



**SOUTH MOLTON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
— supporting success —

# British Values & The Prevention of Radicalisation

## BRITISH VALUES

The Department of Education have recently reinforced the need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote 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 Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister since this date. At South Molton Community College these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

### Democracy

At SMCC democracy is taken very seriously. Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly.

- We are very proud that several students during 2014-15 ran for the UK Youth Parliament Devon elections. Of the seven candidates standing in North Devon three came from SMCC. This involved these students speaking at a whole school assembly on issues they wished to pursue and then all students at school voted.
- Every September we have an election for school council when the candidates for class representatives on the school council pitch their election manifesto to the rest of their class. This group then meets with the assistant vice principal. The timings of these meetings have increased from 20 minutes to 40 minutes this year so that ideas can be further developed.
- We run a monthly student council cycle: form meetings, year council meetings and full school council meetings. The school AVP is present at all meetings.

- Monthly canteen committee student meetings are held with the canteen manager present. This has led to a full school survey and changes to the canteen operation from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.
- Students at year 10 can apply to become school prefects. This academic year we received over 80 applications to become a school prefect. Students apply via an application letter addressed to the head of year. Students can then further apply to become senior students (head boy, head girl, deputy head boy and deputy head girl). This process involves an interview followed by a presentation to younger students who vote for their senior students.
- The Principal meets with students at all year groups and holds 'Principals breakfast meets'. Here students can express their views on all aspects of the school and their ideas and thoughts are taken to the senior leadership team and shared with heads of subject and heads of year.
- This year we have developed a 'cooperative student body' that meets with other cooperative schools to develop student voice work. The group have recently spent a day working at Oakhampton and will be holding a full school assembly reporting back on how student voice is operating at other schools.
- This year we have appointed 20 'anti-bullying ambassadors' from year 10 (distinguishable by a special tie). These students help to promote the anti-bullying message and liaise with the AVP on ways to combat issues.
- Students in many year groups are always involved in the interviewing of all teaching staff. Often they provide feedback on lessons or are part of a student panel that interviews candidates.
- This year we are developing the school sanction and reward systems and students have been engaged with contributing to the development of our expectations.
- Year 11 hold a 'fun week' during each academic year and they have ultimate say in which charity they wish to support.
- For 2015 we are re-launching a school style 'PTA' that includes students from both the student voice and student council.
- We run biannual Keele University surveys with students from all year groups and act on feedback received (see SEF).
- We run biannual Keele University surveys with parents from all year groups and act on feedback received (see SEF).
- Students have this year attended the schools cooperative trust meetings.

## **The Rule of Law**

- The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our schools rules, rewards and sanctions are referred to regularly and consistently upheld.
- At SMCC we have received visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message. The fire service has met with all year 10 students to discuss road safety. The Police have also visited to hold e-safety workshops and acceptable usage.
- During this term all year 9 had visits from the local magistrates during religious education lessons. This was to explain how courts maintain independence.
- Prefect teams support staff with the behaviour and expectations of students at breaks and lunchtimes.
- The new rewards and sanctions policy includes 'learning expectations' to be displayed in all classrooms.
- The planned 'democracy day' for 2015-16 will focus on how the police and law system works, human rights and international law.

## **Individual Liberty**

At SMCC students are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety (Police led) and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of subjects studied (year 9 options), participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs (sports, music, drama, chess, Ten Tors, cadets, green committee, Amigos etc), choices for activities week (year 7-9) students are given the freedom to make choices and make decisions.

## **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others and are essential for their wellbeing and safety. All members of the school community treat each other with respect through our cooperative values.

- An example of this is the recently held 'anti-bullying week' (11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015). During the week students focused on all aspects of bullying culminating in a visit and workshop being held by 'Actionworkshop' (winner of the anti-bullying Blueflame award 2015).
- Anti-bullying prefects introduced May 2015.
- Literacy leaders working with year 7 students.
- Health and well-being day a focus during one of the drop-down days for 2015-16.

Students are also encouraged to become involved in charitable work, national and international links such as:

- Uganda trip – involves work with the Amigos charity and other local groups such as the Rotary Club. Students raise £1500 each to work on projects such as connecting water, heating and lighting to Ugandan villages. Students also support trainees at a vocational school (Kira Farm).
- Link to Argentina, Nepal and Ecuador including teacher exchanges and student connections via letter writing and iPad technology.
- During the summer term we are forming links with national urban schools and are currently in discussion with several schools about forming effective links for 2015-16.

### **Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

SMCC is situated in an area which is not culturally diverse (North Devon), therefore we place a great emphasis on promoting diversity with the children. This is one of the main reasons that all students take philosophy and beliefs at both key stage three and four. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. By the time they leave us all students have learnt about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

During the academic year 2015-16 we are planning on running drop down timetable days to allow greater links to be created with more local and national bodies. An example of this would be the democracy day that is already being planned for 2015-16.

An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behavior.

**At SMCC we will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing 'extremist' views.**

## **PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM**

**Radicalisation** is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

**Extremism** is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing Body and cooperative trust at SMCC has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour for all school community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our students protects them from exposure to negative influences.

SMCC is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At SMCC all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

- Word of week 'radicalisation' covered in assembly and form tutor times May 2015.

## **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Students are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of our school. Students learn about all major faiths.

Since January 2015 we have introduced 'Gridmaker' which allows all departments to record SMSC/British values covered in their subject areas. Whilst this is in its infancy it is recognition of our duty to cover the topic areas. A dedicated member of staff also has leadership responsibility for SMSC and British values.

## **BRITISH TRADITIONS**

At SMCC we also believe in upholding British traditions. This year the school has held several events including:

- A remembrance assembly and poppy appeal.
- A special evening Christmas service held at the local church commemorating 100 years since the first world war. This was fantastically supported (many letters received at school) with a collection going to the British Legion.

- We have a cadets corp at the school and are proud to promote and secure its future at the school.
- Sports day.
- Full school assembly each Monday.
- Competitive house competitions.
- School productions e.g. Dracula, cabaret.

## **COOPERATIVE VALUES**

As a cooperative school we instil the following values to our students:

Our Co-operative Values

- **Self-help**  
Encouraging all within the organisation to help each other, by working together to gain mutual benefits. Helping people to help themselves.
- **Self-responsibility**  
To take responsibility for, and answer to, our actions
- **Democracy**  
To give our stakeholders a say in the way we run our school
- **Equality**  
Equal rights and benefits according to their contribution
- **Equity**  
Being fair and unbiased
- **Solidarity**  
Supporting each other and those in other co-operatives.

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May 2015