



Promoting British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need *"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. At Alma these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

➤ **Democracy**

All the pupils and staff contributed to the drawing up of the school's rules.

All pupils, parents and staff are provided with an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the school.

Pupils are provided with many occasions for their voices to be heard. Each week selected pupils are invited to 'Special Lunch', here they are provided with the opportunity to discuss the 'question of the week'.

The pupils' understanding of the democratic process and the right to vote is developed through the annual election of a Head Boy and Girl.

➤ **The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the 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, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. As part of the Year 6 curriculum, all the pupils visit The Houses of Parliament and take part in debating exercises.

➤ **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms through E-Safety and Circle Time/Philosophy lessons. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices through their choice of learning challenge, of how they record their learning and participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

At Alma, pupils from Years 4-6 have the opportunity to apply for the position of 'School Buddy' once a term. Pupils apply via completing an application and are then interviewed by a panel consisting of school adults.

➤ **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Pupils learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are encouraged to treat each other with respect. The concept of mutual respect is reinforced through our provision for pupils and parents. Family Learning, ESOL classes and coffee afternoons provide a forum for all our parents to share their views and opinions.

➤ **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Alma is situated in an area which is greatly culturally diverse; therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the pupils. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures; our RE teaching reinforces this. Pupils and adults of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. As part of the Religious Education curriculum, the pupils at Alma visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

At Alma we actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.