



## **Policy on the Promotion of British Values**

## **Mission Statement**

***'To educate young people to meet the challenges of life courageously, to use their talents to the full and to live the values of Christ's Gospel'***

This policy applies to all students and staff of Thornton College including EYFS.

At Thornton College we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically and pastorally but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond school in accordance with our mission statement.

The Department for Education has stipulated that schools in England must actively promote British values through the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities. We recognise our obligation under Section 78 of the Education Act (2002) to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school. Also, the School actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At Thornton College these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community.

The examples that follow are an indication of some of the many ways we seek to embed British values at Thornton College and should be seen as an indication of our approach rather than an exhaustive list. The underlying principles behind the promotion of these values are a reflection of the Christian ethos, which the School seeks to promote. All staff would have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

### **Democracy**

At Thornton College the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community and beyond, for instance the nomination and election of students to Boarding and School Councils, form captains, the prefect system and the House system. The principle of democracy is explored in assemblies, RE, History and in PSHEE.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days and through school assemblies. As a part of our induction process, all parents and students when they join the school are made aware of our behaviour, anti-bullying and safeguarding policies. Students sign the Code of Conduct and are taught the value and reasons behind rules, their own responsibilities around the rules and the consequences of their actions when these rules are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. The rule of law is explored further through the RE and PSHEE programmes; students gain an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be

held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence. Students also learn that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.

### **Individual Liberty**

At Thornton College, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an education which encourages young people to think and to question. 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 PSHEE lessons.

Students are given the freedom to make choices particularly through participation in extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is modelled by students and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others, and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as in extra-curricular activities such as sport, music, debating and drama. The students engage in many charity fundraisers and the RE programme encourages an awareness of other communities, cultures and beliefs.

Students at Thornton College are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. The school develops mutual respect throughout the curriculum and our code of conduct promotes the values of respect and responsibility. The Boarding and School Councils also provide the students with an arena where they can bring up and discuss any issues.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

As teachers we work with Christ to build the kingdom therefore, we must live by the values of that kingdom. In all our relationships whether with colleagues, students or parents we aim to act in love and service; our dealings with one another are honest and just. We are ready to listen, to give support and to recognise achievement. Thornton College provides a learning environment where all members of the community feel a sense of belonging, where people are welcomed regardless of race, culture, or denomination and where there is a willingness for reconciliation and a readiness to forgive.

We aim to equip students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community and by ensuring through example and the behaviour policy that all are treated with respect. Assemblies and discussions supported by learning in RE, Geography, History and PSHEE allow the students to

appreciate many different faiths and practices. We also run numerous trips at home and abroad which enable our students to gain valuable experience of other religions, cultures, and languages.