



Fundamental British Values at Royal Alexandra & Albert School

The DFE have recently reinforced the need to create a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **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 and sent to schools nationwide again in November 2014.

At the Royal Alexandra & Albert School (RAAS), British Values underpin the school ethos and are reinforced regularly. Our school mission statement - *'Royal Alexandra and Albert School is committed to providing an environment in which all will achieve their full academic, social and spiritual potential in order to become valued members of society'* applies to all members of our school community, no matter what their ability, faith or culture and all are challenged to reach their full potential.

Democracy

All staff opinions are valued and adults are encouraged to share their ideas to move the school forward and to provide a supportive, secure and forward looking workforce. Pupils have opportunities to have their voices heard through Tutor Group and House Forums, pupil questionnaires, PSHE activities and class discussions along with School Councils (Junior school, Senior school & Sixth Form committees) and Food committee. Pupils are encouraged to share their views about the school and these views are then considered by the staff and school council.

School Council and House Captains are elected through democratic voting – with preparation and teaching points delivered and expanded on in Citizenship lessons. RAAS School Councils meet regularly to discuss any issues that have been raised in Tutor Groups or highlighted through pupil voice surveys. The pupils in each class vote for their representatives. Pupil views are taken into account when new initiatives are being considered.

The Rule of Law

Positive behaviour strategies provide clear boundaries and the development of self-discipline. All individuals whether pupils, staff, parents and visitors are expected to abide by the expected general standards of behaviour.

The staff and pupils at the RAAS aspire to the highest standards in all aspects of school life – educational and social. We believe this can be achieved by following simple rules that should govern our behaviour at all times. The rules are based on respect for other people and are designed to promote a safe, caring environment in which the self-esteem of the pupil can be nurtured and where inappropriate behaviour is not tolerated. Pupils are expected to behave in a manner which allows them and others to learn and develop within the school community.

The importance of laws in school, at home and in the wider world are consistently reinforced during the school and boarding day, in behaviour management and through school assemblies and visits, along with House meetings and routines, and as part of the Co-Curricular activities and trips. We expect our pupils to behave inside and outside school in an exemplary manner. Pupils discuss the reasons behind these rules and the responsibility that they have to abide by the rules by making the right choice.

Revised December 2015



Fundamental British Values at Royal Alexandra & Albert School

Pupils understand that rules are made to protect us. All pupils understand that there are consequences for breaking rules and they know the school and boarding sanctions. Schemes of work in Citizenship and planned external speakers, as part of the Curriculum, reinforce this message and explain the importance of adhering to and the consequences of breaking laws which govern our land.

Individual Liberty

All pupils (Years 3-13) are encouraged to make choices secure in the knowledge that they are safe. We provide strong boundaries within a safe and secure environment. Pupils are encouraged to voice their opinions and are guided to making safe choices through PSHE/Citizenship and E-safety lessons and Tutor Group and House meetings. All pupils are taught E-safety rules to keep them safe on the internet. Older pupils are made aware of the dangers of social networking and substance abuse.

Pupils are given opportunities to make choices in the classroom and boarding houses to decide whether they wish to participate in co-curricular activities and clubs. All school activities, classrooms and boarding houses are inclusive and encourage pupils to be self-disciplined.

Mutual respect

Our school rules are based on respect, honesty and safety providing the structure for an inclusive school. Reflective time in lessons and assemblies provide opportunities for all to consider their contribution to their own and to the collective well-being of the school. Pupils learn that their behaviour has an effect on others so all members of the school and boarding communities are expected to treat each other with respect. Staff are from different cultures and faiths and model respect for all.

Our values are reinforced through displays, newsletters, our website, chapel, in the curriculum and boarding ethos, as well as through co-curricular activities including trips and clubs.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

We are a multicultural school and pupils interact with a variety of cultures and backgrounds which enhances their understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. Our Chaplain works alongside the school and boarding communities and ensures that those of all faiths and non-faiths are catered for and well supported. We provide opportunities for the pupils to follow traditional activities and support local and global charities.

Chapel, PSHE/Citizenship and RS lessons, as well as a strong theme of social, moral, spiritual and cultural education evident throughout our curriculum and boarding ethos, regularly promote discussion of these issues. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences.

All pupils know who they can talk to if they have any concerns. RAAS has few bullying or racial incidents; pupils feel secure and happy. This is supported by pupil and parent voice questionnaires. There is a strong school counselling support service, to support the work of Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of House.

The Royal Alexandra & Albert School will actively challenge any pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values. We are vigilant to any obsessive attitudes or behaviour which might give cause for concern and will notify appropriate authorities for advice.