

Featherstone High School

British Values Statement



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Last Reviewed: October 2022
Next Review: October 2025

Contents Page

1.0 Promoting British Values	1
2.0 Democracy	2
3.0 The rule of law	2
4.0 Individual Liberty	2
5.0 Mutual Respect	3
6.0 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs	3

1.0 Promoting British Values

At Featherstone High School equal opportunities are at the heart of everything we do. This is encapsulated in our school motto "Together we achieve" and through our wheel of values, which underpin both our school rules and high expectations within classrooms and the general school environment.

Featherstone High School is committed to serving its community. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi ability and ever changing nature of the United Kingdom and in particular our community, actively promoting inclusion for all faiths, abilities, cultures and gender/LGBTQ+ statuses. We also recognise our vital role in ensuring that no individual or group within our school community are subjected to intimidation, or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Featherstone is dedicated to preparing students for their adult lives as contributing members of British society. Our examined curriculum, as well as enrichment activities, enrichment days and our house system, contribute to promoting 'British Values' to all of our students. In order to be fully inclusive to our students of multiple cultures and diasporas, we communicate these through a 'wheel of values' which are shared by many faiths and cultures:

The government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The five British values (and the aligning values from our wheel of values) are:

- Democracy (Partnership and Inclusion)
- The rule of law (Respect)
- Individual liberty (Challenge and Resilience)
- Mutual respect (Inclusion and Care)
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs (Inclusion and Care)



The examples which follow demonstrate some of the many ways in which Featherstone High School seek to embed these values.

2.0 Democracy

The principle of democracy is taught through Citizenship, then consistently reinforced at Featherstone High School, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community. These include the yearly elections of form captains, school council representative and head boys and girls along with their deputies. Our democratically elected student council experience fully the ways in which democracy can work within our school. Termly meetings with our Head Teacher are used to negotiate on matters of interest gathered from the student body. These meetings are taken very seriously by all involved and will often result in changes within the school. For example, the playground has been adapted to provide seating areas for those who want to socialise as well as small football areas and basketball nets for those who wish to be more active. The strength of our commitment to democracy is further demonstrated through our student's outstanding success in engaging with local politics - Our Eco Team meeting with our MP V Sharma, for example. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History, PSHE and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in form time reflections, assemblies and enrichment day activities.

3.0 The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Featherstone High School. Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school alongside the values which underpin them, enabling them to engage with why these rules are important for our community. The Home School agreement, which clearly outlines expectations and rules, is signed by the student, parent and the school. There are clear systems for sanctions and rewards which are employed by all staff. Through our Assemblies, English, PSHE, RE and Citz/SACRE curriculums, which include topics such as law and gender equality, homophobia and freedom of worship, as well as through a close working relationship with our Safer Schools Police Officer, students are taught the value of and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

4.0 Individual Liberty

At Featherstone High School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices and challenge themselves, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Featherstone High School educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through explicit teaching of safety and risk through PSHE, e-safety lessons and Form Tutor Tutorials. Students are taught how to keep themselves safe from harm related to child protection and safeguarding guidelines. This includes knowing where to go for help in school and online. Featherstone has a robust anti-bullying and anti harassment culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour for Learning Policy. Students understand what is expected of them in terms of behaviour and they are clear about who to go to if they need support or if they need to report something. The strict uniform code takes into account religions and faiths. For example baptised Sikhs are able to wear the 5 articles of faith and Muslim students are able to wear a Hijab and an Abaya. Our commitment to individual liberty is also demonstrated in

our provision of a Multi Faith Prayer Room where students and members of staff of any religion can go for silent reflection and prayer. Our Reflection room is monitored through our duty timetable ensuring that the resource is used properly and respectfully at all times.

5.0 Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the 6 core values at Featherstone High School and is at the heart of its Mission Statement. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its behaviour management policy. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment. Assemblies, Form Tutor Tutorials, RE, PHSE, enrichment day activities as well as daily form time reflections and year group assemblies regularly address issues of mutual respect.

6.0 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

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. We actively celebrate cultures through events such as Culture Day, and additionally use multicultural and diverse examples and source materials in lessons such as English, History, Geography and PSHE. Students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school. Through form time reflections and assemblies we learn about and celebrate festivals from different religions and cultures throughout the year. The Religious Studies curriculum (which includes SACRE provision for all students until the end of KS4 regardless of GCSE pathways) provides insight and understanding into a wide range of religions and religious beliefs while reinforcing the need for mutual respect and tolerance.

Featherstone High School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and to make a successful contribution to our Society.