



# **BRITISH VALUES POLICY**

**2024-2025**

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- **This document has been approved for operation for - Islamiyah Girls High School**
  - **Last Reviewed – September 2024**
  - **Next review – July 2025**
  - **Review Period – 1 Year**
  - **Owner – Islamiyah Girls High School**
  - **Approved By – Governing Body**
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# **British Values Policy**

## **1. Legal framework**

- This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:

- Ofsted, School Inspection Handbook, 2015.
- DfE, Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils, 2013.
- This policy is carried out in conjunction with our following other policies:
  - Behaviour Policy
  - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

## **2. Background**

At Sapience Girls Academy we value the diversity of backgrounds of all students, families and wider the school community.

The Department for Education states that there is a need:

*“To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”.*

The Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

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

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

## **3. Roles and responsibilities**

- Sapience Girls Academy understands the importance of promoting British values through a comprehensive and unprejudiced curriculum.
- The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.
- Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.

- Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's ethos and Behaviour Policy.

#### **4. The key British Values at Sapience Girls Academy**

At Sapience Girls Academy, we actively promote British values in the following ways:

##### **a. Democracy**

- Election of School Council, Prefects and Mentors.
- Pupil voice is addressed through pupil focus groups, questionnaires and suggestion boxes.
- Agenda of student council meetings set by students after class consultation.
- Informal voting on issues within form times and lessons.
- Students opinions are shared in the most appropriate and meaningful way as possible.
- There is explicit consideration of democracy within PSHCE lessons.
- The principles of democracy are explored in the whole curriculum e.g. turn taking, sharing and collaboration, as well as during assemblies and special projects.
- School Council is very well established and this year we are working on:
  - Adding to the students' newsletter, written by and for students
  - Developing the ongoing anti-bullying peer mentor programme
  - Choosing which projects student fundraising money is spent within the school
  - Improving the school courtyard for pupil, staff and visitors e.g. outdoor seating
  - Taking an active part in presenting student opinions in relation to uniform
- Achievements are celebrated both in lessons and in our termly Rewards Assembly and rewards are embedded into our school culture and ethos.
- We promote a school environment where questions are valued and encouraged.

##### **b. The rule of law**

- The school's ethos promotes and encourages respect and helps pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- The Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies set out a zero-tolerance baseline for any form of aggression, abuse or violence, which extends to pupils, staff and parent and carers. We raise awareness of bullying by being part of the National Anti-Bullying Week and teach about Internet Safety.
- We have constant reminders in the form of displays and weekly messages of a zero tolerance to bullying and any form of abuse to pupils, staff and parents/carers.

- The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies.
- Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions.
- Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond.
- We help all pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.
- Through PSHCE lessons students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.
- Regular visits and assemblies from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.
- Workshops around safeguarding and keeping safe are organised, with various visitors from the community completing activities around the laws that keep everyone safe.

### **c. Individual liberty**

- We pride ourselves on a school culture and ethos that builds respect, tolerance and resilience.
- Both in and out of lessons students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
- Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHCE lessons.
- Workshops around awareness of hate crime and correct recording and reporting of incidents.
- We have a robust anti-bullying culture (refer to Anti-Bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy)
- Our school environment is one that promotes independence and individual communication. Our aim is to work towards pupils having full independence.
- We all work to promote students' self-esteem and positive sense of self throughout the school day and in the wider community
- Students are involved in 'I Am Awesome' coaching and mentoring programme to promote and build resilience, confidence, self-awareness, goal setting and life skills.
- From the Year 7 through to Year 11 students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and are supported to learn to make safe choices that enable them to grow as individuals and reach their own potential in all aspects of their learning
- As students move up through the school they are supported to understand their rights and personal freedoms and are given appropriate advice to enable them to make independent decisions.

- Vulnerable students are supported to make appropriate decisions and staff ensure that adults supporting them are doing so with the students' best interests.
- Students are given targeted 1-1 coaching and mentoring from a qualified coach to build self-esteem and support to become more active members within their classes, overcome personal limitations and set attainable goals for themselves and become active members of the school. Staff and those involved in their care are updated to support students where necessary and relevant.
- Students are involved in choosing workshops according to their choices during enrichment weeks, in doing so they are exposed to new experiences developing their awareness of their selves and the world around them.
- We support others by participating in charitable events such as, MacMillan Coffee Mornings and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and to be independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.
- We conduct annual student and parent surveys and use the results to inform the coming year's school development plan.

#### **d. Mutual respect**

- Respect is one of the core values of our school. Our students know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone, adults and children.
- School assemblies address what respect means and how it is shown. Weekly key messages and form time reinforce this message consistently.
- Displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our Behaviour Policy.
- Both in and out of the classroom students are helped to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other opinions, cultures and ways of life.
- Staff and students are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. All such incidents are recorded.
- Through Enrichment Week we have focused on different cultures and countries, culminating in a celebration afternoon.

#### **e. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- Discussions about prejudices and prejudice-based bullying in form time.
- Recognition and discussion of religious celebrations in lessons, form times and assemblies.
- Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning during Enrichment Weeks, whereby we have members from different religious backgrounds coming to showcase their religious views around important topics. This is followed by a Q&A session where the students are able to get all their questions answered about different faiths and practices.
- Through the PSHCE and RE curriculums students are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity,

disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.

- Links and visits are promoted with local faith communities and places of worship e.g. During Enrichment Week all students visit local mosques, synagogue, temple and a local church.
- Although some of our pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil our accepted practice links to the Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

## **5. Staff training**

- At Sapience Girls Academy staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British values during their induction.
- If deemed necessary, staff will be offered the opportunity for further training on upholding the British Values Policy.

We aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of different faiths and cultures both within our school and the wider world. We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all. We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to appearance, SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment) No-one is discriminated against contrary to the Equality Act 2010.