

British values

Whilst the promotion of British values is inherent in the delivery of PSHE lessons, at Yorston, we believe that the culture and ethos of the school exemplifies and displays these values existentially in our welcoming, tolerant and supportive community.

We subscribe to the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Yorston our pupils witness these principles in action throughout everyday school life. We are proud of the rich spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding that our pupils enjoy.

Democracy

Whilst there is no formal school council, pupil voice is significant and their views are sought regularly about school life. Our friendly and open community means that pupils are free to express their views both in class and with members of staff and the headmistress is available to speak with pupils both formally and informally throughout the school day.

The rule of law

Our structured, organised community means that pupils encounter rules and laws throughout their school life. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons of order and respect and must be observed. The correct balance between privilege and responsibility is emphasised as is the rule of law.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual liberty

We are proud of our positive culture in Yorston; children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. There is no 'typical Yorston student', each pupil is allowed to develop their personalities and to exercise their freedom whilst respecting others. For example, we offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. We educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life, as appropriate, will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Pupils learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident as a central part of our school life and ethos whether it is walking around the school or in the classrooms. The correct balance between individual liberty and mutual respect is exemplified in the way that staff relate to the pupils and the expectation of the way that pupils treat each other. Our welcoming community allows each pupil to be respected for what they are.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

As well as the excellent welcoming community at Yorston, we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. We strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future. If there is an example of any form of discrimination based on intolerance, is addressed and challenged as soon as it is identified.