

British Values Statement for GSA Website

George Salter Academy prides itself on being “One World in One School”. Driven by our ethos of “love, respect and care”, we are proud of our place at the centre of the ethnically diverse town of West Bromwich. We recognise and embrace the multi-cultural, multi-faith nature of our town and nation.

At George’s we believe that we have a vital role in ensuring that our young people are safeguarded against the threat of radicalisation.

Our Admissions and Equal Opportunities Policies seek to ensure that everyone in our Academy gains the education they are entitled to, guaranteeing that there is no discrimination against any one individual or group of people, whatever their background.

The Government has mandated all UK schools to promote and teach “British Values”. These Values are set out in the Government’s “Prevent Strategy” and are the belief in:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We strongly believe that we have always openly advocated and promoted these values. Our teaching of the National Curriculum enables us to promote these British Values. Below are some examples of where we do so.

Curriculum themes and topics

Our curriculum prepares our students for life in Britain. For example, in PSHE they fulfil all the requirements of the Citizenship programme of study; they complete a Finance level 1 qualification, they do modules on the importance of relationships, and through our teaching strategies they develop the key skills for sensitive group discussions. In English, they study poetry from different cultures. In History, our students learn about key moments in British history, such as the two World Wars of the Twentieth Century. Our tutor programme promotes mutual respect as we tackle any safeguarding or behavioural issues that are causing concern as well as championing individual liberty through our weekly discussion of topical issues in Votesforschools.

Whole school assembly

Our students are placed in Houses upon entry into Year 7. From this pastoral base, and alongside inter-house competition, they develop an understanding of the benefits of a positive identity, tolerance of others, and also the value of democracy through the School Council and other Student Voice initiatives.

PSHE

Our PSHE curriculum is a vital part of our promotion and teaching of mutual respect to all year groups. This ranges from extensive anti-bullying work, including educating our students on e-safety, to how mutual respect is a compulsory requirement of any career choice made by our students.

RE

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is at the heart of all topics in the RE curriculum. We endeavour to celebrate the diversity in British values that reflects the heritage of all students at the Academy. Students are encouraged to develop their own opinions, formed through a thorough understanding of all the issues, whilst understanding and respecting the views of others.

History

In History we teach about the development of democracy and rule of law through topics such as the Magna Carta, as well as the increasing power of Parliament via the Reformation, the English civil War and the glorious Revolution. We also cover the expansion of the franchise in the 1800s and 1900s including chartists, Reform Acts and the attainment of female suffrage.

We also cover mutual respect and tolerance of different beliefs through covering where there hasn't been tolerance and respect, such as in differences in the reformation that lead to religious persecution and its long-lasting impact. We teach about the Holocaust and how important it is to respect all. We also have a dedicated module in Year 7 on the History of migration to Britain to enshrine our belief that we are 'One world in One School' and that this is not an aberration in history but rather a long-standing trend. We cover this module to show that pupils of different backgrounds all belong and should be respected.

Geography

In Geography we teach about Britain's role in the 21st century world looking at its relationships with other countries, the changing status of organisations such as the Commonwealth and the European Union and the changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also look at the importance of Birmingham within the UK. We teach mutual respect through the study of the way of life of different groups of people in different countries.

PE

In Physical Education we teach the importance of adhering to the rules of competition for mutual benefit of all participants and fairness. We teach the unwritten rules and etiquette within each sport which promotes mutual respect and fair play.

Student leadership

Members of our year group Council are voted for by their peers in order to support the rules of our Academy through our rights and responsibility charter, as well as having the freedom of expressing their voice in a respectful environment. Students in older year's interview for the positions with the principal to further develop their resilience. Year councils are a democratic and productive forum that enables our students to feel themselves to be valued members of our Academy community. Students have a plethora of opportunities throughout their time at the Academy, ranging from year group specific projects and whole school initiatives. There are also representatives from each Key Stage for the OAT National Leadership council who are working with the other OAT schools across the country on various community projects.

Involvement in key local and National events

Our strong links with local community organisations ensure our students are able to be involved in local and national events. Our Performing Arts and Sports students regularly perform at events and represent themselves, our Academy, West Bromwich with some individuals representing at national level. Our annual Community Summer Fayre is an excellent example of our students and staff working alongside community organisations to celebrate the best of Greets Green and West Bromwich.