



Pendle Community High School & College

British Values, Diversity & Preparation for Life in Modern Britain

The Department for Education states that there is a need: *“To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values’* which are defined as follows:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The education inspection framework (May 2019) additionally states that in terms of personal development, schools should prepare learners for life in modern Britain by:

- Equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society
- Developing their understanding of fundamental British values
- Developing their understanding and appreciation of diversity
- Celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.

At Pendle Community High School and College, we value the diversity of backgrounds of all students, families and the wider school and college community. As such we actively encourage our students to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, but who also respect differences between themselves and other people. Our school values are: **Embracing diversity – Nurturing Potential – Raising Aspirations**. This is reinforced by core expectations that underpin our positive behaviour strategy i.e.:

In our school and college community we care for and respect

- ourselves

- other people

- our environment

.....and always try our best!

These values and expectations are reinforced in our Positive Behaviour Policy and displayed in every classroom, reinforced individually and in lessons, promoted in celebration assemblies etc. Our ultimate goal is that all students leave PCHS&C as prepared for life in modern Britain as possible.

a. British Values

At Pendle Community High School and College, we actively and specifically promote British values in the following ways:

Democracy

- The School Council and Student (College) Councils are very well established. Every year, each class votes on new representatives. In recent years, the School Council was involved in interviews for all new members of staff, organising voting for new playground equipment and consulting with catering staff over changing the lunchtime menus. The College Council also organised a number of special events including the leavers' prom.
- Pupil Voice is also addressed through student focus groups and questionnaires (e.g. Erasmus+ project on '8 Strings to Your Bow' re. preferred learning styles etc.)
- Informal voting takes place on a range of issues within form times and lessons e.g. holding a mock election.
- Students also submitted their design suggestions for changes to the sensory garden, which were voted upon, and the subsequent winning design(s) then utilised for the redesign.
- Students attend their person centred EHCP review meeting and their opinions are shared in the most appropriate and meaningful way as possible.
- There is explicit consideration of democracy within PSHCE lessons.
- The principles of democracy are explored in the whole curriculum e.g. turn taking, sharing and collaboration, as well as during assemblies and other projects e.g. Erasmus+ projects.
- Achievements and positive actions/behaviours are celebrated both in lessons and in our weekly Celebration Assembly and rewards are firmly embedded into our school culture and ethos.
- We promote a school environment where questions are valued and actively encouraged.
- More able students are made aware of wider democratic processes e.g. Brexit, general elections etc, through watching news, reading papers etc.

The Rule of Law

- The school's ethos promotes and encourages respect and helps pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- Our Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies reinforce a complete lack of tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parent and carers. We raise awareness of bullying through participating in the National Anti-Bullying Week and Internet Safety Day.
- The importance of rules, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when consistently dealing with positive and negative behaviour and through school assemblies.
- Through PSHCE lessons students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Students access to 14-19 Fire Fighters and occasional visits from authorities and organisations such as the Police, Social Care, AddAction (drugs awareness) etc help to reinforce this message.

Individual liberty

- We pride ourselves on a school culture and ethos that builds respect, tolerance and resilience.
- Both in and out of lessons students are actively encouraged to make the right choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
- Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our Online-Safety and PSHCE lessons.
- We have a robust anti-bullying culture including a 'Whisper button' on our website that any students or parents can use if they have any concerns about bullying.
- Our school environment is one that promotes independence and individual communication. Our aim is to work towards pupils having full independence, so promote independent travel, work experience etc. wherever possible.
- Staff work to promote the students' self-esteem and positive sense of self throughout the school day and in the wider community.
- From Year 7 through to Year 14 students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and are supported to learn to make safe choices that enable them to grow as individuals and reach their own potential in all aspects of their learning
- As students move up through the school they are supported to understand their rights and personal freedoms and are given appropriate advice and guidance to enable them to make independent decisions.
- More vulnerable students are supported to make appropriate decisions and choices (according to their needs and abilities) and staff ensure that adults supporting them are doing so in terms of the students' best interests.
- All students (irrespective of need) are offered opportunities to access residential opportunities throughout school. Some of the more independent learners also access Erasmus+ exchanges to other countries. These opportunities are often the first experience students have away from their parents/cares and families.
- We hold an annual Remembrance Day celebration event in November, inviting veterans to speak to the students about WWII and their personal experiences.
- We conduct annual parent surveys, the results of which are reported to Governors and used to inform future developments.

Mutual respect

- Respect underpins the core expectations throughout school and college. We actively encourage self-respect, alongside respect for all other people and our environment through assemblies, form times, individually etc.
- Displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Positive Behaviour Policy.
- Both in and out of the classroom students are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other opinions, cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and students are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. All such incidents are recorded and reported where appropriate to LCC (although extremely rare).

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

- Discussions about prejudices and prejudice-based bullying in form time and PSHCE lessons.
- Recognition and discussion of religious celebrations in lessons, form times and collective worship/assemblies.
- Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and across school.
- We share celebrations of different faiths especially in RE lessons e.g. Hanukah. In classes we discussed the fasting of certain students during Ramadan, and shared celebrations such as an Eid party. One student recited a prayer he has learned at Mosque in assembly, and had Muslim prayers at a celebration of life event for one of our ex-students.
- Through the PSHCE and RE curriculums students are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.
- Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship.

b. Additional preparation for life in modern Britain

Celebrating what we have in common, respect for different protected characteristics and developing understanding and appreciation of diversity

- 'Embracing diversity' is one of our core school values, which is reiterated individually, in classes, assemblies etc.
- Our uniqueness is a concept that constantly reinforces the importance of our similarities and differences, which make us all the special people we are.
- Our current Erasmus+ project '8 Strings to Your Bow' has helped to reinforce similarities and differences in terms of learning styles and preferences.
- School actively promotes respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law, as reflected in our current Relationships Sex Education policy.

Equipping responsible, active citizens who contribute positively to society.

- At every Annual Review from Yr 9 onwards we consider transition planning for students' future education, employment, training and general life. PCHSC has recently won an award for a high level of completion in relation to the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- We have a comprehensive 14-19 programme (including activities such as mini enterprise, horticulture, firefighters, D of E, office skills), which helps to practically prepare students for future employment.
- Our College curriculum follows the 'Preparation for Adulthood' agenda – i.e. employability (including the study of functional literacy, numeracy and ICT skills – and bespoke work experience opportunities); community inclusion; health and wellbeing and independent living (including life skills etc).
- PCHSC recently won the TESCO National Food Bank Award, for actively supporting collections of food, and distributing leaflets in store.