

## British Values Statement

Furness Academy provides an inclusive; student centred community that offers our young people a high quality education and aims to develop confident, well informed citizens who understand their responsibilities to serving the community and who are able to lead highly successful lives in modern Britain.

It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has ensuring that groups or individuals within the Academy 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. Furness Academy is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it actively promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These were reinforced in Sept 2014.in response to a series of events. These new regulations will sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of school.

Schools will be expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with students is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

The Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence

We need to:

- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the Academy and to society more widely.
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010

**At Furness Academy** students will encounter these principles throughout everyday Academy life. In particular, our promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and student leadership activities.

Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our Academy community:

### **Democracy**

Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard, through the Academy council and the student elected representatives, in making the Academy a better place to learn. Student questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and our prefect teams with the active participation of our students will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

### **The Rule of Law**

Our students will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our students to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the Academy, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. Through the curriculum, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year, we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our students.

### **Individual Liberty**

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our Academy, so that our students are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. We educate and provide boundaries for our students to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education. We support our students in exercising these rights safely, for example, through our E Safety and PD lessons.

In lessons, we encourage students to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of

clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities which students have the freedom to access based on their interests. At the Academy, we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily Academy life will foster a value for individual liberty as the students embark upon their adult lives.

### **Mutual respect**

Mutual respect is at the core of our Academy life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the Academy and in the classrooms. Our Academy values are Respect, Responsibility and Relationships and this is evident when walking around the Academy and in the classrooms. Our ethos promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our Academy rules and our behaviour for learning and anti-bullying policy.

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

At the Academy, we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. Through assemblies, PD, RE and the wider curriculum we discuss prejudice and prejudice based bullying. At the Academy we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily Academy life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views. Our aim is to help students to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.

### **Information about PREVENT**

All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

To satisfy our Prevent duty we have put in place the following across our school:

- Promotion of British Values
- Staff training which has included an online courses as well as frequent discussions in staff briefings
- IT policies in place to prevent access to inappropriate material in school
- A broad and balanced curriculum that creates opportunities for debating issues connected to extremism
- A risk assessment which outlines perceived risks and how we guard against them
- Partnership with Cumbria Local Children Safeguarding Board to ensure our procedures are consistent with child protection policies

### **What to do if you have a concern if you are a student.**

If you are worried that you or one of your friends is at risk of being radicalised (radicalisation means people having increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals), you need to speak to your teachers immediately.

This could be other students having conversations with groups or individuals connected to extremism or looking at extremist materials on the internet. It could also be students having conversations around school that make you feel worried that they could be being drawn into dangerous situations or that their ideas are shifting away from what is normal.

### **What to do if you have a concern if you are a member of staff, a parent or a member of the public**

If a member of staff in a school has a concern about a particular student, they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures.

You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.