

## **STFCH British Values Statement – September 2022**

At Sir Tom Finney Community High School we provide opportunities for students to explore their own culture and heritage, as well as help them to develop a clear understanding and appreciation for a wide range of the cultural influences that have shaped modern Britain. We feel it is important to recognise the individual backgrounds of the learners who attend our school along with those of staff who work here also.

We encourage students to be tolerant and respectful of those with differing faiths and beliefs. We give opportunities for engagement with the celebrations of religious and cultural events of other faiths. Key festivals and significant events within the British calendar are recognised, such as political elections, Remembrance Day, and charitable fundraising events such as Red Nose Day, and Children in Need.

### **Democracy:**

Democracy has a high profile within the school. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Council and pupil questionnaires. The election of class representatives is based solely on student votes and student voice is always heard as part of monitoring work in school.

### **The Rule of Law:**

STFCH has rules to enable students to function efficiently. Many class groups develop their own class rules to support the behaviour within their own class. We have a clear Behaviour Policy and students learn the difference between right and wrong wherever possible.

Assemblies cover key national and international events, for example the Olympic games, the World Cup, etc including, where applicable, involvement in debates over some challenging situations, recognising that rules and laws vary in different settings and contexts, but with the overarching message to respect different laws.

Visits from outside agencies support the delivery and understanding of keeping safe, safety, radicalisation, FGM and other aspects of safeguarding and include sex and relationship education.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Our learners are given responsibilities in school once they are able to manage independent working. They are encouraged to engage in activities such as taking the register, given jobs within class and celebrating the achievements of self and others in assembly.

School Council votes on a number of key issues concerning the school over the year and some older students are encouraged to support each other in the playground at lunchtime and break times.

Students are encouraged to be as independent as possible and make choices in as many different settings as possible, such as choosing what to make in Food Technology lessons, or how to arrange displays in classrooms. Travel training is supported by staff to ensure safety and promote independence within the community.

Effective communication is given high priority across school, ensuring learners can, wherever possible, express their wishes and feelings effectively with others in a way appropriate to them.

### **Mutual Respect:**

We promote an attitude of equality and fairness through engagement in a wide range of sporting activities, including those closely associated with Britain, such as football teams which represent STFCH in sports competitions across the county.

The PSHE curriculum embodies values of mutual respect and understanding of difference in ability, needs and individual characteristics and temperament.

Drama and role-play are included within our Creative Arts curriculum and both play an important part in supporting understanding of others' perspectives and in the understanding of the world around us.

Due to the nature of our generic special school being an organisation which provides education to students who have many differing and varied needs, we find that our students and staff have an 'innate' ability to support one another by looking to foster an environment of mutual respect naturally.

### **Tolerance of those with differing faiths and beliefs:**

Religious Education is taught across the school with an ethos of tolerance, acceptance and enquiry, which supports regular assemblies, collective worship and class-based activities. Visits to a range of places of worship take place where possible and local faith leaders visit the school to support the learners' understanding of other religions.

The delivery of an integrated curriculum enables us to embed British values alongside an understanding of cultural and religious differences within our school and aspects of SMSC are embedded within each subject area of the national curriculum.

Celebration of key world religious events take place throughout the year, including Diwali, Chinese New Year, as well as Christmas and Easter.