

# British values statement



James Calvert Spence College is committed to serving its community. We recognise the multicultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. We follow 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. James Calvert Spence College is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to all its students. We believe effective SMSC development within our school is paramount to the success of our students, by providing them with a knowledge of the wider world and highlighting the opportunities which are available if they achieve a sound educational base. It is vital that our SMSC provision provides our students with the resources and impetus to develop their skills and helps to form a positive attitude towards learning, which will equip them not only in their current education, but also in their post-school life.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five key British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

James Calvert Spence College uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways the college seeks to instil British Values.

## Democracy

The principle of democracy is constantly enforced throughout James Calvert Spence College, with students made aware that they are able to make decisions about what happens within their school. In particular we have a Student Voice team who meet on a regular basis and whose purpose is to increase the influence of students in their own education by ensuring that their views are included when the school is making key decisions. We want our students to feel that they are part of the school community and that we appreciate their points of view. Student Voice is a tool through which we can allow students to have a say in improving their own education now and to participate in developing new ideas for the future. The principle of democracy is also explored in Humanities, in particular English, History and Religious Studies as well as in tutor time and through themed assemblies. Our PHSE model has dedicated drop down days that also promote the principles of democracy.

## The rule of law

The importance of the rule of law, how laws are made and how rules and laws are put in place to ensure the safety of any society, is consistently reinforced throughout the school, through our Behaviour policy and through themed assemblies. Students are reminded of the importance of obeying laws and of the consequences if these laws are broken. The importance of rights and

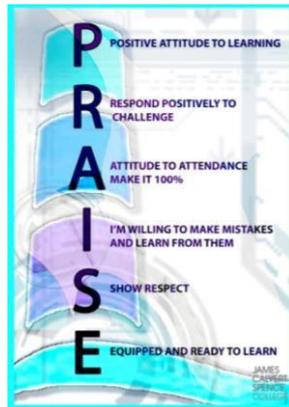
responsibilities is paramount to our school ethos and this forms a central part of our teaching practice in every lesson. We also have strong links with Northumbria Police, who come into school on a regular basis to talk about the importance of law and order, which is documented as part of our PHSE programme.

### Individual liberty

Within James Calvert Spence College we are committed to providing a calm, caring and well-ordered environment where everyone feels safe, happy and understands what is expected of them ensuring that students feel comfortable when expressing themselves. We promote a culture of praise and encouragement and expect consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour, which provides boundaries for students to make their own choices. Students are actively encouraged to know and exercise their rights, particularly in relation to their interaction with other students and with the wider community and are aware of the importance of making appropriate choices, with regard to such things as e-safety and their own physical and emotional well-being.

### Mutual respect

We believe that positive relationships based on mutual respect, promote positive attitudes to learning and that as students learn by example. All adults within school should act as positive role models with regard to their own behaviour. Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is reflected in our Behaviour policy which is reiterated through our school and displayed in every room through our PRAISE posters.



### Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

All students experience a structured approach to SMSC through our Pastoral and PHSE programme where global themes and cultures are explored. Citizenship and British Values are part of our Pastoral programme and this includes students learning about different faiths and cultures, something which is also delivered through Religious Education. Our school assemblies programme also closely follows cultural events, ensuring that students are kept up to date with relevant social, cultural and spiritual events.