

# British Values at Heathlands School

In line with recent guidance Heathlands aims to promote and develop British Values in all its pupils so that they can become responsible and contributory citizens. This is fundamental to the SMSC of our school. We share the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values as:

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

At Heathlands pupils will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life.

These principles are reflected in:

The Heathlands Charter

The work of the School Council

Key policies such as behaviour and anti-bullying

The "wow " procedures

Through curriculum opportunities and school assemblies.



# Democracy

- *Lower and Upper School councils with elected representatives debate how to make their school a better place and are given a small budget for development projects*
- *Heath House residents have regular meetings to discuss activities, menu planning, improvements and any concerns which have arisen*
- *Pupil questionnaires and interviews are conducted throughout the year*
- *An understanding of democracy is developed through various curricular topics*
- *Assemblies give an opportunity to discuss and debate issues.*

**Encouraging pupils to voice their views and be involved in decision making is important and will help them develop the skills to participate positively in their communities.**





# The Rule of Law

At Heathlands expectations for conduct in school are set out in

- The Heathlands “wow” procedures
- The Heathlands Charter, drafted by students themselves
- The uniform code
- Agreed “Rights and Responsibilities” in Heath House



Rules and laws are part of life.

**We want our pupils to understand that laws are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. Involvement of pupils in the creation of the school rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken.**

*The importance of rules is consistently reinforced through curriculum and daily practice. Assemblies give an opportunity to discuss and debate issues and the reasons why rules are important for everyone's protection.*

*The school is clear in its message to students about the age of criminal responsibility and the consequences of inappropriate conduct.*

*We welcome visits from members of the wider community, including specialist agencies from the deaf community. Use of clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.*



# Individual Liberty

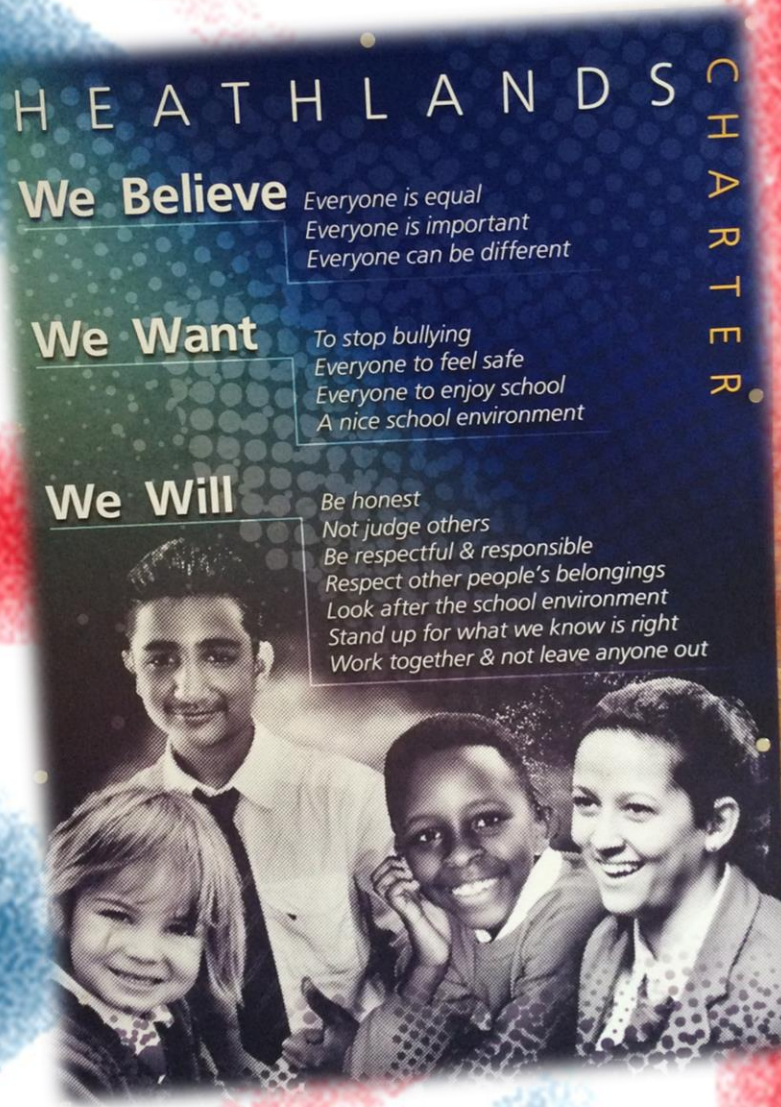
Heathlands aims to create a positive school culture so that pupils are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged.

- *In lessons pupils can make choices within the framework of set learning objectives*
- *Pupils are supported to participate in a range of voluntary clubs and other out of school activities.*
- *The Heath House transition programme helps develop independence and decision making*
- *Lower School home learning grids allow younger pupils to select and follow their own interests to extend/ apply learning*
- *In PSHE we educate pupils on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely*
- *Pupils are taught about their responsibilities towards their families, their communities and the environment.*





# Mutual respect



Mutual respect is central to the Heathlands Charter and is reflected in our Equalities and Anti-Bullying policies.

- *The whole school ethos of respecting self, staff, peers and property is conveyed through all aspects of school life.*
- *Staff act as role models and adhere to the same school expectations and rules as students .*
- *All members of the school community, staff and students, are expected to talk to each other in a respectful manner.*



# **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

*The RE curriculum covers all major religions.*

*Assemblies highlight a range of moral issues, current affairs and real life dilemma's so that pupils can explore and reflect on their personal responses.*

*The day to day ethos and expectations of the school ensure constant reminders of the importance of tolerance are given.*

*Resources, activities and special events are planned which show a balanced and tolerant approach to different faiths and beliefs.*

**Heathlands offers a culturally rich and diverse community where difference is valued. Through our curriculum and daily routines , we strive to demonstrate tolerance which helps pupils to become good citizens of the future.**

