



Newport Girls' High School

**British Values Statement**

Newport Girls' High School is committed to serving its community and preparing students for life in modern Britain. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Newport Girls' High School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.

The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values. Our teachers ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in our school. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy which clarifies how schools can demonstrate how they meet the requirements of the 2002 Education Act and latest guidance on the teaching of SMSC (November 2014) and OFSTED (January 2015)

### **The five British Values are:**

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Newport Girls' High School uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. **The examples that follow show some of the many ways NGHS seeks to embed British values:**

### **Democracy**

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at NGHS, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community such as the elections for Form Captains and Deputies and other positions of responsibility within the school, for example, as Student Council or Health & Well-being representatives. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in form time, PSHE, citizenship lessons and assemblies, such as that marking Holocaust Memorial Day in January each year and the Remembrance Assembly every November. In the sixth form, students can learn of the atrocities committed when democracy is removed, for example through the Lessons from Auschwitz Project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. As a school, we have now also been involved in the Remembering Srebrenica Project and our work across the school and beyond has been recognized through achieving the Community Impact Award presented by the Minister of Faith, Lord Bourne in November 2018, at a ceremony in the newly opened Bosnia House, Birmingham.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Newport Girls' High School. Student Voice is regularly consulted through a number of pupil forums including the Student Council. Students are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by the student code of conduct and student expectations. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from drama production groups reinforce this message, as well as discussions and debates held in Form time, often facilitated by Picture News topics about British Values such as considering the consequences of breaking the laws and how people should be treated equally by the law.

## **Individual liberty**

At Newport Girls' High School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Individual pathways are provided to ensure students' needs are met, for example when deciding upon GCSE/A-level options from a free choice.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety and Form Time work, including discussions about human and animal rights and our responsibilities towards those less fortunate than ourselves. NGHS also has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour and Expectations Policy.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is a strong part of NGHS and is part of its Mission Statement, Aims & Values. Students learn that their behavior has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment with Newport Girls' High School's aim being:

- i) To provide a community in which pupils learn to recognise their responsibilities in the local, national, international and global environments and
- ii) To provide a community in which pupils develop personal values which enable participation in a caring society.

## **Tolerance of those who are different, of different faiths and beliefs**

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Everyone is unique and we celebrate individuality as well as community. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, including partnerships with students from other continents and cultures such as Sangam, with whom the Humanities Faculty have worked closely to produce meaningful learning activities for students. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year, including 'themed stalls' at the school annual fete celebrating multiculturalism. The Religious Studies curriculum, which is compulsory for all students in KS3 and 4, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures and visits are organised to local churches, synagogues and mosques.

## **Curriculum themes and topics**

Our curriculum prepares children for life in British Society; this includes developing the understanding of politics, debating skills, collaboration, teamwork and discussion, higher level research skills and gives girls the confidence to develop and voice their ideas, opinions and concepts. Curriculum themes include historical and geographical study in the context of the United Kingdom as well as national and international comparisons. Topic examples: World War I and II, The Great Fire of London, Racism and Prejudice, gender issues, sexuality and so on. Humanities subjects and PSHE follow themes that emphasise British values and the GCSE History course includes a 1000 year study of the history that shaped much of what Britain is like today, exploring how the identity of the people of Britain has been created by their interactions with the wider world. In PSHE, many issues are explored, such as bullying, harassment, isolation and relationships – all in a supportive environment. Through lesson planning, the principles of SMSC are inter-woven into the learning of our students and the way they interact in lesson activities.

## **Daily acts of collective worship/ whole school assembly**

Our assemblies uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. Local religious leaders are invited to take assemblies and student participation is encouraged. All reinforce these traditional values. Students are reminded of the specific British values at least annually in an assembly as well as in form time through articles in Picture News and current affairs.

### **Physical Education**

Promotion of the concept of “fair play”, following and developing rules, celebrating and rewarding success, accepting defeat and participating in activities that promote cooperation with others and inclusion for all form an integral part of the PE curriculum.

### **Involvement in key local and national events**

Each year Armistice Day is remembered and students are encouraged to reflect on this. Last year culminated in a World War I day where the whole school commemorated and remembered those who made sacrifices for us. We also mark an annual holocaust day. All students get involved in charity events and activities, raising funds for those in need, particularly through the School’s House system. Nationally, charities the school has supported have included The Dementia Society, Sport Relief and Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Each year there are also special collections at harvest and Christmas time for the local food bank and for Operation Christmas Child as well as Christmas Smile. At election time the school holds its own elections with campaigns and internal voting, encouraging a further understanding of the workings of democracy and deepening student understanding of local issues affecting young people through close networking with the Young Peoples’ Forum.

**In conclusion, Newport Girls’ High School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of British values upon which to build a successful life and make a meaningful contribution to our Society.**

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