

British Values at Woodchurch High School

To prevent extremism and the religious radicalization of young people, the Government (in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011) set out its definition of 'British values'. These values are:

- **Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**
- **Democracy**

The promotion of 'British values' is central to education at Woodchurch High School, Church of England Academy, as British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation. They form a core aspect of our delivery of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education.

At Woodchurch High School, we uphold eleven 'Christian' Values. These are:

Value	Explanation	Bible Verse
Wisdom	Christians believe wisdom can be gained through knowing God and having reverence for him as the source of all wisdom. We strive to instil wisdom through learning and through understanding people and social interactions. We respect the wisdom of our teachers and leaders.	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. Psalm 111:10
Trust	Trust is the very essence of faith; trust in the God who is trustworthy. Trust is important in our relationships in school. We put our trust in our teachers and work at being trustworthy people ourselves.	Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding Proverbs 3:5
Compassion	A feeling of empathy for others leading to a desire to help. We act with compassion towards all members of our school community and seek to show compassion in the wider world.	Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1: 3
Integrity	Integrity is linked with honesty and moral principles. For a Christian it's about wanting to act in a way that emulates Jesus Christ and brings glory to God. In school we are honest and keep our word. We choose to do the right thing even when our actions are unseen.	We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way. Hebrews 13:18
Hope	Christian hope is much more than wishful thinking. It is trusting in God's character- that what he says will come true. We believe in hope. We hope for things knowing we have done our best to achieve them.	"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23
Thankfulness	We are thankful to God who creates and sustains life. What we have is a gift and not a right. We express our thankfulness to God and to each other.	Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Justice	Justice is about acting out of a concern for what is right and seeing right prevail. It is about social justice, especially for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves. In our school we treat people fairly.	The righteous care about justice for the poor Proverbs 29:7
Forgiveness	Forgiveness is not saying 'it doesn't matter'. God's forgiveness of us was costly. It is choosing not to hold a grudge and giving another chance. We believe in forgiveness and will seek the help and support we need to move on.	Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13
Humility	Humility acknowledges that God is God and that we should live in trusting dependence upon God. It is the opposite of pride. It is not the devaluing of ourselves, but choosing to seek the good of others. We are humble when we look to others for guidance rather than assuming 'I know best.'	"When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honour to others than to yourselves." Philippians 2:3
Service	Jesus gave the ultimate example of dutiful service believing he was called to serve even to the extent of giving up his life. We do our best and dutifully serve others for the benefit of our school community and the wider world.	For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45
Endurance	The ability to keep doing something difficult, unpleasant or painful for a long time. God's love, mercy, faithfulness and righteousness endure forever.	For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

At Woodchurch High School Church of England Academy we recognise the importance of helping pupils to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the 'Common Good' of all. We teach the importance of British values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important. At Woodchurch High School we provide an education, which focuses on the formation of the whole person. We are guided by our school verse: *"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work together for the Common Good, in the service of others. Our school ethos, which includes explicit reference to Christian and British values, makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities. The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at Woodchurch High School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

The Rule of Law: The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country (civil or criminal), are consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through Collective Worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities this involves and the consequences, when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our learning programmes and help

reinforce this message, as does the development of pupils' knowledge and respect for public institutions and services.

Individual Liberty: Within Woodchurch High School pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in computing and their form time activities.

Mutual Respect: Respect is modelled by pupils and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our students to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged. Our unique approach to teaching and learning across the school fosters mutual respect throughout the curriculum and our code of conduct promotes the values both of respect and responsibility. The school has taken a very strong stance on social inclusion and anti-bullying through an explicit focus on strategies to enable respect for difference by, for example, reflections on homophobia and other forms of bullying.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs: This is achieved through equipping pupils with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our pupils opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community and within the wider community. All pupils experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through our RS and PSHE programmes, theme days and local, regional and international links. The emphasis on enterprise, working with others, and learning other languages directly contributes to the appreciation of others' perspectives on life. Our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other religions, cultures and lifestyles.

Democracy: In line with our commitment to democracy, pupils are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where pupils can debate ideas and are encouraged to disagree with each other. We also encourage pupils to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Year Councils and School Council are effective vehicles for participation in the democratic process, as are regular pupil voice questionnaires on a range of topics such as teaching and learning.