



Our promotion of British values at Friern Barnet School

In line with our school motto, 'Enjoy and Excel', we are hugely ambitious academically for all our students, ensuring that they secure the results to go on to excellent further and higher education institutions and then on to fulfilling careers. But we also want them to live lives which are personally and socially fulfilling, developing a love for art, music, dance, theatre and culture which will enrich the whole of their lives. Our desire is that students leave us as mature, independent learners who are also engaged and responsible citizens.

The Department for Education has published guidance (2014) on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. All schools have a duty to 'actively promote' the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011. Schools are expected to focus on, and be able to show, how effective they are in embedding fundamental British values.

Promoting these values at Friern Barnet School (FBS)

We continue to work with our students to embed these fundamental values:

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

Students will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. In the most recent Ofsted report (2014) it states that 'The school provides unique experiences for developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of education.' The curriculum is mapped across the whole school. Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Pupil voice is significant in FBS. Our student elected school parliament plays a strong role in our school. This is involved in making the school a better place to learn. The governing body receives regular reports from chief ministers of the parliament. Governors have an annual day in school when they meet groups of students from across the school. Students are also involved in all teacher appointments. Student questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We aim to develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

The Rule of Law

Understanding of the importance of rules, and how and why they are set, will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. Students will be involved in any review of the school rules to help them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Through enquiry in lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community as well as organising trips out of school to meet with a variety of people and visit a wide variety of institutions. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our students.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. We encourage lesson planning that allows children an element of freedom to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. Through our e-safety work we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in classrooms. Our motto is "Enjoy and excel"; we emphasise that, to be a successful, confident and responsible person, effective relationships between students and staff are essential.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At FBS we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which major religions are studied and respected. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding and aim to develop an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.