

BIC'S Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

The values of Birmingham Independent College are fundamentally British.

Our values statement

The Department for Education have recently reinforced the need, “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools & Colleges 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.”

At Birmingham Independent College (BIC) we endorse fundamental British values through a wide range of educational activities and through day-to-day demonstration of them. British values are promoted through our social, moral, spiritual and cultural, (SMSC) education, which permeates through the colleges' ethos, curriculum, assemblies, student voice, teaching and learning and its commitment to inclusion.

The fundamental British values dovetails with BIC's equal opportunities policy, which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar.

Promoting fundamental 'British values'

BIC uses a range of strategies within the curriculum and beyond to ensure the promotion of SMSC and fundamental British values. All our teachers exploit and develop opportunities for the effective promotion of a student's SMSC education in lessons.

All students have an opportunity to develop and demonstrate through the curriculum the following main British values:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of different beliefs, cultures and faiths

Students will be exposed to:

- Various opportunities to participate in debates and presentations actively encouraging the student voice
- A curriculum that develops pupil understanding of Britain's parliamentary system and other forms of government and governance.
- Weekly debates and discussions around topical news items during assemblies
- Extra-curricular activities that promote democratic processes.
- Opportunities to develop their leadership skills, whilst becoming active citizens.

The Rule of Law

The following safeguards are used within the College to assist in the promotion of British values and laws:

- The College's Behaviour policy, including a clear code of conduct and expectations for all pupils
- The College's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy with an outline of our response to the Prevent Duty
- Pastoral care, guidance and support.
- An anti-bullying culture and a comprehensive Policy
- A system of rewards, recognition and sanctions
- A PSHE and Citizenship curriculum
- Values-based school assemblies
- Restorative approaches to conflict.

Individual Liberty

The following standards and procedures are used to ensure BIC students can exist in a mutually respectful environment:

- BIC's Behaviour Policy and Student Handbook provides students with a clear code of conduct and expectations
- BIC promotes a robust anti-bullying culture with a no tolerance approach
- Participation in a wide variety of College and local community charitable events and opportunities for volunteering
- All students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment
- BIC educates and provides boundaries for students to make

- choices safely, including those relating to e-safety and extremism
- A teaching and learning environment based on mutual respect
 - Our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, including Sex and Relationship Education
 - Students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the year
 - An experience of a wide variety of cultures through curriculum themes
 - Sporting competitions that helps to instill 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'
 - Links with other local, national and international organisations, including other schools and community partners
 - Parent partnership group meetings held throughout the year.

The link below gives more information on how BIC is approaching the promotion of fundamental British values:

DfE guidance on promoting fundamental British values through SMSC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

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