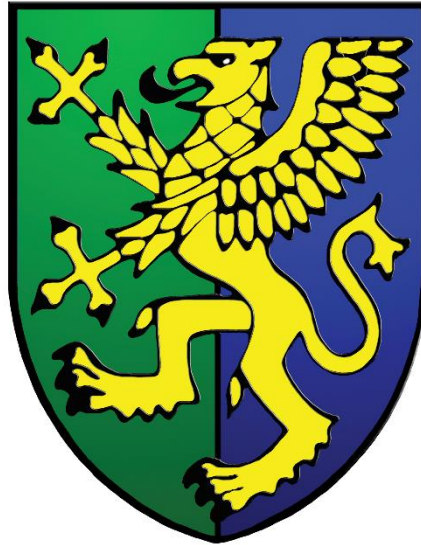


COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



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**Statement on Promotion of
British Values**

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Background and Rationale

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

- The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

What is meant by "British Values"?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness
- Participation in community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes Cowley International College values and seeks to inculcate in its young people.

How does Cowley International College go about promoting these values?

At Cowley International College the personal development of students to become good and successful Cowleians is a fundamental part of the academic and pastoral work of the college. To this end, we endeavour to develop students spiritually, morally, socially and culturally ensuring that everyone is treated as individuals and students are being prepared for a modern Britain.

Motto – *Semper Ad Altiora Non Sis Sed Omnibus* – Aim ever higher – Not for one but for all.

British values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- The five Cowleian Characteristics for the basis of everything we do at Cowley. All students are regularly spoken to about the importance of these three attributes for success in College. The rewards system is based on the Cowleian Characteristics. Explanations of each of the Characteristics are provided visually all around the school for the benefit of our community and for visitors.
- College Assemblies, are held twice every week with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) themes. During assemblies students have time to contemplate with the college prayer.
- The student council demonstrates democracy as students vote for their form and year representatives every year. The Student council regularly meet with the Principal and Governors to explore current college life.
- The College supports local, national and international charities.
- The Cowley International RE Department holds the REQM Gold award, testifying to its inclusive nature and the quality of the experiences offered to pupils. Students participate in one 60 minute lesson per week of Religious Education from Years 7-11. Although we offer the right to withdraw from Religious education, requests to do so are extremely rare. RE and RS lessons are taught by specialist staff. Guest speakers from the Christian, Hindu and Muslim faith are also invited in to school to attend lessons and to enhance learning.

The RE and Citizenship curriculum contains the following elements which are directly applicable to promoting British values:

- Understanding Islam, Life as a Muslim in Britain today, Living in a multi-cultural society, What do we mean by British Values? World faiths day involving visitors from Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu Faiths. (Year 7)
- Prejudice and discrimination, Buddhism and Hinduism in the UK, Visit to a local Mandir and Vihara (Year 8)
- Poverty, How to make and keep peace in society, Christian and Muslim Charities which promote social justice (Salvation Army and Islamic Relief) (Year 9)
- Interfaith relationships, Expressing your faith in Modern Britain: Islam and Christianity: Worship, Dress, Rites of Passage and Faith in Action, Visit to a Mosque (Year 9 and 10)
- Religion and Equality, Prejudice and discrimination, Living as a Muslim in Modern Britain: Inter-faith dialogue, Honour Killings, Forced marriage and FGM (Year 10)
- Religion, Peace and Justice, Interfaith Dialogue, How to promote Peace and reconciliation (Year10).
- Year 7 pupils take part every year in our World Faiths and Culture Day where they visit a variety of workshops, from meditation to cultural crafts, all led by guests from a range of local faith communities: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. This is followed up in Years 8,9 and 10 by visits to local places of worship: the Liverpool Al rahma Mosque, the Preston Vihara and the Manchester Buddhist Clear water centre and the Go Huang Buddhist temple.