour Policy.

4. Democracy

4.1 Norton Canes High School students are encouraged to gain an understanding:

- Of the way that democracy reflects the significance and values of all people;
- Of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- 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;
- That the talents we possess are gifts; so far from bestowing superior status, they bring an obligation to serve.

4.2 Opportunities are taken, such as at the time of a general election, to emphasise in an explicit manner the mechanisms of parliamentary democracy in the United Kingdom.

4.3 The elected school council plays a significant role in the school. They are elected by their peers and held to account for gathering pupil voice and are actively involved in making the school a desirable place to learn.

4.4 Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year.

4.5 Students have numerous opportunities to have their views heard; for example, there is encouragement for students to channel ideas for improvements through the Smart School Council. This fosters the sense of responsibility that comes with being part of a community.

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5. Rule of Law

5.1 Students are encouraged to gain an appreciation:

- That living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;
- Of the reasons behind rules and laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country;
- That just laws conform to an absolute standard rather than reflecting the whim of a particular individual or group at a particular point in time.

5.2 Norton Canes High School organises visits from authorities (e.g. police) throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the importance of the rule of law in the nation.

6. Individual Liberty

6.1 Students are encouraged to gain an understanding:

- Of the preciousness of the individual liberties enjoyed in this country;
- Of the privilege of living in a nation that enjoys such liberty, given the experience of many in contexts where it is lacking;

- Of the need to exercise our freedoms with responsibility and consideration for others, with an awareness that we are accountable for our actions;
- Of their rights and personal freedoms and they are advised on how to exercise these safely;
- That the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is rightly protected in law.

7. Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

In light of the diversity that exists within the Norton Canes High School community, the exercise of respect and tolerance means that there will be no prejudicial treatment of any individual, whatever views that person may hold; equality of opportunity will be safeguarded for all members of the school community. We do not tolerate bullying on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, belief, background, sexuality or gender. We do not discriminate in relation to any student based on ethnicity or religion or LGBT+ identification. We strive to ensure all children know they are loved, valued and appreciated. We take swift and decisive action to tackle any bullying that is reported or of which we become aware.

7.1 Students are encouraged to gain an understanding:

- That the freedom to choose and hold different faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
 - That people holding different faiths or beliefs from oneself, and those having none, should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;
 - Of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

7.2 Norton Canes High School aims to help students understand the nuances of whichever faith or beliefs is under consideration. Teaching resources from a wide variety of sources are used and staff are aware of the importance of avoiding the misrepresentation of any faith or worldview.

7.3 Those of different faiths and beliefs are encouraged to express their views, and explain their position to their peers, not least in the RE classroom. Indeed, key to successful religious education is the ability to articulate a range of views and demonstrate an awareness of controversy.

7.4 Norton Canes High School aims for there always to be a real sensitivity, understanding and the absence of a judgemental spirit when controversial issues are tackled in the classroom. The school aims to help students develop the ability to engage in discussion about controversial issues in a courteous manner, in which they can recognise that disagreement does not mean disrespect, but the way in which debate is pursued is all-important; an atmosphere of clarity and mutual respect is sought always.

7.5 Norton Canes High School is concerned to ensure that there is no tolerance shown towards bullying behaviour of any kind. This zero-tolerance approach to bullying is emphasised throughout the life of Norton Canes High School and is a key element of the Behaviour Policy.

7.6 Norton Canes High School aims to regularly and explicitly emphasise its core values and challenge boastful and self-serving conduct.

8. Norton Ethos

This was developed in conjunction with the school council and is reviewed annually. It underpins our commitment to promoting fundamental values aligned to Britain and our view of Human values.