

Promoting British Values at Trinity Academy

The Department for Education recently reinforced the need to ensure that 'British Values' are promoted effectively in schools, to ensure that young people leave prepared for a life in modern Britain.

For schools this means that they must effectively and actively 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.

Ofsted now takes the work of all schools in this area into account during inspections. When publishing the guidance for schools Lord Nash said:

"A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We want every school to promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. This ensures young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain."

Trinity Academy has always worked to ensure our young people leave the academy prepared for success in the future, and understand that we live in a diverse society. As a Christian academy, our core values are at the heart of everything we do from our how we expect students and staff to treat one another to how we manage behaviour. Our values are:

- Empathy
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility

As an academy, we have always supported our students to understand the importance of these values and how they can support their success. Our Christian ethos helps students to explore their own faith, and understand and respect the beliefs of others. These values apply to all of the academy community, regardless of their own personal beliefs, and our community includes those of all faiths and none.

A Curriculum for Life

As an academy, we have strengthened our curriculum offering for young people by pledging to offer a 'Curriculum for Life.' As the name suggests, this underpins our academic offering, ensuring that students develop life and personal skills that ensure that they develop into happy, secure and respectful adults able to use their freedoms and rights responsibly. Some of the initiatives under this have included an election focus week where students developed their own political pledges, anti-bullying campaigns, sex and relationships and staying safe online. The exploring of British Values runs through all aspects of life through our Christian values - further information about this can be found below.



Everyone is fully aware of the values of Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. Pupils say they influence everything and that they are encouraged to live up to the challenge of the way they are explained in the school prayer. The values are used naturally in conversations and used well in tutor time to richly support spiritual, moral, social and cultural development."
- SIAMS Inspection report, July 2014



Being part of Britain

Trinity Academy has a diverse community, welcoming staff and students of all backgrounds, abilities and beliefs. Our teaching of Religious Studies and our Vertical Tutoring activities support our young people to explore and understand key religious festivals and traditions. SIAMS, the body responsible for inspecting provision in church based schools judged our provision as outstanding and said: "Through the development of their study and thinking skills pupils gain a good understanding of Christianity, other faiths and the impact of religions and values on the lives of believers."

Our Collective Worship runs through our Vertical Tutoring activities, giving students regular and meaningful opportunities to explore and understand both Christianity and other faiths. Each day students consider those less fortunate with a daily reflection during the silence that follows the Academy Prayer. This could be anything from a major news event such as thinking about those affected by terrorism, to using this time to think about a member of the academy community.

As an academy, our ethos extends to our fundraising activities and support of both local and international charities. Recently, our efforts have focused upon supporting efforts to raise money for the building of a 6th Form for special needs young people, and for WaterAid, which works to ensure that communities have access to clean drinking water.

Democracy

We want to ensure that our students understand the importance of democracy, and how democracy ensures that they enjoy many freedoms not available in other parts of the world. We bring democracy to life for students including through our Student Council and Head Boy and Head Girl positions, with nominations for these positions coming from fellow students. This group meets regular to discuss academy developments and provide feedback. This is supported by a weekly 'Principal's Breakfast', where selected students speak directly to leadership about academy life and ideas for improvement. We also do a great deal of work around democracy in the outside world - ensuring that students value the power that their vote offers, and how this is a liberty denied to some in other areas of the world.

Parents are also encouraged to communicate with the academy to share views, including through 'Your Say', our parent forum which offers both face-to-face and electronic feedback opportunities, and our regular parent survey.

Rules and the law

Trinity Academy has high aspirations for all students, based on a traditional approach to discipline. All of our students understand what is expected of them, and how these rules are in place to help them succeed. The Trinity Absolutes, displayed in every classroom, remind students of our clear expectations in terms of areas such as uniform, punctuality and being equipped to learn at all times. Students who consistently meet expectations are rewarded with Achievement Points, and we regularly highlight how these values will apply in the workplace where their employer will also have expectations and requirements.

Individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance

Our young people are supported to understand the importance of choice, and how we all have the right to respectfully share our views. Our literacy initiatives encourage debating skills in young people, and students can also opt for a wide range of extra-curricular activities as part of the INVOLVE and Achieve programme. Under this, students are encouraged to stretch themselves and try something new. Our Curriculum for Life encourages students to exercise these freedoms responsibly, for example our focus on online safety and behaviour educates children not only about the potential risks online, but also how their own online behaviour may impact upon others.

"Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding, a fitting testament to the academy's Christian values and core principles. The ethos and values of the academy are evident throughout in the relationships between students and staff. Students take the academy's key principles seriously."
- Ofsted report, July 2013

To find out more about our approach to teaching British Values, please do contact us.

Trinity Academy Halifax, Shay Lane, Halifax, HX2 9TZ