

British Citizenship Statement

Introduction

At Victoria Education Centre we promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole child'.

At Victoria Education Centre, we recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our students.

'British Values' have been identified as:

Democracy:

The ability to communicate is the most important area of learning. At Victoria Education Centre we ensure that students are given a 'voice' to communicate. The method of using this 'voice' could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, symbols, touch cues, eye pointing or body language.

We empower our students by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

Rule of Law:

We involve students in setting codes of behaviour; helping students to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large.

Students are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help some students to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables students to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

Individual Liberty:

Students at Victoria are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each student to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'No' to ideas or activities that they do not want to take part in. Some students will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as, Red Nose Day/Comic Relief, and Children in Need. At Victoria Education Centre we believe that by engendering a caring and helpful environment and by learning to be independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect:

We promote each student's inclusion, where possible, in a range of activities, settings and locations. Our students go into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include: sports events, community events and shared participation with other schools/colleges.

It is important to facilitate opportunities for Victoria Education Centre to be part of the community as the students, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:

Victoria Education Centre serves a multi-faith community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all students' experiences and awareness of others.

Students are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes and they have worked with and taken part in: links with local churches and visits to places of worship – cathedrals, churches, mosques and synagogues; English National Ballet and English Touring Opera; Theatre trips; Sporting events including Paralympics; voting systems in school e.g. school council, membership of committees e.g. Eco-committee; developing international links and global citizenship.

As a school, we take part in local sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'. In the summer, the school has a Fayre for children and families, in the local community, to participate in which transcends ability, ethnicity, faith or gender.

Although students at Victoria Education Centre may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a student our accepted practice links to The Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the students at Victoria Education Centre are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community

To be reviewed as deemed necessary.

Simon Brown, Headteacher.	
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