

## Promoting British Values at Ralph Thoresby School

At Ralph Thoresby School we are committed to promoting the British Values and feel passionate about ensuring our students are prepared to take their place in a multi-cultural, multi-faith local community and United Kingdom. As a school we promote equal opportunities for all students regardless of age, faith, ethnicity, sexuality or social background. We want to ensure that all students are prepared for adult life through examination, extra-curricular activities and our citizenship curriculum.

The four British values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

Our Citizenship and EPR curriculum (please see the Curriculum section of the website), and our coaching provision ensures that British Values are at the forefront of everything we do. Throughout these sessions we want to ensure that our students understand these four important values, but also promote and upkeep them. We also have a varied and impactful assembly provision to ensure that British Values and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students is embedded.

The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to embed and promote British values at Ralph Thoresby School.

### Democracy

We equip our students with an understanding of the British Political system through a variety of different units in our Citizenship curriculum. Throughout the Citizenship curriculum students explore the political system we have in the UK and compare this to others across the world. We explore how laws are made, Human Rights and how we can uphold and defend our democracy in the UK. We also have an active Student Parliament with 40 School MP's who acts as advocates for their Houses. We hold half-termly meetings and our students have the full support of our Senior Leadership team who recognise the importance of our Student Parliament. Student Parliament visit Westminster and explore politics first hand. We run a successful politics club on a Friday lunchtime which is well attended and explores political systems around the world and current affairs. Our local MP has visited school on several occasions to meet with our Student Parliament which further embeds the British Value of democracy in Ralph Thoresby School.

### Rule of Law

At Ralph Thoresby School we want to ensure that our students are aware of how to keep themselves safe and fully understand their rights as British citizens. Our assembly provision highlights key events around key themes to do with safety and the Rule of Law. Our RALPH values have a key role to in educating the students about their rights and responsibilities the difference between right and wrong and how to be a law-abiding citizen. Within the Citizenship curriculum students explore the PREVENT agenda, issues around consent, gangs and County Lines and other key topics around criminal behaviour. We have had a variety of different guest speakers in such as West Yorkshire Police, Prison Me No Way, Victim Support, WYP Restorative Justice service and many more.

Students who opt to take GCSE RE also explore the criminal justice system, throughout the course they focus on areas such as how we punish offenders, the importance of justice and debate the use of the death penalty. Students who opt to take GCSE Sociology explore Crime in society and the impact and causes of this.

### Individual Liberty

We are committed to ensuring that our students feel safe enough to make their own choices but feel supported and encouraged in these. We want our students to fully understand how to exercise their rights and freedoms and are advised about how to do this safely, for example in Computing lessons students are made fully aware of how to keep themselves safe online, we run a safeguarding initiative every year to make sure our students are responsible and safe internet users.

Our RSE provision also equips our students with the ability to make decisions surrounding healthy relationships, sexual consent and child sexual exploitation. This is all done in a subtle and supportive way by specialist teachers in the Citizenship department.

We are also incredibly proud of our Allies Group who work towards the eradication of discrimination in school. Please see our Equality and Diversity page on the website for more information.

### Tolerance and respect

We have a hugely successful Student Ambassador group who support students with a variety of different issues such as bullying, making friends in a new school and dealing with friendship issues. We also hold an event each year that celebrates the diversity of our school and surrounding area. This is hugely successful event that invites guests from the major world faiths, cultures and beyond to a celebration with entertainment. We are proud to be a multi faith and multi-cultural school and celebrate this at every opportunity. We have regular input in the Ralph Report on equality and diversity from both the Allies group and our EPR team. A regular feature each year is our Culture Day and our Eid lunch.

All students study EPR (Ethics, Philosophy and Religion) in Year 7 and Year 8 and explore key concepts and questions. Our Religious Education provision follows the locally agreed syllabus and ensures that students gain an understanding of all the major world faiths and beyond. We feel this important to tackle issues such as Islamophobia and other religious prejudice. We want to ensure that our students realise that different is to be celebrated not feared. Students continue to study RE through our Wider Modern World curriculum, Citizenship and elements of coaching in Year 9 and beyond.

This is just a brief example of the wide ranging and impactful work that promotes British values and SMSC at Ralph Thoresby School. Everything we do at Ralph Thoresby School is based around ensuring our students leave well-rounded, tolerant individuals with the ability to make positive contributions to our society.