

## British Values

St Laurence is committed to British Values, commonly expressed as follows:

**Democracy:** governments elected by the equal votes of citizens, so citizens can influence decisions about how a country is run.

**Rule of law:** every citizen is subject to the laws of the land, which can't just be ignored when convenient.

**Individual freedom:** the freedom for every citizen to choose and hold any faith and belief is protected in law.

**Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith:** an acceptance that other citizens having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and should not be the cause of prejudice or discrimination.

We see these values as growing from the Christian values which we hold as a school and which are explained in the accompanying document (School Values). We acknowledge and celebrate that such values are shared by many nations and faiths across the world. There are specific modules on British Values in the tutorial and the Sixth Form core programme. Furthermore, British values are explored and expressed in a variety of ways throughout our curriculum, for example:

**Democracy:** we have increasingly strong channels for giving students a voice in the way the school is run, for example:

- School Council and House Councils
- Sports Council
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We ran a mock election during the national general election campaign in 2015. This included a "Question Time" debate featuring all the local parliamentary candidates and hustings for sixth formers who were "running" for each of the main parties. Interest and turnout amongst all year groups was high. The School and House Councils run all charity events and the whole school end of term assemblies. We have a Model United Nations club as part of our St Laurence Extra after school programme.

**Rule of Law:** acceptance of moral responsibility for our actions is the underlying ethos throughout the school. School rules and expectations are simple and clear. We have listened to the views of students and parents, for example about uniform, the sixth form dress code and the timings of the school day, and have modified our rules accordingly. The importance of following instructions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of self and others is emphasised in all areas, including PE and Sport, Science, Design Technology, Outdoor Education and Trips and Visits.

**Individual freedom:** the importance of freedom of conscience is taught throughout our curriculum, particularly in PSHE, RE and Humanities. Students respond passionately and have taken the lead in organising clubs such as Amnesty and the Feminist Society.

**Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith:** this is foundational to the RE programme which is followed by all students throughout key stages 3 and 4. It is regularly reinforced in our Collective Worship and tutorial programmes, as well as in curricular projects such as Black Voices Day and in a variety of school trips.

