



RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL

Promoting British Values

At Rickmansworth School we recognise and value our position in the local community. We recognise that the community develops and changes along with the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand we have a vital role in ensuring that the School community fosters tolerance and respect and that groups or individuals within the School are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation.

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. Rickmansworth School is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The Government set out its definition of British values in the Prevent Strategy.

The five British Values are:

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

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Rickmansworth School, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the School community, for instance, elections being held for Head Boy and Girl and Prefects' positions, Form and Sport Captains and Student Council members. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Studies curriculum as well as in form time, Life Long Learning lessons and assemblies.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the School, or the country, are consistently reinforced.

Students are taught the rules and expectations of the School which are highlighted by the student code of conduct and student expectations. Students are taught the value and the reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. For example, through a focus on recent legal changes such as the legalisation of gay marriage.

Individual liberty

At Rickmansworth School students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety, form time work and Life Long learning.

Rickmansworth School has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Mutual Respect

Respect for oneself and others is an important value of Rickmansworth School. Students learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the School community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment. For example through lessons on peer and self-respect, the importance of respect for and tolerance of others who may have different lifestyles, such as those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and examining whether British society enables all groups of people to be truly equal and whether this is the case in other countries.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the School community. Students benefit from a number of international visits to Europe and further afield. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the School and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year. The Religious Studies curriculum, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Rickmansworth School's contribution to students' SMSC and curriculum knowledge about global issues was recognised by Ofsted in 2013.

"The school's provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is wide ranging and an area of strength. Students show an awareness of the diversity of cultures in modern Britain, and visits to places of worship, such as a Hindu temple, are arranged. The School is the hub for an impressive sports partnership of over 40 schools and this is very well received by those involved."

Rickmansworth School strives to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.