

Headteacher:
Mr RJM McCowan, BA (Hons)



Founded in 1717

BAINES SCHOOL

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STATEMENT ON THE PROMOTION OF BRITISH VALUES

Background and Rationale

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

- The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain's diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives

- The 2011 Teachers' Standards state, as part of teachers' personal and professional conduct:

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

- These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school's curriculum.

What is meant by "British Values"?

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy
- Respect of the rule of law
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens
- Individual liberty
- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style

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- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity
- Treating others with fairness
- Participation in community life
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes Baines School values and seeks to inculcate in its young people.

How does Baines School go about promoting these values?

At Baines School we believe that our statement of vision and values, found on the school's website, makes explicit our fundamental belief in many of these values. This statement is the foundation of all our work with our students.

British values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- All our students study RE (also known as Philosophy and Ethics) from Year 7 -11. A significant number of students take the subject as a GCSE full course and the majority sit the GCSE half course.
- The RE curriculum contains the following elements which are directly applicable to promoting British values:
 - Belonging and community (Year 7)
 - Where can we find guidance – ethical values (Year 8)
 - What matters most – peace, justice and equality (Year 9)
 - Christian and world religions (Year 10)
 - Religion, peace and justice – shared human experience (Year 11)
- Students participate in one hour lesson per week of Life Skills Education from Years 7-11. These lessons are taught by staff on a carousel basis in order that pupils experience a range of approaches.
- The Life Skills curriculum has a citizenship module in each of Years 7-11 and this contains the following directly relevant elements:
 - Taking Responsibility (Year 7)
 - Respect the faith and culture of others (Year 8)
 - Local Democracy (Year 9)
 - Human rights and responsibilities – Racism and Prejudice (Year 10)
 - Voting and Elections (Year 11)

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- School Assemblies, held once every week led by the Head of House or a senior member of staff, focus on many of these identified elements through their weekly themes.
- The school's system of organising students in Houses encourages involvement of every student in school life and supports them in interacting with their peers across the age and ability range.
- The school has close links with a school in Nepal, has a cultural partnership with a Sri Lankan school and supports a range of national and international charities.

Roddy McCowan
Headteacher