

## Values Statement

### British Values

We promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the college's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole person'.

We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our students.

The curriculum offers broad and balanced opportunities.

'British Values' have been identified as:

#### Democracy:

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that students are given a 'voice' to communicate. This 'voice' could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, symbols, touch cues, eye pointing or body language.

We empower our students by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

#### Rule of Law:

We involve students in setting codes of behaviour; helping students to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the college community and society at large.

Students are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the college and beyond. We can help some students to

understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables students to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

### Individual Liberty:

Students are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each student to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' to ideas or activities. Some students will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as, Red Nose Day/Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and to be independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

### Mutual Respect:

We promote each student's inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. Within college, students work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted on a personalised basis for each individual. This may include working with students from other colleges, coaches, theatre groups etc. The curriculum is personalised and planned for students and may include transitioning within the range of resources and places on the site and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include: sports events, community events and shared participation with other colleges or schools.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the students, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

### Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:

We are part of a college and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all student's experiences and awareness of others.

Students are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum. For example, students visit many local places as part of all areas of the curriculum. As a college, we take part in sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'.

Although some of our students may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a student our accepted practice links to the Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of students.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the students at The Willow Tree Centre are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.