



# BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A remarkable Grammar School

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## **COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT**



## Commitment to promoting British Values Statement

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### Statement of our commitment to promoting fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC

Although advice on British Values, from the Department for Education, is non-statutory Beaconsfield High School has obligations under section 78 of the Education Act (2002), as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students. We believe that we should seek to actively promote fundamental British values.

There are a number of key values that underpin our planning and are fundamental elements of the school's provision. These are:

- **Democracy**

**Democracy can be seen as a state of society characterised by equality of rights and privileges. It can also refer to our nation's electoral systems.** In school we promote this by:

- ✓ Election of form representatives to school committees, led by student prefects
- ✓ Regular school council meetings, from which minutes are circulated to all students
- ✓ Student Voice on key school decisions through processes including online whole school surveying
- ✓ Holding mock elections to mirror national government elections or referendums
- ✓ Involvement of some students in upper year groups with the Model United Nations

- **Rule of Law**

**All people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law that is fairly applied and enforced.** In school we promote this by:

- ✓ Marking and feedback, as well as homework, policies set clear boundaries which are explained clearly to students.
- ✓ Accountability is stressed to all stakeholders including staff [Teacher's Standards], students [Student Handbook] and Governors
- ✓ Clear routines and expectations and high expectations of pupil behaviour, with behaviour for learning described and published in the student planners
- ✓ There is a clear sanctions process in place that is published in the student planners and reinforced by all staff. Misdemeanours are monitored and followed up according to a clearly defined process
- ✓ PSHE lessons cover aspects of how the law and justice works in Britain

✓  
• **Individual Liberty**

**Individual liberty suggests the free exercise of rights generally seen as outside Government control.** In school we promote this by:

- ✓ SMILE & STRIVE initiative promoted by the pastoral teams (summarised in the student planners)
- ✓ The increasing liberty afforded to students as they move up through the years
- ✓ 6th Form given increasing independence
- ✓ The profusion of extra-curricular activities and clubs, including students choosing projects for EPQ
- ✓ Students encouraged to voice views in lessons in a formative manner
- ✓ Students offered autonomy over choices regarding academic pathways
- ✓ Elements of choice in the school canteen within healthy boundaries
- ✓ Health and wellbeing lessons in PSHE

• **Mutual respect**

**Mutual Respect The proper regard for an individual's dignity, which is reciprocated.** In school we promote this by:

- ✓ Pupil code of conduct summarised in 'The Four Respects', which is published in the student planners
- ✓ Use of SMILE & STRIVE reward stickers, to reward good learning behaviours
- ✓ Promoting the school vision statement
- ✓ The publishing and enforcement of a uniform policy for Y7 to Y11 and a dress code for Y12 and Y13
- ✓ Wellbeing promotes mutual respect through the skills developed in PSHE sessions, learning about friendships and issues around bullying including cyberbullying
- ✓ Formal assemblies

• **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

**A fair, objective, and permissive attitude to those whose faith and beliefs may differ from one's own.** In school we promote this by:

- ✓ Holding Formal assemblies for key religious events, including Christmas and Easter services
- ✓ Acceptance of faith symbolism, including allowing pupils to wear a piece of religious jewellery
- ✓ Religious Studies taught to all students across KS3 & 4
- ✓ Governance includes faith representative from the Church of England.
- ✓ A working party of teachers promoting Equality and Diversity in school

This statement makes it clear that we will promote our students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. By ensuring our students' SMSC development, we will be demonstrating our commitment to actively promoting fundamental British values. In developing this statement we have been mindful of

- The Prevent Strategy
- The Teachers Standards
- The Equality Act 2010 Advice for Schools

We will enable our students to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The ethos and teaching in our school, of which we will make parents aware, will support the rule of English civil and criminal law and we will not teach anything that undermines it. Through our provision of SMSC, Beaconsfield High School will:

- enable our students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable our students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage our students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the schools and to society more widely;
- enable our students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further develop tolerance and harmony between our country's different cultural traditions by enabling our students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

We will develop our students' understanding and knowledge so that they have:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- 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;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Beaconsfield High School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We also seek to guarantee that there is no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Beaconsfield High School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that our schools promote and reinforce British values to all our students.

Beaconsfield High School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.