



# British Values Statement 2025-2026

Accrington Academy

## 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 we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British values to our students and staff.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2015 Prevent Strategy and considered them to be democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At Accrington Academy these values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community alongside our TEAM (Truth, Effort, Ambition and Manners) values. Every member of our school community is expected to maintain these values at all times. In particular, 'Truth' and 'Manners' relate closely to British Values. We will tell the truth to ourselves and each other, even when it's hard. We will respect everyone in our school and treat everyone with kindness.

*"Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

**Teachers' Standards (2011)**

### What is meant by "British Values"?

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

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Accrington Academy's motto is "Building character, creating learners, transforming lives". Students are frequently reminded about the importance of these values for success in the academy and beyond.

### How are British Values embraced at Accrington Academy?

British Values are promoted across the curriculum in Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 as part of the PSHE curriculum, allowing students to reflect on the importance of each value. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions in safe spaces that allow for a free exchange of views. We believe this to be a critical step that allows staff to model and guide students in the art of civil discussion and provides an invaluable opportunity to tackle any misconceptions.

#### Democracy

At Accrington Academy the principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community. The principle of democracy is explored in History and Religious Studies as well as in tutor time and assemblies. Students are encouraged to participate in 'Form Representative' elections and the Student Council and have their voice heard and recognised at all times.

### **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 regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies and form time. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Different laws are covered throughout our curriculum, such as in Computing, Business and A-level Law in further depth.

### **Individual liberty**

Within Accrington Academy students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in Assemblies and their tutor time activities.

### **Mutual respect**

Respect is at the core of our school ethos and is modelled by students and staff alike. Our school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments and continued through our TEAM values. In line with our commitment to democracy students at Accrington Academy are always able to voice their opinions through the student council and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum and in other aspects such as our Mental Health Ambassadors programme. Our behaviour policy underpins mutual respect for all and tolerance for everyone at the academy.

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

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. We also run a number of trips throughout the academic year, such as our partnership work with Erasmus and we are now designated as an International School, from which our students gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school. We also actively support Stonewall and LGBTQ rights within our school. Our Religious Studies curriculum provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures where students are encouraged to look at religions comparatively, identifying the common themes and features that exist within diverse religions as well as acknowledging and appreciating the features that make them unique.