



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

British Values

Vision and values

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Our core values are:

Compassion Friendship Perseverance Respect Responsibility Wisdom

The Department for Education sets out five clear strands in their definition of British values, and William Farr wholeheartedly agrees with these:

- **Democracy:** The right to vote and have your say in how our country and local area is run. An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- **Individual liberty:** The freedom to believe what you want and act as you like within the laws of our country (e.g. faith and beliefs);
- **The rule of law:** All people should follow the laws in Britain. These laws are designed to protect everybody in the country;
- **Mutual respect:** That two people, no matter how different they are, can live harmoniously in the same society.
- **Tolerance of others:** To have an inclusive attitude towards people whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic background, differ from your own and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. British values ensure students understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The values above have been taught at William Farr for many years through our curriculum. Many of the values fit into our PSME, Citizenship and SMSC curriculum. All staff are responsible for identifying and delivering British Values through their lessons and in everyday contact with students.

William Farr translates the above strands into the following list:

- Knowing what is right and wrong;
- Democracy and how you can influence decision-making;
- Why we have rules/laws and what are our responsibilities;
- Holding institutions to account (bodies such as the police, army, NHS, education);
- Freedom to hold other faiths and accept others;
- Discrimination and prejudice (identifying and combating);

- Being inclusive and having respect;
- Speaking up where you see wrong-doing;
- Standing up for those who are weaker than ourselves (through institution as well);
- Being the best we can be and inspiring others to do the same;
- How the law works in Britain and in contrast to **other laws** in other countries;
- Ensuring all students within the school have a voice that is listened to;
- Having a fully democratic School Council voted by the students;
- Holding mock elections to promote fundamental British Values;
- Opportunities to learn how to argue and deliver points of view;
- A range of extra-curricular activities.

How we promote British values in our school community

1. Democracy

Student voice is incredibly important to William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School. Our School Council have to run for election annually by campaigning, and, making speeches. All the students vote for representatives who then serve for a one-year term except for the Sixth Form Executive School Council who serve for two.

The School Council feedback to their peers and listen to their thoughts in order to represent them to the best of their ability. The School Council meet regularly as a team to discuss student views. They also attend termly Senior Leadership Team meetings and present to the Governors.

The school also holds a mock general election to mirror the general election. All students receive a lesson on the electoral system delivered by Government and Politics students, assemblies on politics and main policies and the whole school vote. The students then have a follow up after the result to look at how different groups have voted.

Examples include:

- All Year Groups – School Council Election;
- School's general election;
- Year 7 - PSME/Citizenship, British values;
- Year 8 - PSME/Citizenship, election, political system, parliament, local government;
- Year 10 - PSME/Citizenship, government and politics;
- Year 12 - Who runs this place?, British values;
- Year 13 - Politics, British values, question time.

2. The rule of law

Throughout their lives, students will encounter rules and laws. These rules and laws are constantly reinforced throughout the day both in classroom and outside (e.g. Pupil Code of Conduct). Through individual subjects, our PSME and Citizenship curriculum, ACE days and through our behaviour policy, students understand the reasons and values behind the rules and laws and also understand that there are sanctions if they do not follow them.

In Year 9, all students in PSME have a 'Prison, Me? No Way!' lesson. This is a national educational charity with a core aim of raising awareness among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime, and how the Police uphold this.

Examples include:

- School Behaviour Policy and Pupil Code of Conduct;
- Year 7 - PSME/Citizenship, rights and responsibilities;
- Year 8 - Custody, justice system and human rights;

- Year 9 - Youth justice, 'Prison, Me?' notes.

3. Individual liberty

In lessons, pupils are encouraged to join in and feel free to express their opinion. They are also taught that they will have their opinion challenged and they have a right to reply to this too. They are encouraged to exercise their rights and personal freedom, whilst appreciating that everyone is unique. This enables our students to feel self-confident, resilient and have high self-esteem.

This is reinforced with the school ensuring that they know and understand, and have the information to make the right choices through excellent independent careers advice, assemblies and lessons on e-safety, PSME lessons and ACE days, such as 'Be Safe' and Industry Day. There is an abundance of leadership opportunities in which students can become involved, such as Year Representative, Form Representative, House Captain, fundraising for local charities, or supporting younger students in school.

Examples include:

- Year 8 - The justice system

4. Mutual respect

This is a core value of William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School. Students and all staff treat each other with great respect. The relationships between our staff and students are excellent. This is backed up by our behaviour policy, assemblies, class and form discussions and through the daily interactions of all members and visitors to our school. Make an appointment, come in and wander around. You will see that mutual respect is everywhere.

Extra-curricular activities, be they sport, music, drama, reading, chess etc., contribute hugely to our ethos of mutual respect at the school. As well as in lessons, through enrichment and after-school activities, pupils learn to respect each other in every way.

Examples include:

- Year 7 – Bullying;
- Year 8 - Hate crime;
- Year 12 - Harassment and stalking.

5. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Students understand their place in a culturally diverse society through the many opportunities they experience. This is through assemblies, the PSME and Citizenship curriculum and through our outstanding RE Department. In particular, students get a first-hand experience of working with people from different cultures. In RE they visit a mosque in Year 7, cathedral and mandir in Year 9 and the Holocaust Centre in Year 10. The school challenges those opinions contrary to the fundamental British value of tolerance, including 'extremist' views, by having in speakers on hate crime (Year 9), radicalisation (Year 10) and extremism (Year 11).

All major religions are studied and respected, and we believe that it is the responsibility of everyone to demonstrate tolerance and ensure that our students are knowledgeable and understanding citizens, prepared for life in modern Britain.

Examples include:

- Year 7 - Identity, respect, racism, tolerance;
- Year 8 - Homo, bi and transphobia, sex, gender, identity and sexuality;
- Year 10 – Sexuality.

Other curriculum subjects promote British values e.g. English poetry and books cover different cultures, tolerance and respect. History and Geography look at the UK and world history, different cultures and democracy. RE delivers messages of tolerance and respect and students have the opportunity to visit places of worship for different faiths as well as celebrating different faiths and cultures.

British values are lived through the William Farr Vision and Values and flow through the school.

