



**British Values Policy**  
**2023- 2025**

**DOCUMENT HISTORY**

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<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Summer 2023</b>
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	
<b>Review</b>	
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	
<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>Summer 2025</b>

***“Develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process”***

Democracy is at the heart of Sir Charles Parsons aims and ethos;

*“Maximising opportunities; enriching lives” (Sir Charles Parsons Vision)*

Staff encourage students to know that their views count, to value each other's views and to talk about their feelings. This voice can be through using words, signing, objects, photographs, symbols, eye pointing, body language and assistive technology such as eye gaze.

Student Facilitators - The election of School Facilitators members reflects the British electoral system. Students consider the necessary characteristics for an effective Student Facilitator member and vote using a secret ballot. The Student Facilitators meet regularly to bring suggestions to the table from their peers and make decisions about ways to improve the school for the benefit of all. Examples of positive changes made are – designing and choosing equipment for our outdoor play areas, being involved in the implementation of healthier choices at lunchtimes, planning anti-bullying week activities and charity events.

## **RULE OF LAW**

***“Develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individuals and is essential for their wellbeing and safety”***

Staff ensure that students understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequences. Students learn to distinguish right from wrong through discussions and the modelling of positive behaviour and by the implementation of the Sir Charles Parsons “Behaviours for Learning”. These encourage students to be ‘caring’ and ‘think of others’, ‘communicate’, ‘keep going’, ‘finding out’, ‘be brave’ and ‘work together’ as well as other behaviours. Students who are observed putting these rules into practice are rewarded by the twos reward system used at School, a system in which students can transfer the credits they achieve for good learning into money. Weekly certificates presented for the achievements of twos is also an important motivator for students to follow the School rules as well as the ‘Behaviours for Learning’.

Students 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. These values are reinforced in different ways:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service
- Religious Education, during which rules from different faiths are considered
- PSHE, helps students stay healthy, safe and prepared for life – and work – in modern Britain
- Other curriculum subjects, where there is a need for respect and appreciation of different rules – e.g. P.E.

## **INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

***“Develop an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected by law”***

Staff support all students to develop positive self-esteem, self-awareness and self-confidence. Each student is supported to become as independent as possible through our School's Curriculum which promotes creative cross curricular learning, enabling environments and innovative use of technology. We recognise that students have various learning styles and provide opportunities for pupil led learning. We teach students ways they can make choices and give them strategies to communicate.

Through IEP's (Individual Educational Plan targets), students are encouraged to take ownership of ways they can improve their learning and progress, giving them a sense of personal and social responsibility.

The School's 'Buddy' system in the playground provides our students with access to peers who are positive role models to go at playtimes. Trained Buddies are encouraged to approach anyone on their own and ask if they would like to play with or talk to them, ensuring no student is alone if they don't want to be.

Students also make choices around Friday pastoral time and extra-curricular enrichment clubs.

## **MUTUAL TOLERANCE AND RESPECT**

***“Develop an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs (or none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be subject to prejudice or discrimination.”***

Inclusion, mutual tolerance and respect are at the heart of Sir Charles Parsons aims and ethos:

*“Enjoy, learn and achieve” (Sir Charles Parsons Mission)*

We ensure that every day, every one of our students:

Enjoys their day in school;

Learns as much as they can; and,

Achieves as much as they are capable of.

This is simply not a statement, but is a 'core belief' that is referred to, talked about and 'lived' on a daily basis. It should be evident to anybody visiting the school.

We believe that each person is respected and valued equally without regard to faith, heritage, race, ability or gender.

Staff aim to enhance students understanding and respect for different cultures, faiths and beliefs through our curriculum, examples are;

- Creative Arts - by considering cultures from around the world through music, art and dance.
- Knowledge & Understanding of the World - through organising Themed Days where we celebrate and enjoy the differences between other countries and cultures.
- Literacy and ICT – where there are opportunities to explore cultures and traditions using a wide range of fiction, non-fiction texts and the internet.
- PSHE, Health and Wellbeing – where Circle Time and The Thrive Approach are both important tools for promoting mutual tolerance and respect.

- Scientific Learning- in which practical activities require students to engage in teamwork and show mutual respect for each other.

We also encourage involvement in;

- Charity Events where pupils are made aware of the needs of people both in our own and other countries, supporting them through national fund raising events such as Children in Need, Comic Relief and Sports Relief.
- All charities must be UK based registered with a charity commission and regulated authorities
- Themed assemblies with a focus on celebrations and festivals from different faiths which promotes mutual respect for one another's heritage.

## Conclusion

At Sir Charles Parsons School we are dedicated to ensuring our students develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility, preparing them for life in Modern Britain where, in an ever changing society they understand the importance of and are able to uphold the fundamental British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual tolerance and respect for others.