

Promoting British Values at The Castle School

The Castle School Partnership, with its vision/mission of 'Achieve, Belong, Participate' clearly sees itself sitting within the local and wider community, promoting the values which will allow young people to become fully participating members of society.

The Castle School has a long tradition of encouraging students to feel a part of the school, to belong. Through the House system is based entirely on nurturing mutual respect and support for one another; students are nurtured, encouraged and engaged in healthy competition. Siblings always belong to the same House, which creates a family identity.

British Values, as stated by the DfE in November 2014 are:

- Respect for and understanding of the democratic process
- Respect for and understanding of the rule of law and right and wrong
- Respect for and understanding of individual liberty
- Mutual Respect for others regardless of race, faith or other difference
- Respect for and tolerance of other faiths and cultures

Respect for and understanding of the democratic process is strongly and actively encouraged .

- Posts of responsibility are elected and all are accepted, regardless of differences.
- Students elect House Captains and other positions of responsibility within each House
- Students in Years 7 – 10 elect Senior Students in a process consisting of applications, selection interviews, hustings and balloting
- Students engage in PSHCE activities relating to Citizenship and participation in the democratic process
- The History curriculum examines Magna Carta and other key milestones in the development of democracy
- The RE curriculum focuses on rights and responsibilities eg Human Rights
- 'thought for the day' includes topical issues such as elections, participation
- Student voice is represented through Year and House Councils, feeding into a School Council

Respect for and understanding of the rule of law and right and wrong

- The Behaviour for Learning policy is based on respect and clear moral guidelines and students have been involved in developing this and designing a code of conduct to accompany it
- Assemblies regularly focus on moral decisions
- The RE curriculum looks at moral questions throughout the years
- Good relationships exist with our local Police force, who often contribute to PSHEC
- Our PCSO often works with our students with Restorative Justice

Respect for and understanding of individual liberty

- The RE curriculum regularly examines human rights in the context of the law, religious belief and freedom of expression

- In other areas of the curriculum, there is a strong emphasis on the rights of individuals and freedom of speech and expression along with the responsibilities that go with this, in English for example, in Philosophy, Sociology, and the Arts.
- Students are listened to, and they have opportunities through councils to question policies

Mutual respect

- Students are encouraged to participate in school enrichment activities and develop their gifts and talents. In Sports, for which the school has an outstanding reputation, there is an expectation of respect for all competitors and participants, mutual support and appreciation and healthy competition.
- Assemblies regularly celebrate the achievement of all students and every student is represented somewhere in the school. Appreciation of staff and students is a feature of the school.
- By the time students leave in Y11, there is a strongly supportive and mutually respectful attitude. This is part of the education of our young people and part of our pastoral curriculum.

Respect for and tolerance of other faiths and cultures

- The Castle School is accepting and welcoming of students and families who profess and faith and those who do not, and of those families from diverse cultures and traditions. This brings diversity to our community and helps in the education of our young people towards an accepting and tolerant society.
- All students are fully accepted into the life of the school, regardless of any difference such as ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith
- The school takes its duties under the Equalities Act seriously
- Discrimination and intolerance are not accepted: for example the use of racist or homophobic language merits an external exclusion
- The RE curriculum is multi-faith based and promotes respect and tolerance – places of worship are visited, topics such as asylum seeking and immigration challenge racism
- Our international link with Nkana High in Zambia is well established and exchanges happen regularly