

Promoting and Embedding British values at Westhaven School

We agree with the Department for Education's five part definition of British Values.

In Westhaven school the values and moral purpose are more than concepts, they are visible and tangible realities and evident in every day school life. At Westhaven the students encounter these principles through every day life and in our curriculum as well as special events or assemblies.

Democracy

Pupil voice is a significant aspect of daily life. We pride ourselves in being a listening school and teach the values of democracy through real life democratic processes in school.

Our student council meet weekly and are elected twice a year by class peers. They are truly involved in making Westhaven a better place to learn and a community better suited to their own desires and wishes.

Every student is also part of a pupil voice group. These groups meet weekly and consist of 3-5 students led by one adult. These groups focus on different aspects of school life throughout the year and feedback to the headteacher and leadership team.

Our evaluation and monitoring process for all subjects takes into account the students views and wishes which inform the subjects' action plans.

As well as these regular systems in place which build a full and true experience of democracy at work in the school we also link to wider examples of democracy. During general elections we hold in school versions where a group of upper school students will present each party's policies to the school who then vote on their chosen party. Democracy is also embedded in PSHE and RE lessons.

The Rule of Law

Our students will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want Westhaven students to understand that rules are set for good reason and must be adhered to, whether these be within class, school, neighbourhood or country. The understanding and importance of rules is consistently reinforced through daily life at Westhaven. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of the class contracts helps them to understand the reasons behind rules and the consequences if they are broken. Throughout the year we welcome guests from the wider community, including police, fire brigade, air ambulance and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of following rules and laws for our pupils.

Individual Liberty

The staff team at Westhaven invest a great deal into ensuring the positive culture in our school and helping students to make good choices in their daily life in their future. We treat all our students as individuals and work hard to recognise and understand their individual needs as well as the collective need. We encourage students to be themselves and value their individual personalities and achievements through merits, 'I am proud' certificates, VIP badges and individual reward systems. We offer a range of clubs at lunchtime and after school which the students have the freedom to choose from based on their interests. Through our E-Safety and PSHE curriculum we educate students on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them to know how to use these safely.

We believe that valuing choice and independence in everyday school life will foster a value for individual liberty as our students progress to the next stage of their learning journey.

Mutual respect

Westhaven is a listening school and we listen to the needs of all our students. Mutual respect is the core of this. It is evident when walking around the school and when visiting classrooms. Staff at Westhaven care greatly for the students and show them respect and understanding in every aspect of school life, likewise students are expected to show the same respect to each other and to staff. Students have a mixed and wide variety of needs and levels and therefore learn to overlook these differences within their class and in their friendship groups. Students learn that their behaviours and attitudes have an impact on others and learn to work in groups with each other in a positive and respectful manner.

The school also demonstrates the respect it holds for its students by holding pupil voice groups and school council, the ideas and discussions generated in these are taken seriously and followed through; most recently the request for a uniform change from school council has resulted in new blazers and shirts for student uniform.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

At Westhaven we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through the curriculum and the routines of our daily school life we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help our students become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who are prepared for a future as part of the British community. Different faiths and cultures are studied as part of our RE program and we regularly invite people of different faiths in to our assemblies and hold cultural days throughout the year. These teach the students the values of other cultures and religions and through these they learn to respect them.

British Traditions and Heritage

We celebrate the role of Britain both historically and in the present. We want pupils to have knowledge and be proud of their British heritage and the cultural and historical traditions that we are renowned for the world over. This is taught predominantly through our humanities lessons. As well as this we want our pupils to have a wider understanding of Britain. Many of our students lack the comprehension to see outside their direct environment. Our tutor groups are named after British cities which each year the students research and develop an understanding of. As well as this our house system celebrates three National Trust houses which are within visiting reach for our students and visits to these ensure that this heritage is valued.