

Newport Girls' High School

British Values Statement 2026 / 2027

Promoting Fundamental British Values

Newport Girls' High School is committed to serving its community and preparing students for life in modern Britain. It recognises the multicultural, multi-faith and diverse nature of the United Kingdom and the importance of ensuring that all members of the school community feel safe, valued, respected and included. The school recognises its responsibility to protect students from discrimination, intimidation, bullying and radicalisation, while promoting an environment in which different views and beliefs can be expressed and discussed respectfully.

The school is committed to equality of opportunity and ensuring that no individual or group is discriminated against on the grounds of protected characteristics, including age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or other personal circumstances. Newport Girls' High School is dedicated to preparing students for adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and actively promoting the fundamental British values as an integral part of students' personal development. This includes challenging discrimination, prejudice and behaviours that undermine the rights and freedoms of others, while encouraging informed discussion, critical thinking and respectful disagreement.

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. Staff therefore have an important role in modelling and promoting these values through their teaching and interactions with students.

The government defines the fundamental British values as:
Democracy
The rule of law
Individual liberty
Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Newport Girls' High School uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to develop students' understanding of these values and their importance in modern British society. The examples below demonstrate how the school seeks to embed them in everyday school life.

Democracy
Democracy is consistently reinforced at NGHS, with democratic processes used for important decisions within the school community. These include elections for Form Captains and Deputies and other positions of responsibility, such as Student Council and Wellbeing representatives. Students are encouraged to express their views, participate in decision-making and understand how their voices can influence change.

Democracy is explored through History and Religion and World Views, as well as form time, PSHE lessons and assemblies, including those marking Holocaust Memorial Day and Remembrance. Sixth Form students can explore the consequences of the removal of democracy through initiatives such as the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. They also have opportunities to engage with democratic processes through activities such as voting in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament on issues identified by young people.

The school has also participated in the Remembering Srebrenica Project. Its work has been recognised through the Community Impact Award, presented by Lord Bourne in November 2018, and Quality Mark Beacon School Status for its Holocaust Education Programme in 2019.

The rule of law
The importance of laws, whether they govern the classroom, the school or the country, is consistently reinforced at Newport Girls' High School. Students are taught the school's rules

and expectations through the Student Code of Conduct, Home-School Agreement and student expectations. They explore why laws are necessary to protect individuals and society, the responsibilities they create and the consequences of breaking them.

Student voice is regularly consulted through forums, including the Student Council, helping students understand the relationship between rules, rights and responsibilities. Drama productions, form-time discussions and debates, often supported by Picture News, provide further opportunities to explore justice, equality before the law and the importance of treating others fairly.

Individual liberty

At Newport Girls' High School, students are encouraged to make independent and informed choices within a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff provide appropriate guidance and boundaries to help students understand their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms, and how to exercise these safely.

Students are encouraged to develop independence and take responsibility for their decisions, including through the freedom to choose individual GCSE and A-level pathways. They explore personal freedoms, human rights and responsibilities through the curriculum and form-time activities, including discussions about online safety, e-safety and our responsibilities towards others.

NGHS promotes a strong anti-bullying culture and has comprehensive Behaviour, Expectations and Rewards policies to ensure that individual liberty is respected alongside the rights and freedoms of others.

Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Respect is central to the ethos of Newport Girls' High School and is reflected in its Mission Statement, Aims and Values. Students learn that their behaviour affects both their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat one another with dignity and respect, recognising and valuing individual differences.

The school promotes an environment in which students can express their views, explore different perspectives and engage in respectful discussion and debate. Discrimination, prejudice, bullying and intolerance are challenged, while students are encouraged to understand and respect people from different backgrounds, cultures, faiths and beliefs.

This is achieved by helping students understand their place in a culturally diverse society and providing opportunities to experience and celebrate that diversity. International visitors and partnerships with students from other cultures, including Sangam, provide meaningful learning opportunities. Students are encouraged to share their faiths, beliefs and experiences, and celebrate different cultural and religious festivals, including through themed stalls at the annual school fete and the popular Culture Day each summer term.

The Religion and World Views curriculum, which is compulsory for students in Key Stages 3 and 4, provides a broad and balanced education about a range of religions, beliefs and cultures.

Curriculum themes and topics

Our curriculum prepares students for life in British society by developing their understanding of politics, democratic participation, debate, collaboration, teamwork and independent research. Students are encouraged to develop confidence in expressing their ideas and opinions, while listening to and considering alternative perspectives.

Curriculum themes include historical and geographical study in the context of the United Kingdom, alongside national and international comparisons. Topics include the World Wars, women's suffrage, racism and prejudice, gender and sexuality. Humanities subjects and PSHE

explore themes that reinforce fundamental British values. GCSE History includes a thematic study of the history that has shaped modern Britain, exploring how British identity has developed through interactions with the wider world.

PSHE provides opportunities to explore issues including bullying, harassment, isolation and relationships in a supportive environment. Through lesson planning and classroom activities, the principles of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) are embedded across the curriculum and in the way students interact with one another.

Whole-school assemblies

Our assemblies promote empathy, respect, tolerance and an understanding of different perspectives, with student participation actively encouraged. Students are provided with regular opportunities to reflect on moral, social and cultural issues and their responsibilities as members of society. Fundamental British values are explored through assemblies and form time, including discussions of current affairs and articles from Picture News.

Physical education

The promotion of fair play, respect for rules, cooperation and inclusion forms an integral part of the PE curriculum. Students learn to celebrate success, accept defeat graciously, work collaboratively and respect others, recognising the importance of fairness and participation.

Involvement in key local and national events

Each year, Armistice Day is commemorated, providing opportunities for students to reflect on the significance of remembrance and key events in British history. The school also marks Holocaust Memorial Day and has previously celebrated significant national milestones, including the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2018, the school celebrated its Centenary, involving the local community and working closely with the local History Society. Students explored how Britain had changed over the preceding century through research, workshops and curriculum activities.

Students are encouraged to contribute positively to society through charity events and activities, particularly through the House system. Charities supported have included the Dementia Society, Sport Relief and Birmingham Children's Hospital. Annual Harvest and Christmas collections support local food banks and charities, including Operation Christmas Child and Christmas Smile.

At election time, the school holds its own elections, with campaigns and internal voting, developing students' understanding of democratic processes. Close links with the Young People's Forum also provide opportunities to explore local issues affecting young people and consider how they can contribute to their communities.

Conclusion

Newport Girls' High School is committed to ensuring that students develop a clear understanding of fundamental British values and the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become responsible, respectful and active citizens. Through its curriculum, wider school life and relationships with the local and wider community, the school seeks to ensure that students leave with the confidence to exercise their rights and responsibilities, respect the rights and beliefs of others, participate positively in society and make a meaningful contribution to modern Britain.

Updated: Mr O Pointon (September 2026)