



Policy approved & adopted by	Head of College
Date	Sept 2023
Review cycle	Annual
Next Review	Sept 2024

## BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

### British Values Statement

At Valley College we value the diversity of backgrounds of all learners, families and the wider college community.

***The Department for Education states that there is a need:***

*“To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all colleges to 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.”*

The Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our college reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our learners so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage them to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our college, our local community and the wider world.

***At Valley College, we actively promote British values in the following ways:***

### Democracy

- All learners are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the college on matters that directly involve learners. Developing communication skills is integral to the college curriculum and learners use a wide range of strategies in addition to speech to aid their communication, including iPad's, Makaton sign language, PECS.
- The principle of democracy is explored in the curriculum as well as during special days.

## **Rule of Law**

- College rules and expectations are clear and fair.
- Learners are always helped to distinguish right from wrong. Where learners are unable to self-regulate or make poor choices they are debriefed to help them to understand the link between action, choices and consequences.
- Learners are encouraged to respect the law and Valley College encourages visits from authorities including the Police, Fire Service and Ambulance Service to help reinforce this message.
- The Conduct and Anti-Bullying policies clarify Valley College's intolerance of any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to learners, staff and advocates.
- The curriculum encourages learners to engage with learning relating to life skills. For example, 'responsible behaviour and actions,' 'rules and laws' and 'roles and responsibilities.'

## **Individual Liberty**

- Throughout college, learners are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
- All learners are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and our pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.
- Learners are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our online safeguarding teaching.
- Vulnerable learners are protected and stereotypes challenged. A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the college and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The college takes an active interest and monitors all incidents. The college also operates a robust system of logging incidents.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

- Respect is one of the core values of our college. The learners know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and learners.
- Learners are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and learners are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- Through the curriculum and the college experience, learners are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations. This learning is embedded through practice across college and is promoted by staff.
- We offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which learners have the chance to reflect on our core values and British values.