

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON THE PROMOTION OF BRITISH VALUES

1 Introduction

This policy applies to all students and staff of New Hall School, including EYFS.

The government set out its definition of 'British Values' in the 'Prevent Duty Guidance' (2023), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. 'British values' are considered by the present government as *democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs*. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because 'British values' have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

The Catholic Education Service emphasises the integration of British Values within the framework of Catholic education. They highlight that promoting British values is essential as they stem from Christian values that underpin British society. *"We are proud that Catholic schools promote values that are both Catholic and British, including: respect for the individual, democracy, individual liberty, respect, tolerance and inclusiveness."* Paul Barber (Catholic Education Service 15 December 2014).

The Department for Education has stipulated that schools in England must actively promote British Values through the curriculum and in co-curricular activities. At New Hall School, we recognise not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically, but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so that they are fully prepared for life in society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the common good of all. Also, the School actively promotes values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At New Hall School, these values are widely reinforced and permeate the School community.

We teach the importance of British Values by exploring the meaning of what it means to live a good life within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British Values are important. Our framework for understanding these values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic teaching. Our approach is rooted in the example of Christ and Catholic social teaching, aiming to form the whole person and understand the deeper significance of living a good life.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British Values at New Hall School, and they should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list. The underlying principles behind the promotion of these values are a reflection of the Christian ethos, which the School seeks to promote.

The School promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. This includes fostering respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, including respect for those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

2 Mission & Ethos Statement

New Hall, a Catholic boarding and day school, provides **the best start in life**, enabling students to meet confidently the challenges of the wider world.

Here **academic excellence** is achieved in surroundings where relationships are based on **care, trust and respect**.

We **welcome** students from many traditions, building a Christian **community** that has at its heart **prayer** and **service** to others.

3 Democracy

At New Hall, the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the School community and beyond, including, for instance, the nomination and election of students to the different School Councils, the Senior Prefect selection system and the selection of students for the positions of Head Girl and Head Boy. The principle of democracy is explored in assemblies, Theology, History, Government & Politics, in PSHEE (especially at the time when 'mock' elections are held), and across the broader curriculum and co-curriculum (especially where student voice is exercised and where cultural themes are introduced).

4 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 and through assemblies. Students are guided to develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

As a part of our induction process all parents and students when they join the School are made aware of our *Behaviour, Codes of Conduct, Anti-Bullying and Acceptable Use of Technology Policies*. Students are taught the value and reasons behind rules, their own responsibilities around the rules and the consequences of their actions when these rules are broken. These messages are also reinforced through visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service, and educational visits to establishments such as the Council Chambers and the Palace of Westminster. The rule of law is explored further through the PSHEE programme and Theology curriculum.

5 Individual liberty

At New Hall, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, as appropriate, 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 education which encourages intelligent questioning. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms responsibly and safely, including online. Through safeguarding education, online safety education, RSHE and PSHEE, students learn how to identify risk, challenge misinformation, recognise harmful influences and seek support when concerns arise.. Whether it be choice through learning challenges, or through participation in co-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.

The School promotes British Values in the digital world by educating students to engage respectfully online, recognise misinformation and extremist content, challenge discrimination, protect their personal information and participate responsibly in online communities.

6 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, as well as in co-curricular activities such as Sport, Music and Drama. The students engage in many charity fundraisers, and our community links programme encourages an awareness of other communities.

Students at New Hall School are able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other and with staff. The School develops mutual respect throughout the curriculum and our Codes of Conduct promote the values of respect and responsibility. The Senior Divisions Student Council also provides the students with an arena where they can bring up and discuss any issues that may relate to the School ethos.

Throughout the curriculum and co-curriculum, our teaching precludes the promotion of partisan political views. Where political issues are brought to the attention of students during School, in activities provided or organised by or on behalf of the School, every effort is made to ensure that students are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Regular student voice sessions and surveys are undertaken to encourage feedback from students on a variety of issues. Action taken following these sessions is communicated to students so that they understand their voice and opinions are valued and important and are encouraged to evaluate evidence critically and respectfully.

Through the RSHE curriculum, students are taught the importance of respectful relationships, human dignity, consent, inclusion, equality and responsible citizenship, consistent with the School's Catholic ethos.

7 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

New Hall School is a Catholic School, which welcomes students from different cultural and religious backgrounds. In our community, respect for people of different faiths, beliefs and backgrounds is promoted 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. Assemblies and discussions, supported by learning in Theology, History, PSHEE, Horizons, and tutorials, allow the students to appreciate many different faiths and practices. We also run numerous trips, both locally and abroad, throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other religions, cultures and languages. This is extended to the School catering, where special, themed days are organised to celebrate both British and World events. Diversity within the School community, both among the student and staff populations, is not simply tolerated, but actively celebrated.

Mission and Ethos, Code of Conduct, Resilience, Equality, Success, Perseverance, Enterprise, Fundraising, Community Links, Teamwork, Gospel Values, Recognition

- Elections
- Student Voice
- Community Award nominations
- Debating
- Student Councils
- Prefect System
- Assemblies

- Students affect change
- Anti-Bullying
- E-Safety
- Co-curriculum
- Personalised learning
- PSHEE and RSE



- Curriculum & tutorial programme
- Enrichment
- Assemblies
- House competitions
- NHVS and charity fundraising

- Divisional & Chapel Assemblies
- Anti-bullying
- PREVENT Awareness
- Theology
- History
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Politics
- PSHEE
- Trips

Code of Conduct, Rewards/Sanctions, Prefects and students reinforcing School ethos, visits from emergency service providers such as the police force.
Anti-Bullying