



# Promoting British Values as part of SMSC at Blackfen School

Head Teacher: Mr M Brown

Chair of Governors: Mr S Fitz-Gerald

|               | Date               | Name               | Signature |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Policy Date   | January 2022       |                    |           |
| Review Date   | January 2023       |                    |           |
| Review Period | Annually           |                    |           |
| Lead Person   | Head Teacher       | Matthew Brown      |           |
| Prepared by   | Head Teacher       | Matthew Brown      |           |
| Verified by   | Chair of Governors | Stuart Fitz-Gerald |           |
| Approved by   | Chair of Governors | Stuart Fitz-Gerald |           |

***Discussed and approved by Governors – January 2022***

***To be put on website to replace the present document***

***To be reviewed by the Governors curriculum committee – January 2023***

# Blackfen School for Girls

## Statement of intent

Blackfen School for Girls is a vibrant multicultural community of learners. We nurture our pupils on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible, and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We actively promote pupils' SMSC development through our curriculum and enrichment opportunities and the fundamental British Values are an integral part of this. We achieve this through a strong school ethos underpinned by effective relationships throughout the school, the assembly and community time programme, the Blackfen school curriculum and the provision of relevant activities beyond the classroom.

## School vision

We believe:

- That our school is a happy and successful one because we offer a unique learning experience of ongoing challenge in a caring environment.  
In hard work, resilience, and a determination to succeed, learning from the lessons of failure to become successful.
- In raising the aspirations of everyone in our community of inspiring a belief that anything is possible amongst our students, staff, governors, and parents.  
In developing our students into confident, responsible citizens ready to play an active role in the wider community.
- Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with Blackfen school's duty to provide SMSC.
- The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

## What do students at Blackfen school do?

- regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance; and
- understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in United Kingdom are subject to its law.

## What does Blackfen school do?

- ensures the ethos and teaching, which all parents are aware of, supports the rule of English civil and criminal law and the school does not teach anything that undermines it; and
- makes students aware of the difference between the law of the land and religious law.

## What are the fundamental British values which are promoted by Blackfen school?

The Department for Education defines British Values as:

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty and mutual respect.
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths.

## How are fundamental British values actively promoted at Blackfen school?

### A. Democracy

Pupils are encouraged to respect democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England. Pupils

# Blackfen School for Girls

are encouraged to debate topics of interest, express their views, and make a meaningful contribution to the running of the school on matters that directly involve them.

## **This is achieved through:**

- Community Time – PSHE unit on the lead up to the election.
- Specific curriculum areas – History, Law, PPE, RS, Citizenship and Government and Politics.
- The English curriculum – speaking and listening skill development
- KS5 tutor programme.
- The election of the 6th form student leadership team annually.
- The assembly programme including themes such as voting, human rights and pressure groups.
- Contact with MPs and visits from MPs as part of KS3 and KS4 PPE and for specific events e.g., Citizenship Fair.
- The development of public speaking skills e.g., Speak up – speak out Jack Petchey challenge for year 10 students and year 8; Ted Talks – year 7; Students leading assemblies; Book group; Literacy leaders.
- Active involvement in the selection processes of new staff.
- Careers Forum (annual event).

## **B. The rule of law**

Pupils gain an appreciation of the precious civil liberties that protect their rights and freedoms. They learn that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

## **This is achieved through:**

- Challenge Days which focus on rights and responsibilities.
- Specific curriculum areas – The PPE curriculum, RS/Citizenship GCSE, and Law Level 3, AS and A2 courses.
- The School Behaviour Charter statement of intent and the use of sanctions.
- The assembly programme including themes such as Martin Luther King, UN Human Rights Charter, Sexting.
- Use of mediation/restorative justice to sort out any friendship issues.
- Work with local police force.
- The School Behaviour Charter and the rules for learning.
- KS5 L2 visits to Courts and police station

## **C. Individual liberty and mutual respect**

Respect is one of the core values of our school. Our pupils are helped to know and understand that it is expected that respect is shown to everyone. Pupils are actively encouraged, and given the freedom to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment e.g. by signing up for adventurous activities, residentials and extra-curricular sessions. They are supported to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence. We actively challenge any individual expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views. Vulnerable pupils are protected, and stereotypes challenged.

# Blackfen School for Girls

## **This is achieved by:**

- The assembly programme e.g. Holocaust memorial day, Black History month, international language day.
- Specific curriculum areas - RS curriculum linked to the local agreed SACRE guidance, PPE and Citizenship.
- KS5 PSHE – Hate on the doorstep – racism – Panorama and related activities. Hate on the Doorstep - in tutor time year 12 students. They watch the Panorama documentary and then have discussion tasks. Run by tutors.
- International Week and evening celebration (annual event).
- Links to our partner school in India.
- The Community Time programme e.g., Unit on Stephen Lawrence.
- Intensive pastoral support reinforces the importance of making the right choices.
- A strong anti-bullying culture is embedded in the school and any form of bullying is challenged and addressed. The school also operates a robust system of logging incidents.
- Staff acting as role models and robustly challenging all forms of discrimination and prejudice.
- Equal opportunities policy.
- Noticeboards about different forms of discrimination.
- Conduct card which includes sanctions against anyone who does not show an understanding of this.
- Appreciation of other cultures through residential visits e.g. New York, Berlin, Poland, Spain, Brussels, Barcelona, Madrid, Rome, Naples, Iceland, India).
- Anti-bullying policy and the anti-bullying week (November every year).

## **D. Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths**

Pupils are taught the value of learning about different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none). They gain an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination and are taught that failure to accept and tolerate difference can lead to prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils are equipped with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by providing opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community.

## **This is achieved through:**

- The assembly programme.
- Curriculum in RS, PPE and Citizenship.
- International day and evening celebration (annual event).
- Links to our partner school in India.
- Staff acting as role models and robustly challenging all forms of discrimination and prejudice.
- Equal opportunities policy.
- Noticeboards about different forms of discrimination.
- Conduct card – clear statement and sanction.
- The Blackfen School Behaviour Charter.
- International evening (annual event).
- RS curriculum – KS3 and Holocaust Challenge Day.
- Education visits and guest speakers e.g. Holocaust educational trust visit/project.