



## Promoting British values

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.

ARK Helenswood Academy uses strategies within the National Curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for pupils. The examples that follow show some of the many ways ARK Helenswood Academy seeks to embed British values.

### Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Helenswood, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for School Council members. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in Form Time, assemblies and through the use of external speakers such as local parliamentary candidates.

### The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Helenswood. Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of the school which are highlighted by our High Expectations policy. Pupils 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 issues and responsibilities are explored through PSHCE lessons, assemblies and through visits from authorities such as the Police.

### Individual Liberty

At ARK Helenswood, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at Helenswood educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils 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, PSHCE and Form Time work. These liberties are further explored through assemblies.

### Mutual Respect

Respect is a strong part of the ethos of Helenswood and is one of the four key values. Pupils learn that their behaviour 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 pupils to express their views in a safe environment as well as through the provision of cross curricular opportunities by celebrating events such as Black History Month.

### Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through equipping pupils 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. Pupils benefit from a number of international visitors, including those from other continents and cultures. Additionally, pupils are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. In R.S., pupils look at faiths from around the world and explore the similarities and differences between their faith and that of our own. Pupils gain an appreciation of the faith differences and are able to develop a mutual respect for the differences in culture.

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