

## **Promoting British Values at St Georges School.**

The DFE have recently reinforced the need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At St Georges these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democratic values underpin the school’s ethos. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Pupil Voice initiative, the House system and via the listening culture where all adults listen to children and value their views. The election of one of the Form Captains in Tutor bases are based solely on the votes of the pupils, Other post holders are also informed by voting, for example the role of School Captain. Pupil’s views are sought on a range of issues in order to affect change e.g. school lunches, school and House activities, charity work, site matters, rewards and sanctions or the purchase of new equipment. Our school behaviour policy involves rewards and sanctions and is shared amongst all members of the school community, as is the management of the drug related incident policy.

### **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 the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school Assemblies and Chapel services. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The ethos of the school is reflected in the school behaviour policy which is regularly reviewed by the school community. Visits from authorities such as the Police, local politicians, Charity workers and Religious leaders are a regular part of our calendar of events and help to reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At St Georges, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for all pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering approach to education. Pupils are encouraged to know and understand their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHCE lessons. Pupils are empowered further through Chapel and the House system and through taking part in pupil forums such as Pupil Voice or an individual steering group. Whether it is through the choice of challenge, of how they record, or participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. There is a school ‘Amnesty’ group as well as an ACF detachment reflecting different mindsets as to how liberty can best be preserved.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around Core Values such as ‘respect’ and appropriate standards, and pupils have been part of our discussions Chapels and Assemblies related to what this

means and how it is shown. Our school rules and aims promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our learning and classroom rules as well as our behaviour policy. The school takes part in National and Local events, during which the children are taught to value differences in others and themselves and to respect others. Through participating in Local and National sporting events our pupils experience competition and have an opportunity to apply their sportsmanship skills with other schools and clubs and are complemented on their values.

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs.**

At St Georges we are a culturally rich and diverse school where children have unique opportunities to learn from each other from sharing and celebrating their different faiths and cultures. We seek acceptance and value difference in all its forms. Chapels, Assemblies, the work of the Boarding House and discussions involving prejudices and different forms of bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHCE. Members of different, cultures, faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.