



## British Values



At South Dartmoor Community College and the Atrium we actively promote positive and inclusive values including democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are humanistic values, and the term British values does not imply that are uniquely British - but they are values benefit all people living in Britain, regardless of their nationality, culture or religious belief.

The schools' ethos reflects these values, with strong emphasis being placed on positive relationships between all students. We promote 'British Values' through our school values, our PSHE Program, our assemblies, our school curriculum and through extra-curricular events held throughout the year.

These values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff who provide a model of behaviour for our students. All staff know that they are role models and ambassadors for South Dartmoor Community College and the Atrium, whilst at school and when out and about in the wider community. This aspect of our work is covered in staff policy documentation and within our induction for new employees.

'British Values' identifies a number of themes:

### **Democracy**

The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced within the curriculum, e.g. the democratic process used for important decisions within the community, such as elections – both local and national. Students have opportunities to learn about democracy in action through the Student Council and the Youth Parliament, as well as the Mock Elections run alongside National General Elections. The principle of democracy is explored in History and Religious Studies as well as in PSHE and assemblies.

### **Rule of Law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour, through school assemblies and in the PSHE programme. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws; that laws are there to govern and protect us, and the consequences when laws are broken.

Students are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions. We encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the South Dartmoor area and in society more widely.

An environment of this type enables students to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place and achievement to be celebrated.

### **Individual Liberty**

Students at South Dartmoor Community College and the Atrium are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each student to become as independent as possible.

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school so that all students are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. We offer a range of enrichment activities from which students have the freedom to choose, based on their interests.

**Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the core of school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and within classrooms.

It is important to facilitate opportunities for the schools to be part of the community as the students, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion. Our school is proud of the fact that we have a parents' association (FOSDA) that are keen to support the school and create a stronger link with the community.

**Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**

Each person at South Dartmoor Community College and the Atrium is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. Our assemblies help all students to find out about themselves and others, linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all students' experiences and awareness of others.

We believe that tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is best gained through knowledge and understanding. This is delivered through our curriculum as well as the routines of daily life as we strive to not only learn about but also demonstrate tolerance, and help students to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.