



Statement of British Values at Dagenham Park Church of England School

At Dagenham Park Church of England School we aim to serve our community by providing the highest quality of education within the context of Christian belief and practice. We aim to encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience we offer to our students. In this way, students are reminded of their place at the heart of a culturally diverse and multi-faith modern Britain. The rights of each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or ethnic background are clearly articulated in our mission statement and is central to Christian values which are at the foundation of all aspects of policy and practice in our school.

Our school fully appreciates the uniqueness of each individual and we are committed to enabling and empowering our young people to grow as individuals and to become responsible citizens in the community and country in which we live.

We are fully committed to the promotion and reinforcement of the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy;
- The rule of law;
- Individual liberty;
- Mutual Respect; and
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

This commitment is evident and explicitly expressed via the formal curriculum and also implicitly via the experiences offered to students beyond the classroom.

Democracy

At Dagenham Park Church of England School adults listen to the views of students and value their opinions. Students have formal opportunities to have their voices heard through the school council, academic reviews, through the work of tutors, mentors, senior leadership and pastoral teams. These meetings and interviews enable the maintenance of the 'family' ethos of the school, and encourage students to share their views with staff as needs arise. School council and form captains are the result of pupil elections and students holding these posts of responsibility canvas the opinions of their peers and represent their views to staff. Staff are also encouraged to share their views and concerns via the performance appraisal and structured system of monitoring and support. There is a strong sense of democratic responsibility across the school and the tutor group, and year group systems make a significant contribution to this by facilitating and encouraging participation between year groups through musical challenges and contributions in assemblies and sporting activities.

The Rule of Law

Dagenham Park Church of England School is a well ordered community whose members are committed to upholding the Behaviour Policy. Our students are well aware of the need for laws and rules to keep individuals safe. They know their responsibilities in maintaining a safe and well-ordered environment both within and



beyond the school community. They have a clear understanding of the rewards and sanctions used in the school. The 'Rule of Law' supports and reinforces the Christian message of 'Love Thy Neighbour' and the Christian values of Fellowship, Service, Compassion, Hope, Creation, Endurance, Commitment, Wisdom and Reverence.

Individual Liberty

Students are actively encouraged to be independent learners and to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. They are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to the best effect. Students are given the freedom to make choices of the extent to which they participate in extra-curricular experiences. In worship, material is presented in such a way that it is open to those receiving to consider how they are helped by it and where they wish to take it. The material is not presented in any dogmatic or doctrinal fashion.

Mutual Respect

At Dagenham Park Church of England School concern for one another define our relationships and our rationale is rooted in our response to our Christian values of trust, compassion and fellowship. Assemblies constantly promote respect and the importance of courtesy and consideration of the needs of others. Students are taught the importance of: self-respect; the importance of honest and open communication with others; and the need for fair play. They are encouraged to work collaboratively and to value others' options. Our 'Core Values' explicitly express the promotion of a culture of mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Our 'Vision Statement' and expression of 'Core Values' is explicit in articulating the need of all members of our school community to strive to be an inclusive school. They articulate the need for all members of our school community to respect the views of other faiths and those from none. In RE, students are taught about other faiths and assemblies are broad enough to help those of other faiths feel included. Staff are not selected on any faith criteria and an open school admission policy does not specify any Church background.

At Dagenham Park Church of England School we are committed to embedding the Christian ethos and aspects of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education within the curriculum. This ethos permeates the school and plays a significant role in giving students an insight into the lives, beliefs, experiences and traditions of others and in teaching pupils to respect and value cultural diversity as well as the richness of 'difference'.

