



Promoting Democratic Values at Lister Community School

What are 'Democratic values'?

According to Ofsted, 'fundamental Democratic values' are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Democracy

Lister students develop an understanding of how, as citizens, they can influence decision making through the democratic process. They have the opportunity to have their voice heard through our School Council, pupil questionnaires and as part of the collaborative planning cycle. The elections of School Council representatives are based solely on pupil votes. Our school behaviour policy involves House rewards which the pupils vote on as a tutor group. At Lister we teach democracy in the wider world by ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate in mock local or national elections and referendums, students are exposed to the debates and discussions within our political system and the value of their vote in deciding the future political direction of Britain. At Lister we encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their own behaviour through a positive behaviour approach which is very much based on choice.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, our school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws: that they govern and protect us and are essential for wellbeing and safety, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Governors, Police; Local MPs; help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and

supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through our collaborative planning approach, choice of challenge, recording their learning, participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

Our school ethos and behavior policy is underpinned by core values such as 'respect', and pupils are part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters/displays around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Tolerance is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience and celebrate such diversity. Assemblies, tutor time activities and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school and during assemblies.

Radicalisation and Extremism

At Lister we believe and actively support the view that all students should be protected from radicalisation and extremism. Our approach to this is in line with the Government's CONTEST strategy (the counter terrorist strategy) and PREVENT (stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism).

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

Our 100% commitment to safeguarding student welfare means all our staff are vigilant to monitoring vulnerability to radicalisation.

Any concerns must be reported via the usual process for reporting safeguarding concerns about a child via

the 'My Concern' portal on the staff website. Ms Morgan is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Specified Point of Contact for any concerns regarding PREVENT.

Further examples of actions taken at Lister to promote Democratic Values:

- 1) An **enriching curriculum** which helps pupils understand and respect a range of faiths and beliefs, the democratic process, how laws work in the UK and Human Rights;
- 2) **Thought for the Week** – weekly tutor time activities dedicated to promoting fundamental British values, themes such as Human Rights, anti-bullying and democracy;
- 3) **The Student Council** ensures that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to. It demonstrates how democracy works by actively promoting the democratic processes as school council members are voted for by the pupils;
- 4) **Mock elections** provide pupils with the opportunity to learn about the democratic process, how law works in the UK and how to argue and defend points of view;
- 5) Whole school events such as **Black History Month, LGBT History Month** and Tutor Democracy Competitions celebrate and promote the diverse nature of our community
- 6) **Character Award** – promotes character development through active citizenship and gives pupils the liberty to make choices which directly impact their learning, understanding and personal development
- 7) **Extra-curricular** activities aimed at promoting fundamental Democratic values:
 - FEMSOC
 - Magistrate Mock Trials
 - Model UN
 - Duke of Edinburgh
 - Philosophy club
 - Regional Debating competitions

Through the various opportunities above pupils at Lister have clear knowledge and experience of fundamental Democratic values. At Lister these values are reinforced daily through both the curriculum and the wider school ethos.