



Huntingdon Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

British Values

Policy

Huntingdon Academy is committed to serving the local community and its surrounding areas. It recognises the multi cultural, multi faith and ever---changing nature of the United Kingdom, and therefore those it serves. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalization by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

The school, as an inclusive establishment, accepts admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. It follows the policies outlined by its governing body regarding equal opportunities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar.

British values are promoted in much of what we do, during school assemblies, philosophy lessons, Religious Education, SEAL and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) sessions. The values are also integral to our vision and values.

The British values we espouse are not unique to Britain. We acknowledge that they differ in no way from the values of the many countries and the cultural backgrounds represented by families at Huntingdon Academy.

Her Majesty's Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 'Prevent Strategy'. The school will **in an age appropriate manner**, promote British Values to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage 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 school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- 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.

As well as actively promoting British values, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views.

Our general duty is to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment;
- advance equality of opportunity between those with protected characteristics and those without;
- foster positive relationships between people with protected characteristics and those without.

As a school we intend to be proactive through:

- our whole school ethos;
- reflected in all areas of the curriculum – like a golden thread;
- focus on prevention;
- understand the community we serve.

Below are just a few examples of how we promote our values. The first section is a general overview; the others are specific expectations set out by Ofsted.

Being part of Britain

As a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Huntingdon Academy. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Harvest Festival during the autumn term and pantomime theatre groups in at Christmas, Chinese New Year etc. We also value and celebrate national events, a recent example being the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One.

Further, children learn about being part of Britain from different perspectives. Two specific examples of when we teach about being part of Britain are:

Geographically: Our rivers, coasts and seaside holiday topics ensure that children have a better understanding of what Britain is, learning more about:

- its coasts, rivers and mountains;

- where Britain is in relation to the rest of Europe and other countries in the world.

Historically: Key moments in British history are studied in the topics and significant historical figures.

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Huntingdon Academy. Democracy is central to how we operate.

An obvious example is our School Council. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret using ballot boxes etc. made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council has its own budget and is able to effect change within the school; in the past, the School Council has hosted visits from the Mayor and other honoured guests. The Council are actively involved in recruitment and in providing teachers with feedback.

Another example of 'pupil voice' is:

- children are asked to respond and reflect on the teaching and learning they receive as well as make suggestions for the School Council to consider;
- children apply for jobs in school such as serving others at lunchtime, providing application forms and references. They take these roles very seriously.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at Huntingdon Academy through methods such as questionnaires, informal conversations, parents' evenings and PTA meetings.

Rules and Laws

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. At the start of the school year, each class discusses the school rules and class routines, principles that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Each class agrees the rewards for their 'marble treats'.

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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- visits from authorities such as the police and fire service;
- during Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about;
- during other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules;
- visits to places such as the Council House or Galleries of Justice.

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment, we provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely. For example:

- choices about what learning challenge or activity;
- choices about applying for school based jobs;
- choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Huntingdon Academy serves a diverse area and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Celebration, politeness, understanding and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos.

Our central aim to 'Prepare children for the future' drives us towards ensuring that our pupils are able to live and work alongside people from all backgrounds and cultures. This will be particularly necessary in a future, where due to technological advances the world will be a smaller place.

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone and to everything, whatever differences we may have. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of

others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect. This is a real strength of our school.

Specific examples of how we at Huntingdon Academy enhance pupils' understanding and respect for different faiths and beliefs are:

- through Religious Education, philosophy lessons, PSHE/SEAL and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures, including visits to places of worship – in English through fiction and in art and music by considering cultures from other parts of the world.
- celebrating cultural differences through assemblies, themed weeks, noticeboards and displays.
- themed lunches are held every half term focusing on a different countries food to widen children's experience and appreciation of different foods.

Whilst instances contrary to our values are relatively rare, no school can guarantee that there will never be instances which are contrary to our values. Each is treated seriously in line with our policies and expectations. Incidences are logged and shared with the governing body for monitoring purposes. Where appropriate specific patterns of incidence are looked at, and acted upon. There is staff training on British Values, and on a number of topics linked to equality. We ensure that all staff are trained in other related areas, and that they are proactive in promoting our British Values.

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