

ETHOS & VALUES

Promotion of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their understanding of the values of East Barnet School, which incorporates the Government's definition of British values.

The school's prospectus and mission statement set out East Barnet School's aims and values:

Our Motto, "*I want to learn*", reflects a belief that motivation is the most important factor for achieving success in education. We also know that interesting and challenging lessons, combined with a culture where educational success is valued and respected by all members of the school community, will ensure that students remain focused on learning. Our success in achieving such a culture is undoubtedly the reason for the high academic standards and popularity of East Barnet School.

Academic success is not our only focus. "Respect yourself, others and your environment" forms the basis of our commitment to help students develop into responsible young people, who can make a positive contribution to society.

We are proud of being a true comprehensive school, where students throughout the ability range are able to achieve success.

We celebrate our diversity and respect the heritage, religion and culture of all our students and staff.

The school seeks to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which Ofsted define as follows:

The spiritual development of students is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

The moral development of students is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

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The social development of students is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with students from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with 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 students develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

The cultural development of students is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

The promotion of the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs permeate the work of the school. As a cultural diverse school, we recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group.

Our curriculum and extra-curricular activities prepare children for life in British Society; this includes developing the skills they need, particularly reading and writing skills; understanding personal finance and career pathways; collaboration and discussion to research ideas and concepts.

At East Barnet School the **principle of democracy** is consistently reinforced through the curriculum and beyond. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student Leadership programme and Student questionnaires. We know that the active participation of our students in the election of representatives will sow the seeds for a greater understanding of democracy in the future.

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Through the work of the school, students understand that the rules and laws that govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. Students are taught the value and **reasons behind rules and laws**; that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that this involves; and the consequences when laws are broken. Through philosophical enquiry in our Citizenship lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, magistrates, local representatives of different faiths, Holocaust survivors and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our students.

We see value in investing in the creation of a positive culture in our school, so that students are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. At East Barnet School we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a **value for individual liberty** as the students embark upon their adult lives. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and balance this against their responsibility as citizens in the wider community.

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with respect. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. In line with our commitment to democracy students are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum and assemblies. The peer mentoring programme promotes mutual respect and support between students across different year groups within the school.

East Barnet School is a culturally diverse school. We strongly believe **that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding**. This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and respect, and help students to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the safeguarding policy, which is, in part informed by the Prevent strategy in equipping staff to identify signs of extremism and radicalisation and to take appropriate action to safeguard students.