

## British Values at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

**Democracy:** Student Voice is strong at Sandymoor and we feel that by valuing and responding to students, we demonstrate their democracy and freedom, especially in electing our StuVo student council.

Working alongside First Give, students play a role in supporting charities and help choose which of them receive the money. In Personal Development and Citizenship lessons, they also learn about democratic and electoral processes that govern our lives in the UK - including whether our current electoral system is fair.

**The Rule of Law:** Our students will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want students to understand that whether these laws govern the class, academy or community, they are set for a reason. That's why we help students to learn to manage their behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions.

In Personal Development lessons, students are taught about how laws are made, why they are important and the consequences of breaking laws.

We have also benefitted from guest speakers from a range of agencies, including Cheshire Police and the Armed Services. Throughout their time at Sandymoor, students will be involved in workshops on county lines and gangs through our partnerships with the [Cells Project](#) and [Round Midnight](#).

In Religious Education lessons, students learn about religious laws but understand that British law comes before religious law in the UK.

From September 2024, students will also have the opportunity to take part in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition (years 7-9) and the Bar National Mock Trial Competition (years 10-11). This involves young people from all over Britain battling out mock criminal trials in real magistrates and crown courts, gaining an insight into the workings of the legal system.

**Individual liberty** is active in our school; our students make independent choices knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms - this includes their freedom of choice when participating in clubs. They receive support and advice through the curriculum as well as stand-alone events such as workshops run by outside provider.

**Mutual respect:** our school is made up of students from varying cultures and backgrounds, of students with faith and students with none. Whatever student and staff background, mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviour has an effect

on their own rights and those of others and that everyone should be treated respectfully. All students follow a Religious Education curriculum that engages students with the beliefs, teachings and ways of life across world religions and other belief systems, such as Humanism. This allows students to reflect upon and form their own beliefs, values, and attitudes as they make sense. We are also a Stonewall School Champion and promote a safe and inclusive learning environment.

**Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:** Through assemblies, Religious Education, Personal Development and Citizenship lessons as well as form time, we deal with issues such as prejudice, discrimination, racism, sexism and bullying.

We have planned visits throughout the year to different places of worship and other sacred spaces, including the Al Rahma Mosque in Liverpool, Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Warrington, Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool and the Wat Phra Singh Buddhist temple in Runcorn. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all students' experiences and awareness of others.

Every year in the run-up to Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27, Year 9 students also have the incredible opportunity to meet Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan – a focus for the need for tolerance and compassion. Joanna was two when she was liberated from the Theresienstadt camp in what is now the Czech Republic.