BRITISH VALUES

RATIONALE

At Salesian College we aim to promote the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. We do so within our context as a Catholic school operating within the Salesian tradition of education.

The Department for Education published guidance in 2014 on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain: Guidance on promoting British values in Schools

The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British 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.

Within the teaching of the curriculum there are many opportunities to develop students' awareness and understanding of what constitutes British Values. The PSHE programme, assembly programme, charity initiatives, extra-curricular activities and cultural experiences are all additional ways in which British Values are promoted and enhanced throughout school for all students.

THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Our Catholic Christian community built on mutual respect, personal responsibility and making a positive contribution to the College and wider community are evidence of our promotion of British values. We recognised that Catholic Social Teachings lies at the heart of this with a particular focus on dignity and solidarity. We believe that God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect and solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. As our Mission Statement affirms, our mission is to send out into the world happy and confident young people as, "witnesses to the Gospel, with an active concern for Social Justice."

DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW IMPLEMENTATION

Democracy and the rule of law is closely linked with the PSHE curriculum, across many curriculum areas, as part of the extracurricular offer and across many areas of engagement between staff and students. This can be identified in a variety of ways which are not exclusive but complementary. Examples include:

- Students are taught democracy and the rule of law in a number of curriculum areas, for example History, English, Politics, SPUD (Spiritual, Personal, Understanding, and Development) and PSHE.
- All students will learn about British democratic institutions and the working of Parliament
- In Politics students will learn about British institutions and the challenges faced by democracy. Politics students will engage with the wider college when opportunities arise such as when they host mock elections.

- All Year 9 students will attend the Battlefields Trip to Ypres and Northern France – exploring part of our cultural heritage. In English students will use a variety of literary text to promote discussions and understanding of democracy and rule of law.
- The School Council, Year Councils and Digital Leaders engage the students in a working democracy: they vote for their representatives; half termly meetings are held with agenda items for discussion and minutes taken. These minutes are shared with their peers, as well as the Senior Leadership Team and relevant members of staff for discussion.
- The Assistant Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the School and Year Councils function democratically with mutual respect and tolerance for others.
- An active House system engages students of all ages to work together.

INDIVDUAL LIBERTY AND MUTUAL RESPECT IMPLEMENTATION

Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect is implemented and identified in a number of ways:

- The College will promote an ethos where all students can grow, flourish and respect each other as individuals.
- The College will adopt a preventive approach to behaviour management, but when the occasion to correct is required, it exercises an ethos of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- The College will promote the values and traditions of diverse cultures, especially addressing racism and promoting race equality.
- Students will always be encouraged to recognise their own worth and the worth of others. This leads to tolerance and acceptance of individual difference.
- Regular opportunities will be provided to celebrate the achievements of students through weekly assemblies, displays and special presentations.
- Students will be taught a sense of responsibility for their environment.
- All students are taught a comprehensive PSHE programme which promotes individual liberty and mutual respect.
- Through the work of the Diversity & Inclusion Ambassadors who drives whole College initiatives promoting mutual respect and tolerance for all.
- The introduction of a multi faith room for all students to use during break and lunch times daily.
- The development of an Inclusion Curriculum, which includes (but is not limited to) celebrating different races, ethnicities, genders, sexualities, religions and socio-economic backgrounds.

POLICY CONTROL	
Author	Assistant Head (Pastoral)
SLT Approved Date	4 October 2024
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