

## Promoting British Values at The Westgate School

The DfE have recently 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.”

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At The Westgate School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy:**

Democracy is rife within the school and is promoted on a daily basis within lessons and through an annual voting for Head Boy and Head Girl, student questionnaires and our rewards system, where students vote to support different local charities.

### **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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Students 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. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Barristers are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young students to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE work. Whether be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices. PHSE sessions advise students on how to safely exercise their rights and personal freedoms.

### **Mutual Respect:**

Part of our school ethos and behaviour policy has revolved around core values such as ‘Respect’ (REPs), and students have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:**

This is achieved through enhancing students understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RMS. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.