

# THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL



Promoting British Values



## Promotion of British Values

At the Sydney Russell School we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but also our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond school. Part of that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values in our students.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and considered them to be:

- democracy,
- rule of law,
- individual liberty,
- mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

At The Sydney Russell School these values are taught specifically but also underpin every aspect of school life. The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at the Sydney Russell School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

### Democracy

At The Sydney Russell School the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced. The history of democracy and current practices are taught in Civics and History lessons. Students are given the opportunity to see democracy in action and participate in democratic processes in a variety of ways. Some examples are:

- elections for Student Principal and House Captains
- mock elections
- Student Council
- Democracy Wall: opportunities to give opinions on current affairs
- Student Voice

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of the Rule of Law underpins all school policies and procedures and is consistently reinforced. Students are taught the reasons behind laws, the importance of obeying the law and the consequences of breaking the law, in Civics lessons and in “drop down days”. This is supported by visits from organisations such as the Police and Fire Service. There is a SMSC Programme tailored to each year group which includes assemblies, activities in tutor time, drama performances, workshops and guest speakers. The importance of the Rule of Law is also modelled in our behavioural policies. Our expectations of behaviour are clear, as are our sanctions. All students and their parents sign the Home – School Agreement before they join the school. There is a programme of restorative justice for students who fail to meet our expectations, which includes the opportunity to reflect on what they have done and the consequences.

## **Individual Liberty**

At the Sydney Russell School students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Students 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 tutor time activities.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is at the core of the ethos of the The Sydney Russell School. It is expected that staff and students will demonstrate mutual respect at all times. The school promotes respect for others in lessons and in every aspect of school life. In line with our commitment to democracy, students at the Sydney Russell School are encouraged to voice their opinions; we foster an environment where students feel safe to disagree with each other and to respect the opinions of others, even if they disagree with them. The concept of ‘fair play’ is taught and reinforced in a variety of ways:

- Debating
- P.E. lessons
- Mentoring Programme
- School Council
- Disciplinary Procedures

### **Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Our Civics curriculum provides information about the major world religions. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school. We also run a number of trips abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. School assemblies are non-denominational, but in accordance with the law, parents have the right to withdraw their children from them. Assemblies are part of the SMSC programme and therefore reinforce the promotion of British Values. Members of staff are always willing to accommodate students who wish to pray at breaks, particularly at the one that begins at 13:30.