



RADLEY

Fundamental British Values

June 2024

Radley College and the promoting of British Values

The inculcation of Radley College students with regard to British Values - a respect for the workings of democracy, the rule of law, free speech, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs - is central to the everyday working and curriculum of the school.

Examples of where these values are promoted can be seen in the following (and other) areas of school life:

Core elements of the school curriculum: these promote understanding that while democracy may be imperfect, it is generally considered to be superior to alternative forms of government. In History, for example, which is studied by all in Year 9, a detailed study is done on the rise and fall of the Weimar democracy and the Third Reich. The obvious contrast between the efforts of the former to create a democracy, abide by the rule of law, respect individual liberty and create a tolerant society (and the exact opposite in all areas in the latter), allows for a detailed and involved examination of values which are also central to British life and offer a stark illustration of what happens when these are denied. Equally, English lessons allow a forum for study, through different types of literature, of clashes between the desire for individual human liberty and repressive systems and attitudes. Compulsory Theology lessons for Year 9 open up further possibilities for discussing individual human rights and the need for a pluralistic society. These issues are further discussed in PSHE sessions (in year groups and by form). In the sixth form, large numbers of students study History, English, Classics, Theology, Modern Languages and Politics, where similar themes are explored in more depth. There is also a voluntary programme of lectures and discussion for all boys and staff which allows for plenty of exploration of citizenship issues: the importance of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and tolerance of those of other faiths and beliefs. There is an ongoing theme of freedom of speech in the lecture programme.

Societies: there are many schoolwide societies, including subject departmental, academic year group, Philosophy, International Relations, Christian Forum, Debating, Creative Writing and Symposium societies, where the full gamut of issues arising related to British and wider values of respect for the individual and pluralism are debated and discussed. Students and staff regularly are encouraged to debate and discuss about how British society is ordered and how it might be defended and improved.

School literature: the school magazines regularly contain articles discussing matters relating to British Values. This might take the form, for example, of students' reflections on hearing a lecture from political dissidents from North Korea or other non-democratic countries or victims of the Holocaust. The Holocaust Conference is annual for the 6.2 year group.

Student representation on school bodies: boys are encouraged to sit on representative bodies within and beyond boarding houses, which debate their conditions and rights.

They are regularly consulted on their privileges, punishments and attitudes, in annual anonymous surveys.

Collective acts of worship: in the school Chapel there are regular sermons about, prayers for and thoughts and reflections on, those who have suffered for speaking out for democracy, the rule of law, tolerance and defence of others' right to be themselves. Every Thursday the Warden talks in Chapel about a topical issue giving opportunities for pupils to think about these issues.

Mock elections: these seek to promote the understanding, practice and benefits of multi-party democracy and student organisation and participation in these - as candidates, activists, electoral officials and voters - helps to inculcate British Values.

In these various ways, it is seen that Radley College fosters a great deal of ongoing debate about, and instruction in, core British Values.

Finally, schools face many demands for change in the 21st century. However, the innovations set out within this policy and the college website departmental pages only serve to reinforce the traditional beliefs which we hold about the nature of our work at Radley, and our relationships with, and duties towards, parents and boys alike.