

British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

The government set out its definition of 'British values' in the 'Prevent Strategy' (2011), which was designed to prevent the extremism and religious radicalisation of young people. British values are considered by the present government to be *democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs*. The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

At De Lisle we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to society. We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important.

The school makes sure that students receive the individual guidance they need to make informed decisions about their future lives. Ofsted 2013

The Rule of Law The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the College, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through acts of worship. The curriculum is designed to ensure students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The school motto 'do what is right, not what is easy' epitomises the very essence of this value and the students spend their first few weeks of year 7 week exploring the motto in their RE lessons. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service are regular parts of our learning programmes and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty Within De Lisle Catholic College students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a College we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. We encourage students to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building community. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in computing and their tutor time activities.

It was also seen in a Year 13 applied science debate as to whether some invasive brain surgery may potentially take away from our human rights. Students have a well developed sense of 'fairness', and an ability to appreciate and weigh both sides of an argument. Ofsted 2013

Mutual Respect The College promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments as well as extra-curricular activities such as sport. In line with our commitment to democracy, students are always able to voice their opinions as we foster an environment where students can debate ideas and are safe to disagree with each other. We encourage students to substantiate opinions and to realise the value of co-operation and consensus as well as decision making through voting. Our emphasis on ethics, fairness and justice means that we ask our students to ensure that they look out for those who might be marginalised and disadvantaged.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to develop positive values, understand their own beliefs and their place in a culturally diverse society. We give our students opportunities to experience such diversity within the College community and within the wider community. All students experience a connection with other cultures and beliefs through our RE and Learning for life lessons. The emphasis on enterprise, working with others, and learning other languages directly contributes to the appreciation of others perspectives on life. Our Religious Studies curriculum follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other religions, cultures and lifestyles.

De Lisle is an outstanding college where its Catholic mission and vision is shared, actively promoted and practised by governors, staff and students. Diocesan Section 48 inspection March 2014

