



# Walthamstow School For Girls

*"Neglect not the gift that is in thee"*

## Policy Document

# British Values Statement

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We are all very proud of our school and our community of students, staff, parents, carers and Governors who work together to provide an outstanding learning environment. Every one of our 900 students is valued equally as an individual with different gifts and talents.

Our school motto is “Neglect not the gift that is in thee”.

The school has an exceptional track record of academic excellence and of supporting students in making progress from Year 7 to 11. This is achieved through a combination of high expectations and inspirational teaching and learning experiences which equip the girls with the skills to become confident and independent learners. We offer strong pastoral support and regular monitoring, target setting and dialogue with students and parents/carers. In terms of examination performance, the school is consistently amongst the top performing non-selective schools in the country.

The students take great pride in their school. They recognise the high quality of the education they receive and the rich programme of extra-curricular activities on offer and they enjoy being part of our community. Staff, likewise, recognise that this is a special environment to work in. Our teaching and support staff are of the highest calibre.

We promote values of democracy, respect and harmony for all races, cultures, faiths and beliefs. The school promotes equal opportunities for all and systems are in place that counter racism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination and extremism whenever they occur.

The British Values are:

- Democracy:
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Respect
- Tolerance

(Dfe November 2014)

1. These values are covered through the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) aspects of the curriculum and assemblies to:
  - Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
  - Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of Great Britain.
  - Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
  - Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in Great Britain.
  - To encourage celebration and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.
  - Encourage respect for other people.
  - Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in Great Britain.
  - To embed in our school culture the belief in freedom, and a tolerance of others.
  - Study other faiths and learn empathy, tolerance and understanding of people from different faith backgrounds and for those without faith.
  - Study how citizens work together to improve communities and understand the harms that division and extremism can cause.
2. Students learn about the development of the political system of democratic government in the UK, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch. They are taught about voting and elections, the role of political parties and the freedoms and liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the UK such as free speech, free movement and free assembly and worship.

Students are provided with the opportunity of becoming members of a large variety of student voice initiatives such as the Student Council, form reps, sport reps, ICT reps, charity reps, GREEN Ambassadors, room reps, prayer and contemplation reps, Equal Opportunities steering group, student interview panel and Food Focus Group.

3. At WSFG International we raise the profile of British Values through a variety of international activities. These range from enrichment to curriculum activities and projects. They encourage reflection on and a higher understanding of all values and cultures.
4. In all areas of school life our students are expected to accept personal and social responsibility, respecting and upholding the school rules and the rule of law. At WSFG we encourage our students to show a responsibility to each other and the community in the way they behave in school and on their way to and from school.

The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of our students as a result of promoting fundamental British values

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- 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.
- An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

At WSFG we believe British Values are the shared values of all our communities.