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Statement of Values

Manchester YMCA is committed to actively promoting the Core British Values and serving its community. We recognise that this includes challenging opinions or behaviours in our school environment that are contrary to these core values. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role we have 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, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Manchester YMCA is dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal curriculum and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to all pupils.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Manchester YMCA uses strategies within the National curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways Manchester YMCA strives to consistently embed British values.

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at Manchester YMCA, with democracy processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance the work of the Mental Health Champions is co designed and co-produced with young people. The principle of democracy is also explored in the History and Religious Education curriculum as well as in class/form time and assemblies.

The rule of law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is consistently reinforced at Manchester YMCA

Pupils are taught the rules and expectations of Manchester YMCA which are highlighted by the Pupil Code of Conduct, Behaviour Policy and the expectations that are shared with all pupils. All pupils are supported to understand the value and the reason behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Individual liberty

At Manchester YMCA, pupils are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure, and supportive environment. Staff at Manchester YMCA educate and provide boundaries for pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely.

Manchester YMCA has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive range of policies that set out expectations and individual responsibilities in relation to Behaviour, Healthy Relationships, and Informed Choices.

Mutual Respect

Respect is integral aspect of Manchester YMCA and is central to our Mission Statement & Values. Pupils learn that their behaviour influences their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect, and this is demonstrated through our teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for pupils to express their views in a safe environment with Manchester YMCA ethos being one that values all pupils' views and respects the beliefs of all pupils.

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