



# Forest Gate Community School

Fly, Grow, Connect, Strive

## **British Values at Forest Gate Community School**

The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, the proprietor of the independent school, academy or free school must:

### **Actively promote the fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with difference faiths and beliefs**

We do this primarily through our Assemblies programme and 'Thought for the week' focus. All key values listed above are promoted and referred to explicitly by being given a focus week each (please see the programme for dates) and also revisited through other themes such as 'Conflict Resolution', 'Black History', 'Honesty', 'International Women's Day'. There is a weekly display for the value and it is published on our website and on our Social Media channels. The PHSE curriculum and other subjects tie into this and are calendared to support the specific weekly focus. RE lessons look at all major faiths and beliefs and promote tolerance and understanding. Our behaviour code and sanctions support and uphold fundamental British Values.

### **Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school**

Teachers are reminded of their responsibility to have open debates and a neutral standpoint in discussions. This is outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct where it states *'Discussions with students should avoid comments that are sexual, religious or political in nature unless they are justified in the context of the teaching programme or providing pastoral support. Students should be allowed to form their own opinions and views and staff should ask questions to allow this to happen. Staff should avoid sharing their own personal views on these matters.'*

Staff are reminded of their responsibility to report any adult who is not adhering to this.

### **Take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.**

Please see above. Regular Learning Walks, scrutiny of schemes of work and book looks are used to monitor teaching methods. Assemblies are observed and guidelines are given as to the nature of the message that should be imparted. Visiting speakers are vetted using websites and other available recommendations to ensure views expressed are balanced. Charities are chosen carefully to ensure political neutrality.

**The balanced presentation of opposing views applies while pupils are in attendance at school, while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities provided by, or on behalf of, the school, and in the promotion of those extra-curricular activities, whether they are taking place at the school or elsewhere.**

We have a fully vetted and monitored extra-curricular activities programme. All activities are monitored for neutrality. We offer major religious groups the opportunity to practise in accordance with their faith. There are Muslim prayers every day of the week for both boys and girls. Students come to prepare for prayer and pray. All sessions are supervised by a Muslim member of staff. Non-Muslim and Muslim LG members monitor the prayers for content, attendance and safety. On Mondays there is a Christian group who meet and sing Christian gospel songs. This is supervised by Christian members of staff as well as a volunteer who has been vetted in accordance with school checking procedures. This is open to all and children of all faiths attend and join in the signing. This is also regularly monitored by Christian and Non-Christian members of LG.

**Schools must also ensure they actively promote principles that:**

**Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence**

This is done through assembly programme offering a chance to reflect, the mentoring programme that offers students pastoral guidance. Groups are run for targeted children suffering from low self-esteem. Rewards are given out regularly and success is celebrated at key points on the calendar.

**Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England**

Our behaviour code and rewards and sanctions ladder allows students the opportunity to view right from wrong. The detention process offers staff a chance to counsel students and discuss their behaviour. Assemblies are explicitly taught on the rule of law and other assemblies are used to actively promote it. A Safer Schools Officer works closely with staff and aids with education linked to civil and criminal law as well as intervention in this area. He has a respected presence around school and on the gate. The PHSE and Citizenship programme covers rights and responsibilities linked to the law.

**Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated, and to society more widely**

Our behaviour code, rewards and sanctions ladder and subsequent reintegration and detentions offer students the chance to accept responsibility for their behaviour. Apology letters, conversations with those they have been affected and opportunities for reparation are part of all behaviour sanctions. The Student Council is offered the opportunity to contribute positively and show initiative. They are involved in consulting to make the school a better place, to canvass views and to raise awareness of key issues such as Road Safety and FGM. Students have actively promoted making the area outside school a safer place by educating students and parents of the danger of where they drop students off for school. They have impacted on the safety at the front of the school for all students.

Sports Leaders are being used to promote healthier lifestyles and mentor younger students.

Students are undertaking a year- long programme for a chosen charity. They are able to see how they have made a difference to others as charities have sent representatives to inform the students. Charities are local, national and international.

In March we have a weekly focus on local and community history to help children become aware of the context in which they live.

### **Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England**

Remembrance Day is used to promote British Institutions such as the monarchy and the military forces. The Rule of Law thought for the week is used to promote the judiciary and police force. Working with partners from law firms such as MacFarlane and the Metropolitan Police support this throughout the year. PHSE and Citizenship is used to discuss and promote other institutions.

Democratic processes such as school elections and Head Boy and Head Girl are used to promote democratic institutions. The Young Mayor Election promotes local government and a trip to Parliament which will be undertaken in November will further support this.

### **Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own cultures**

Students are permitted to wear religious artefacts in line with the school uniform policy which is supported by all staff. Students are allowed to follow their own religious practices and are facilitated by the school where ever possible.

### **Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010**

Forest Gate is a fully inclusive school. We offer accessibility and support to children with a wide range of needs and have adapted resources to support them. We review our practices regularly to make sure all students are fully included in the lesson. Students are mindful of others' needs and aware of how they should adapt their own behaviour to support them.

### **Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England**

As above : Democratic processes such as school elections and Head Boy and Head Girl are used to promote democratic institutions. The Young Mayor Election promotes local government and a trip to Parliament which will be undertaken in November will further support this.