

## British Values at Finham Park 2

### **Promoting British Values**

As part of the counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, the Government has set out its Prevent programme, setting out a definition of British values and how they should be promoted. Finham Park 2 is *fully committed* to supporting this programme.

The DfE have 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.*”

Finham Park 2 promotes fundamental British values and principles which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the UK. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by law, customs and expectations. *There is no place in British society for extremism or intolerance.*

The fundamental principles of British life that we promote at Finham Park 2 include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Participation in community life.

### **TEACHING & PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES**

At Finham Park 2 these values will be reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

- Every Friday the students take part in a ‘Baraza’ (a Swahili word based means a deliberation meeting held by a collective group of a people of wisdom) which is Finham Park’s innovative model of student voice. Students have their say on the school with their actions fed back through ‘you said, we did’.
- Student leaders will meet with the leadership team every half term to discuss any other issues that students may have.
- Student leaders will be in post (via an application and interview by Finham Park School student leaders). Each area of student leadership can apply for its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school.

- Students will have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, will be consistently reinforced at Finham Park 2.

- Students will be taught from year 7 the rules of the school. This is our School Code and uniform expectations.
- Students will be taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken through our restorative justice programme. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service will help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Finham Park 2, students are actively encouraged to make choices (see Behaviour for Learning Policy- Choices System), knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.

- As a school we will educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education
- Students will be encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values (Pride, Respect and Responsibility) and our school code is built around it. It is expected that all members of the school community will treat each other with respect.

- Students will learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.
- The first rule of our Code of Conduct reads: We respect everyone's right to learn

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

Finham Park 2 is a diverse school. We will actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures.

- Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons will reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others.
- Members of different faiths and religions will be encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within lessons and the school.
- Students will visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

## **Religious Education**

At Finham Park 2 we encourage our students through our programmes of study to engage with, and reflect upon their own religious or non-religious beliefs. We also promote the learning about and from other religious, cultural and philosophical positions with an emphasis on respect and tolerance for other views different to our own. Students are supported to think critically about the impact of various truth claims on the lives of others, and its impact or potential impact upon their own lives and the fundamental British values that we promote.

Religious education at Finham Park 2 has the wider aim of actively promoting modern British values which include: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values are explored, expressed and promoted through the religious education programme of study, often explicitly:

- Democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty. These fundamental British values are explored in a number of units including: 'Big Questions – Why do we have free will?', 'Year 8 – Civil Rights – Why are they important?', 'Key Stage 4, GCSE units Crime and Punishment and Rights and Responsibility'.
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These fundamental British values are explored in many units including (but not exclusively): 'Year 7 'Introduction to Faith and Commitment?', 'Year 8 – What can we learn from Islam? And also What can we learn from Buddhism?', 'Key Stage 4, GCSE units are from both a Christian and Islamic perspective, and includes varying views found within both world religions on key issues such as Marriage and the family, medical ethics and war and peace.

Religious education at Finham Park 2 seeks to equip students with the skills, values and knowledge to allow them to be successful students whilst at school and also beyond. It prepares students for life in modern Britain by demonstrating the shared values that we promote and it empowers students to flourish both academically and socially and engage with the wider world around them. Britain is a culturally diverse, religiously tolerant and historically Christian but increasingly plural country. Through religious education this diversity is celebrated and explored on the global, national, regional and local level. The programme of study is broadly Christian in nature, whilst encompassing the major world religions and other significant world views including agnosticism and atheism.

The religious education department at Finham Park 2 follows the Coventry Locally Agreed Syllabus which states that religious education aims to enable students to:

- understand the nature of religion and what it would mean to take a religion seriously.
- develop a knowledge and understanding of various religious and non-religious interpretations of life

- to explore the spiritual dimension of experiences, feelings, thoughts and questions that are almost universal.

Religious Education at Finham Park 2 does not seek to persuade students to adopt a religious viewpoint or to impose a particular interpretation. Rather it opens students' awareness to a range of possibilities and life stances including humanism, giving them the means to explore these in an informed and open way.

In conclusion religious education at Finham Park 2 seeks to:

- Provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- Offer opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and questions.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other beliefs that offer answers to these challenging questions.
- Encourage learning from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring students' own beliefs and questions.
- Challenge students to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
- Encourage students to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens of a diverse society and global community.
- Have an important role in preparing students for adult life, employment and lifelong learning.
- Develop students' respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faith is different from their own.
- Promote discernment and enable students to combat prejudice.