

# British Values

## Introduction

There is a photograph above my bed, from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013, which was my first day at Warden Hill and I still remember it clearly. From that day, until my last, I have been so proud to be a pupil of Warden Hill because our British Values, which our school continuously demonstrates, have shaped me into the person who I am today. These four cornerstones of our system are democracy, mutual respect and tolerance, rule of law and individual liberty.

## Democracy

From our first day at Warden Hill, we are welcomed into the school and made to feel like we **BELONG** to one huge family. As in the wider community, every pupil has a voice with a right to vote and choose who – in their opinion – should be their School Council and Eco representatives. This is similar when voting for House, Vice and Sports captains but instead of each class, we have candidates from each of the four houses. This is good practice for when we are entitled to vote in local elections or for a new Prime Minister. During lessons, we are always encouraged to share our opinions with our peers and teachers.

## Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Mutual respect and tolerance symbolises diversity. This means that we are all different in some way but should be treated the same. At Warden Hill, we learn about and **EXPLORE** many different cultures and beliefs within RE and we love demonstrating this knowledge to our parents in class assemblies. In 1963, Martin Luther King 'had a dream' that everyone should be treated with respect - judged by their character and not by the colour of their skin. In PSHCE, we learn about respect and what it means to treat others how we would like to be treated ourselves.

## Rule of Law

The rule of law is sometimes regarded as a thing that stops us from doing what we want but it is there to protect our safety and well-being. At Warden Hill, there are prominent notices displaying our 'Golden Rules' which are in place to help us **SUCCEED** and be the very best we can. We all sign an agreement to confirm that we understand these key rules and standards of expected behaviour. Moreover, we have a separate agreement for technology and internet usage and as this is an essential part of our learning carrying its own set of risks. Finally, we have special rules for sports, house events and trips to ensure fairness and safety.

## Individual Liberty

Individual liberty exists so that everyone has the freedom to make their own choices, within the law. At Warden Hill, we have the freedom to make many of our own choices, such as what we have for lunch, which part we want to play in the class assembly, what we would like to do during a wet playtime and more recently, choices about the tasks we complete within Google Classroom. We have learned in PSHCE that, as we move on to the next stage of our learning journey, our choices will be even greater, but Warden Hill has helped prepare us for this.

## Conclusion

The key values of '**BELONG**', '**EXPLORE**' and '**SUCCEED**' have been prevalent throughout my time at Warden Hill and proudly intertwine with the key British Values of Democracy, Mutual Respect and Tolerance, Rule of Law and Individual Liberty. They have given me the confidence to belong, explore and succeed as a person and I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.