British Values Statement 2026-2027

Accrington Academy

Date of Review	**September 2026**
Approved By/Date	
Date of Next Review	**September 2027**
Owner	**Director of Education with Character**

Promotion of British Values at Accrington Academy

Background and Rationale

At Accrington Academy, we recognise not only the importance of allowing students to flourish academically and pastorally, but also our wider role in preparing them for adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum. Part of this role is ensuring that we actively promote and reinforce Fundamental British Values amongst our students and staff.

The Government identified the Fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs through the Prevent Strategy (2011), with schools required to actively promote these values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. These values help prepare young people for life in modern Britain and enable them to become responsible, respectful and active citizens.

At Accrington Academy, these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate all aspects of academy life alongside our TEAM values of Truth, Effort, Ambition and Manners. The promotion of Fundamental British Values forms an important part of the academy's safeguarding culture. Through our curriculum, assemblies, character education programme, enrichment opportunities and pastoral systems, students develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed to recognise and challenge extremism, discrimination, misinformation and harmful influences, both online and offline.

Every member of our school community is expected to uphold these values at all times. Our values of Truth and Manners align closely with Fundamental British Values. We strive to tell the truth to ourselves and each other, even when it is difficult, and to treat all members of our community with kindness, dignity and respect.

The academy is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, fostering good relations between individuals and groups, and ensuring that no member of our community experiences discrimination. We actively celebrate diversity and seek to create an inclusive environment in which everyone feels valued, respected and safe.

What is meant by "British Values"?

Although not an exhaustive list, Accrington Academy promotes the following Fundamental British Values:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

Accrington Academy's motto is **"Building character, creating learners, transforming lives."** Students are frequently reminded of the importance of these values both within the academy and in wider society.

How are British Values embraced at Accrington Academy?

Fundamental British Values are promoted across the curriculum in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, particularly through PSHE, Religious Studies, tutor time, assemblies and our wider character education programme. Students are encouraged to express their views in safe, respectful environments that enable the free exchange of ideas. This provides opportunities for staff to model civil discussion, challenge misconceptions and develop students' understanding of contemporary issues.

Students are also supported to develop digital literacy and online safety awareness. They are taught how to engage respectfully online, evaluate the reliability of information, recognise misinformation and challenge discriminatory, extremist or harmful content appropriately.

Democracy

At Accrington Academy, the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with democratic processes employed for important decisions within the school community. Democracy is explored through the curriculum, particularly in History and Religious Studies, as well as through assemblies and tutor activities.

Students are encouraged to participate in Form Representative elections and the Student Council, ensuring that student voice is heard, valued and acted upon. Through these experiences, students develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making and contribute positively to their communities.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether governing the classroom, the academy or the wider country, is consistently reinforced throughout academy life. Students are taught why laws exist, how they protect individuals and communities, and the responsibilities and consequences associated with them.

The principles of law and justice are explored throughout the curriculum, including in Computing, Business and A-Level Law. Students are encouraged to understand the importance of personal responsibility, accountability and respect for the rights of others.

Individual Liberty

Within Accrington Academy, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices within a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate students about their rights, responsibilities and freedoms while providing the guidance needed to exercise these appropriately and safely.

Students receive education on a range of safeguarding themes, including online safety, healthy relationships, personal wellbeing and risk awareness. Through this work, students develop confidence, resilience and the ability to make informed decisions.

Mutual Respect

Respect lies at the heart of our academy ethos and is demonstrated by students and staff alike. We promote respect for all individuals through our classroom culture, enrichment opportunities and TEAM values.

In line with our commitment to democracy, students are encouraged to express opinions respectfully and engage in constructive discussion, even where differing viewpoints exist. Mutual respect is embedded throughout the curriculum and wider programmes, including student leadership opportunities, mental health initiatives and character education.

Our behaviour systems are founded on the principles of dignity, fairness and respect, ensuring that all members of the academy community feel safe, valued and supported.

Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

We promote tolerance by equipping students with the understanding, knowledge and experiences needed to thrive in a diverse society. Students are given opportunities to learn about and engage with different cultures, faiths, beliefs and backgrounds both within and beyond the academy.

Through international partnerships, educational visits and cultural experiences, students gain a broader understanding of the world around them. Students are encouraged to share and celebrate their own beliefs, traditions and experiences in a respectful and supportive environment.

The academy actively promotes equality, dignity and respect for all members of the community, including those with protected characteristics, and challenges discrimination, prejudice and intolerance in all forms.

Our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and worldviews. Students are encouraged to explore beliefs comparatively, identify shared values and appreciate both the similarities and differences that contribute to a diverse and inclusive society.

Through these experiences, students develop respect, empathy and an understanding of the importance of living alongside others with different beliefs and perspectives in modern Britain.