

Universal British Values

Herne Bay High School – Promotion of Universal British Values

At Herne Bay High School we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce Universal British values and making sure our students develop a strong moral compass through understanding and adopting key values.

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 Herne Bay High School these values are embedded in our work and permeate the school community.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to reinforce these universal values at Herne Bay High School and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list.

Democracy

At Herne Bay High School the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community and beyond, for instance the nomination and election of students to the Student Forum and Mini-Community Councils. In addition, Student Subject Leaders and Peer Mentors help students to have a voice in our school. The principle of democracy is explored in citizenship modules within PSHE, History and Religious Studies as well as during Mentor time and assemblies. Students vote in the Kent County Council Youth Parliament elections and we are proud to have a history of HBHS students being elected on to the Parliament. In General Elections the whole school community explore the political party manifestos and participate in a mock General Election within school.

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 values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Regular parts of our PSHE Programme help reinforce this message. At HBHS we have a very clear behavior policy, consisting of behaviour points which are discussed with students at the end of each day in mentor time. Our Restorative Justice Interventions also help students to explore and acknowledge the consequences of harmful actions and to take responsibility to repair any harm caused.

Individual Liberty

Within Herne Bay High School, students 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 students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. 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 PSHE and mentor time activities.

Mutual Respect

Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is modelled by students 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. Respect is at the heart of our school message, which is displayed throughout the school.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Tolerance of all fellow human beings is an important value at HBHS. 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. Through PSHE, assemblies and Mentor time, global themes and cultures are explored. For example, the school embraces anti-bullying week through assemblies and mentor time activities. Our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures. Enriching the curriculum, we also run numerous trips in the UK and abroad throughout the academic year from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. For example, as part of the RE curriculum students have opportunities to visit a Gurdwara and Mosque, there a numerous visits to mainland Europe and sixth form students have the opportunity to participate in a residential trip to New York.