

# British Values

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The Alsop vision stems from our belief that all young people should be given the opportunity to aspire, knowing aspiration is positive and will lead to success; that nothing is out of their reach if they create and develop a strategy to succeed. Our school vision stems from our '**Respect Agenda**', where all students are led to ensure they become valued members of a society where they respect, themselves, others and their environment.

Alsop High School is committed to serving its community, recognising the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We understand the vital role we have in ensuring our groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We accept admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. We follow policies regarding equal opportunities, guaranteeing there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We seek to serve all and 'make known our fame by deeds'.

We strive for success by preparing our young people to be responsible citizens, providing them with opportunities to learn, achieve and succeed. Our vision is underpinned by British Values which are taught to all students throughout their lessons, learning opportunities and during Acts of Collective Worship.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 'Prevent Strategy' – we strive to maintain British values by working within the following areas:

- Tolerance towards people of different faiths and hold different beliefs.
- Democracy
- British Law and upholding Justice
- Individual Liberty
- Self-Respect
- Respect for others
- Respect for the different lifestyle choice of others
- Respect and opportunities to Worship,
- Faith
- The right to experience Success

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes of Alsop High School and the intrinsic values we wish to instil in our young people.

We use strategies across the National curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for pupils; we teach British Values by planning, developing and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. This Curriculum is evaluated to ensure it is relevant and effective for all learners. We ensure planning includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

## ***How we share British values:***

### ***Collective Worship***

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We take the opportunity to promote British Values through our weekly programme of Collective Worship. Our assemblies uphold traditional values including:

- Respect
- Trust
- Peace
- Reverence
- Wisdom
- Truthfulness
- Friendship
- Courage
- Hope
- Forgiveness
- Justice
- Thankfulness
- Creativity
- Compassion
- Humility
- Generosity
- Perseverance
- Responsibility

We hosted a month long RESPECT initiative. This is evidence of our commitment to British Values. The initiative included:

- A Holocaust Survivor Testimony
- A Service to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.
- Hosting the Anne Frank Exhibition
- Training of Y8 students to be Peer Guides and Ambassadors for the Anne Frank Trust

Our school is structured and maintained to ensure the whole school and the wider community benefit from the integral aspects of British Values. We ensure we promote inclusion and understanding in the following areas:

### ***Promotion of Democracy***

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Democracy is an important value at Alsop. Students are regularly consulted about their input into school life and what improvements they would like to see. Their opinion is gained and they have the opportunity to vote on issues affecting them. There are also opportunities for them to request changes or organise events. Parents are regularly questioned for their opinion via 'Parent Questionnaires', with a link to this being held on the school website.

We run a successful School Council. Representatives are voted through class elections. Each student has the right to stand for School Council and is elected following preparation and delivery of an election speech and then a vote. Each School Council Representative is identifiable through their picture on the Council Board and the badge they are presented with. Minutes are taken at each School Council by the 'Secretary to the Council'. These are published for all students. A request box is displayed alongside the 'decision book'. All members of the school community are able to see democracy working and how their voice has been heard.

### ***The Rule of British Law***

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The importance of rules and laws whether National, Local, School or Class rules govern us to ensure the safety and equal right of all school citizens. They are reinforced throughout the school day. Our School Behaviour Policy is linked to a Positive Code of Conduct that all students agree to when joining Alsop and is a permanent feature in their Progress Planner, where they renew their agreement on an annual basis. Young people are given chances to improve their behaviour where necessary, with verbal warnings being given, before more formal warnings are issued; this gives them the opportunity to modify and amend their behaviour, under reflective guidance. As a result our exclusion rate is maintained below the national average, with students being aware positive modifications of behaviour can lead to eventual success.

When rules are broken, all students are given time to reflect upon how to amend their actions. Forgiveness and a fresh start are at the heart of our behaviour policy when students show they are ready to move on and act as a valued citizen of the school.

All students are rewarded when they choose to follow rules and a reward system runs consistently across the school. We encourage friendship and teamwork, working towards a common aim as a community. We endeavour to praise all students for their work, their behaviour, attitude and manners. This is carried out both informally or formally within Collective Worship.

We work closely with Merseyside Police and have an on-site Police Officer who works at the school, one day a week, promoting liaisons with the constabulary and breaking down any barriers which may arise from wider society.

### ***The Rights for Individual Liberty***

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All students are treated as individuals and are given the tools and resources to thrive according to their needs. Students are given the opportunity to make decisions within safe boundaries. They are able to take risks, but once again with assessed boundaries in place. Students are taught how to be safe outside school, such as stranger dangers and road safety. They are also taught how to be safe on-line, being able to access information and exercise freedom of individual liberty – but in a safe way.

Our school population holds an eclectic mix of flourishing individuals and we have harnessed a large but tight knit pastoral system, which ensures the needs and requirements of each individual student is met; working as a close unit to promote and encourage the individuality of each and every student. Our pastoral system includes:

- Form tutors
- Heads of Year
- Assistant Heads of Year
- SLT responsible for Year
- Pastoral Support Mentors
- Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator
- Drugs Coordinator
- Attendance Officers
- Home/School Liaison Officer
- Education Welfare Officer
- School Nurse
- School Counsellor
- Community Police Officer
- Race and Gender Officer

### ***To Gather and Gain Mutual Respect***

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All students at Alsop are taught to respect themselves and to show respect for others. This includes wearing their uniform with pride and being proud to take a full and active part within School. Students are taught to be safe and know their thoughts and feelings to ensure they are not exploited. Children are taught to show respect for the different lifestyle choice of others and to be TOLERANT of others, with our school ethos being focussed on our 'Respect Agenda', which is displayed in Student Progress Planners and in each classroom.

Alsop High School is a learning community and these values can be widened to the community of Liverpool, England and Britain – teaching children life skills.

### ***To Exhibit and Profess Tolerance***

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Students must understand however different we are as members of society, we all have rights. Tolerance derives from the value of respect. Tolerance is achieved by enhancing the students' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them the opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community, which is largely White British.

We use global events to support learning, such as the Olympics, World Cup, and World Book Day to broaden the horizons of our children and teach them tolerance. Taking part in Children in Need and Comic Relief also impacts positively developing a sense of tolerance. Our school community and the demographics of the local area are constantly changing and we ensure our school curriculum mirrors this change, allowing for all of our students to not view tolerance as a separate entity to be exhibited in times of need, but as an inherent aspect of their individual personality, which they are able to display and affect without thought or knowledge.

We strive to instil these inherent aspects of British values within our wide and organic academic curriculum. Please find below some examples of how these are inherent in the day to day learning of our students:

- Our English curriculum celebrates the works of classic British novelists, authors, playwrights and poets ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, to modern day contemporary texts; including Shakespeare, Dickens, Attwood, Byron, Tennyson, Wordsworth, Owen, Duffy, Heaney, Armitage, Priestly, Orwell, Rowling, Muchamore. This allows for a diverse range of British Values to be explored including themes of 'Capitalism v's Socialism', 'The Analysis of Communism', 'Love and Relationships', 'Clashes and Collisions', 'The Impact of War', 'Actions and the Implications on Wider Society' and 'Family Values'.
- Within Technology we visit universities throughout England to promote the courses they run which link to Technology and its associated subjects. Our lessons focus on cooperation, assistance and the support of others to attain the most desirable product. We discuss Britain's past as a major manufacturing industry and have renamed our rooms, to include British designers where applicable e.g. Jonathan Ives (apple) and James Dyson (hoovers).

Within the schemes of work for the new National Curriculum, we explore other cultures and link how the acceptance of their food and manufacturing styles can be incorporated to enable perfection and success. We regularly take students to top restaurants in Liverpool City Centre, to allow them to experience a 'fine dining' experience and host afternoon tea parties for our Year 9 students, to allow them to mirror and practise rules of etiquette and decorum.

- The Learning Resource Centre holds termly cultural exhibitions to help students understand the different cultural ways and beliefs of other countries. This has included the importance of the British Isles and Great Britain with the British Empire Display, covering England and India, World War 1; a World War 2 Workshop, reading War Horse; the support and encouragement to involve students in reading and improving their literacy skills; the careful selection of reading materials which will develop their knowledge of social aspects, promoting moral citizenship; the production of a magazine informing students of news and views, providing an opportunity to express their own thoughts and opinions.
- Our PE curriculum promotes the concept of "fair play", following and developing rules, celebrating and rewarding success, accepting defeat and participating in activities which promote cooperation with others and inclusion for all. We ensure students have access to a wide range of sports, which allows them the experience of finding an activity to which they are best suited. Balanced emphasis is placed on the role of the individual sportsperson and the essential nature of team work to develop and master success.
- Within Modern Foreign Languages we strive to incorporate a variety of stimulating topics allowing our students the scope to evaluate modern society both in the United Kingdom and Spain, focussing on multiculturalism and celebrating difference. Our topics include; Spanish holidays, festivals and customs and the celebration of difference; Helping the environment; Issues facing young people and guidance on making positive choices with regards to drugs, homelessness and bullying; The changing scope of the modern family and tolerance in different family units; health, diet and fitness, including recommendations for a healthy lifestyle; Immigration and the issues facing those less fortunate and the freedom of speech and expression in a democratic society, incorporating types of oppression experienced under a dictatorship.