

Upton Court Grammar School - Promoting British Values Statement

Upton Court Grammar School is committed to serving its community. 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. Upton Court Grammar 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.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

The 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 we seek to embed British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Upton Grammar School, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for Head Boy and Girl and Prefects positions, Form and Sport Captains, voting for School Heroes (students and staff) and Mock Elections. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History, Thinking Skills (KS 4), PSHE, Religious Studies and Politics curriculum as well as in form time and whole-school assemblies which are led by staff, students and many external groups.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Upton Court Grammar School.

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. These are discussed and reinforced in assemblies, tutor time, PSHE, Thinking Skills lessons and by all staff.

Individual liberty

At Upton Court Grammar School, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Upton Court Grammar School educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

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, Well-being Days, Thinking skills, Scholars Club where a variety of visitors discuss issues with students and through the support of external agencies.

Upton Court Grammar has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Mutual Respect

Respect is a strong part of Upton Court Grammar School and is part of its Ethos & Values. Students learn that their behaviours 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 through the school council where decisions are discussed openly and with respect.

Radicalisation and Extremism

UCGS believe and actively supports the view that all students should be protected from radicalisation and extremism. Our approach to this, is in line with Governments's CONTEST strategy and PREVENT (stopping people becoming terrorists or support terrorism).

Radicalisation is the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism, and in some, cases participate in terrorists groups. Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to the fundamental British Values in the points above.

Our 100% commitment to safeguarding student welfare means we are vigilant in monitoring vulnerability to radicalisation including:

- Family tensions
- Sense of isolation
- Migration
- Distance from cultural heritage
- Experience of racism or discrimination
- Feeling of failure

Three members of staff have been trained as Prevent Facilitators to train staff and lead on these issues. Any concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer, who will make a referral using the 'Channel' referral form.

Cross-curricular

We deliver a cross curricular approach to the delivery of SMSC, including British Values.

- Current affairs – School Mock Election, local MP lecture
- Year 10 and 12 students have been working on Why Do I?, looking at the embedded codes that make individuals behave in a particular way towards others, relating work to anti-apartheid and looking at what values we could take to places like the Balkans
- A talk led by a charity 'Since 9/11' that highlights the impact that terrorism has had on people.
- Diversity Day for trainee teachers
- Religious Education – exploring beliefs and values of faiths including multi-cultural celebrations.
- Year 7 students have completed a walking tour of Christian churches in Slough which has allowed them to see Christian values in action.
- In subject where we map how other subjects deliver knowledge and understanding of key concepts that develop SMSC and link to British Values.

Tolerance of those 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. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, studying a variety of texts from different authors and visits abroad. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. The Religious Studies curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of KS4, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of different views and beliefs, promoting tolerance, understanding and respect, as well as the joy and richness of experience that comes from living in a multi-cultural society.

Upton Court Grammar School strives endlessly to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society, through positive expression of the values of democracy, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect.