



The Ockendon Academy and Studio School



The Department for Education states that there is a statutory duty to promote British Values.

“To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”

The Ockendon Academy is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly or illegally influence them.

We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, political or financial status. The Ockendon Academy is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring it reinforces British Values to all students.

These values are taught explicitly through:

- Assemblies
- Religious Education (RE)
- Planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

We have achieved the following external accreditation which demonstrates evidence of our commitment to the aforementioned values:

- Ofsted grade of ‘outstanding’ behaviour in February 2013
- Intermediate International Schools Award
- Inclusion Quality Mark
- National Healthy Schools status.

The school takes opportunities to promote our values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We include real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting our values also means challenging students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental values, including ‘extremist’ views.

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy

Democracy is an important value at our school. Students have the opportunity to have their voice heard through our School Council. The elections of members of the School Council are based on student votes. Student, staff and parent views are sought regularly so that these views can be used to develop the Academy using the democratic process.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. Our 'on call' system' for behaviour is aligned to an agreed set of rules and if students are given verbal warnings, these are always set against the agreed Academy Sanctions Ladder. Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police reinforce this message. Restorative justice is practised as a matter of course. Behaviour is outstanding; students are responsible and co-operative. The majority of students respect the rules and the school environment.

Individual Liberty

Within school, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for our students to make choices safely. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching. Students are encouraged to exercise self-discipline and to work independently.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of the core values of our Academy. This can be seen and felt in our pervading ethos in school. The students know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. Relationships between staff and students of all ethnicities are excellent.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing students' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity in our local community. Equality is at the centre of the work of the Academy. There are very few incidents of poor behaviour in school testament to students respecting each other. Racist incidents are very rare. The assembly schedule for each year includes celebrations for each of the major faiths.