British Values Statement

Author:	Sophie Donohoe, Lead Teacher of PSHE	Date of last review:	May 2024
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British values statement

Our school is committed to actively promoting British values to ensure that our pupils leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

The government emphasises that all schools should ensure that they teach pupils about British values of:

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

We take every opportunity to promote these values, and to ensure our pupils:

- Understand the democratic process and how citizens can have a say in decision making.
- Recognise the advantages of living under the rule of law and how law is essential for a safe society.
- Understand that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary and why it exists.
- Understand that the freedom to hold varying faiths and beliefs, including no religious faith, is protected in law, and that it is vital to accept people who have different faiths and beliefs without discriminating against them in any way.

Value the importance of identifying and combatting extremism.

We promote British values both within and beyond the classroom and these values are at the heart of our ethos.



1. Democracy

The principle of democracy is constantly enforced throughout Coquet Community School, with students made aware that they are able to make decisions about what happens within their school. We gather Student Voice on a regular basis. Through our student voice we listen to the views of our students and respond by making adaptations to improve the CCS community. It is important to us that students feel part of the school community and that we appreciate their points of view.

Student Voice is a tool through which we can allow students to have a say in improving their own education now and to participate in developing new ideas for the future. The principle of democracy is also explored in Humanities, English, History and Religious Studies as well as in tutor time and through themed assemblies. Our PHSE curriculum is delivered during tutor time, during these sessions the theme of democracy is regular revisited.

2. The rule of law

The importance of the rule of law, how laws are made and how rules and laws are put in place to ensure the safety of any society, is consistently reinforced throughout the school, through our Behaviour policy and through our personal development curriculum. Students are reminded of the importance of obeying laws and of the consequences if these laws are broken. The importance of rights and responsibilities is paramount to our school ethos, and this forms a central part of our teaching practice in every lesson. We also have strong links with Northumbria Police, who come into school on a regular basis to talk about the importance of law and order, which is documented as part of our PHSE programme.

3. Individual liberty

At Coquet Community School we are committed to providing a calm and caring environment where everyone feels safe, happy and understands what is expected of them; relationships are central to all aspects of life at CCS.

It is important that students are able to express themselves and feel comfortable when doing so. We promote a culture of intrinsic and extrinsic rewards through praise and encouragement as well as rewards. Positive behaviours are reinforced through regular reference to our school values and support to self-regulate. Students are actively encouraged to know and exercise their rights, particularly in relation to their interaction with other students and with the wider community and are aware of the importance of making positive choices, with regard to such things as relationships, e-safety and their own physical and emotional well-being.

4. Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We believe that positive relationships based on mutual respect, promote positive attitudes to learning and that as students learn by example. All adults within school should act as positive role models with regard to their own behaviour. Kindness is at the core of our school ethos and is reflected in our Behaviour policy which is reiterated through our school and displayed in every room through our school values posters.

All students experience a structured approach to SMSC through our personal development curriculum where global themes and cultures are explored. Citizenship and British Values are part of our curriculum offer and this includes students learning about different faiths and cultures, something which is also delivered through Religious Education curriculum.

Our RE curriculum follows the Northumberland SACRE and therefore teaches students about a wide range of religious faiths and cultures including Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism as well as studying non-religious perspectives and world views such as Humanism and Spirituality. RE is taught as an explicit subject in Years 5 to 13. Years 5-11 receive one hour of RE per week. Sixth form students receive weekly RE lessons during tutor period time for at least two terms of the year. Attendance at this session is mandatory.

Our school assemblies programme also closely follows cultural events, ensuring that students are kept up to date with relevant social, cultural and spiritual events.