



Promotion of Values at Torpoint Community College (Including Fundamental British Values)

Linked Policies/Protocols

- PSHEe Policy

Reviewed: June 2015

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Governing Body Committee: CCI

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Promotion of Values

At Torpoint Community College (TCC), we actively promote positive, inclusive values. These include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We believe these values are those values expected of anyone living in Britain, regardless of their nationality, culture or religious belief. Fundamental British Values (FBV) are central to our approach.

Our ethos reflects these values. We place great emphasis on building positive relationships in College, amongst the students themselves and between staff and students. We strongly believe students should not merely be taught such values but that they are embedded into College life and how we do things.

We strive to support our students to develop into confident, happy, successful young adults who have empathy towards and an understanding of those less fortunate than themselves. Students refer to the College as a “listening school” and their wellbeing is paramount.

The information below reflects how TCC works to promote positive values through the ethos and life of the College, for example through a broad and balanced curriculum, and through social, moral, cultural and spiritual development.

Background and Rationale

You may well have seen recent debate in the media about the way that schools promote values, and whether we should be promoting specifically ‘British’ values, particularly in the light of recent publicity about a group of Academies in Birmingham.

Though it has acquired a greater urgency in recent months, the importance of schools espousing British values is not new:

The 2008 National Curriculum includes the following statement:

“The school curriculum should contribute to the development of pupils’ sense of identity through knowledge and understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of Britain’s diverse society and of the local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions of their lives”

The 2011 Teachers’ Standards state, as part of teachers’ personal and professional conduct:

“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”

These values support the national Prevent Strategy, put before Parliament in 2011 by the Home Secretary as a response to radicalisation of British citizens.

The Prevent Strategy recognises the importance of schools in counter-terrorism activities. More recently, concerns about the inappropriate actions of some schools were highlighted in the Birmingham Trojan Horse case, where a number of OFSTED inspections revealed a failure to promote British values adequately in some schools, meaning that young people in them were vulnerable to radical and extremist ideas. Consequently, all schools need a clear statement of British values and how they are promoted through the school’s curriculum.

DfE guidance and the Ofsted framework expects:

“Schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the new social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) standard came into force on 29 September 2014.

Schools must also ensure they actively promote principles that:

- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated, and to society more widely;
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own cultures;
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010;
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

What is meant by “British Values”?

The DfE published “Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools” in November 2014. It clarified the understanding and knowledge expected of students in schools promoting fundamental British values. The audit completed with staff at TCC reveals that these values are promoted across the College.

We believe that the following list exemplifies some of the values held dear by British citizens:

- Democracy;
- Respect of the rule of law;
- Appreciation of the rights of other citizens;
- Individual liberty;
- The promotion of opportunities for all;
- Support for those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified life-style;
- Religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity;
- Treating others with fairness;
- Participation in community life;
- The contribution to, as well as the benefit from, cultural and economic resources.

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the attitudes at TCC. The safeguarding and wellbeing of our student is paramount.

These values are embodied in the following more specific ways:

- Our College’s motto is “Inspiring Optimistic Learners”. All students are regularly spoken to about the importance of these three attributes for success in College. Students wear with pride the motto on their uniform;
- All our students study RE (also known as Ethics) from Year 7 – 9 and all Years 7 – 11 have ethics and debates throughout the tutor programme;
- Our three central tenets that underpin our approach at the College are Respect, Prepare and Focus. These are also applied to our expectations and Behaviour Policy
- The Ethics curriculum contains the following elements which are directly applicable to promoting British values:
 - All students in Ethics develop self-confidence and are encouraged to express their point of view and personal beliefs appropriately. There is an expected code of behaviour as there is across the College.
 - Students are reminded of the values encouraged in Ethics at the start of the year, these include:
 - Commitment;
 - Fairness;
 - Respect;
 - Self-understanding;
 - Enquiry;
 - Openness.
 - ‘An introduction to the 6 World religions’, Year 7, on entry to the College.
 - ‘Rights and Respect’ Year 7, to conclude the academic year in support of being a ‘Rights Respecting School’.
 - ‘Human Rights’ and ‘Ethical decision making’, Year 8; students reflect on right from wrong/the law and consider a range of moral influences and ethical theories.
 - ‘Peace and Conflict’, Year 9; giving rise often to an appreciation of British society.
 - ‘Global Issues’, Year 9; fostering compassion in many students for others.
 - All students will look at a number of religions and cultures in one academic year, including Christianity, Islam and Buddhism at KS 3 as specified by the local agreed syllabus.
 - All students in Ethics are encouraged to adopt core British values, including personal responsibility and voting (which is also carried out in lessons/tutor time).
 - Freedom of speech and respect for others is adopted in day to day learning as part of Ethics and all subjects.
 - During tutor time, ethical debates focus on encouraging tolerance of others and an appreciation of diversity. Democratic values are used. Care of other students and people in the community is at the heart of ethical tutor activity.
 - Visiting speakers from a range of backgrounds/agencies/faiths/countries encourages students to have respect for their own culture as well as those of others.
 - In conclusion, the Ethics department focuses on equality and this is readily adopted naturally by our students. Values like freedom, respect and tolerance are accepted in class and College. In addition to this, the law is seen to be essential to British society operating effectively.
- Students participate in one hour long lesson per week of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education from Years 7-9. These lessons are taught by a dedicated team of staff from a variety of areas and disciplines and have a dedicated PSHCE co-ordinator who maps the programme;

- All students participate in an extended tutor programme focusing on developing skills and topical issues underpinned by a values led approach.
- All students participate in the rich and diverse College led time table days : Learning for Life days. These happen throughout the year and have different foci.
- The PSHCE curriculum has a citizenship module in each of Years 7-9 and this contains the following directly relevant elements:
 - What does it mean to be British, Year 7, relates to tolerance and the values that we instil in our students in PSHEe such as respect, respecting each other's point of view etc. (See under Year 7)). All the values that make our classrooms and College a safe learning environment. The contributions we make in our communities. Building better communities. Respecting diversity. Examples students supporting the Torpoint Library service Silver Surfers' afternoon, etc.
 - Crime and the Law, Year 8. We do have visits by the Police – see under Year 8.
 - Local citizenship and the importance of voting, Year 9, NYP Elections, student involvement in the Torpoint Neighbourhood Plan, students involved in local projects such as the GWithti, Christmas Tree Competition at St James Church, students singing at the Senior Citizens Christmas concert, etc.
 - Human Rights and responsibilities, Year 10; this is covered in Depth in Year 9 and revisited in Year 10.
 - In Year 11, students evaluate the potential risks and benefits of personal lifestyle choices including their impact on relationships and **recognise that risk assessment and management are part of life and give examples of how to manage and reduce risk in different circumstances.**
 - Students take part in many debates such as:
 - Class Debate: Should 16 year olds have the right to vote?
 - Class Debate: Are E-Cigarettes safe?
- College Assemblies, held once every week for each House are lively and detailed and focus on many of these identified elements through their themes as well as issues across society and the College. They are responsive to need as well as have a defined timetable.
- The College's system of organising students in vertical Houses and tutor groups encourages involvement of every student in College life.
- We have an active and lively Student College Council.
- An Amnesty International Group run in the College as does a Health and Well-Being Committee. The College has been awarded the first stage of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools' Award.
- The College actively fundraises and supports a number of local, national and international charities. The students decide on the focus on an annual basis. In 2014 more than £6,000 was raised for 'The Fight it with Feasty Fund' and 2014 – 2015 sees the College and local community fundraise for a memorial on site and the local Oncology Patients' ward.
- Students actively enact the democratic process voting for the MYP through tutor time.
- Examples of activities in our Sixth Form include: volunteering in lessons, being part of the Patient Participation Group, The Weekly Bulletin and assemblies, which like the lower Key Stages in College, are responsive to need.

Links with Safeguarding

We take great pride in encouraging all our students to feel part of, and to contribute positively to, fundamental values. We are absolutely focused on safeguarding the young people on our roll and work in partnership with other agencies and schools so that we achieve this.

Young people at TCC are given support and guidance in terms of anti-gun crime, knife crime and anti-gang behaviour. At TCC, we are committed to the development of community cohesion and the prevention of extremism and radicalisation.

The local Police are positively encouraged to work in partnership with the College and young people here are encouraged to see the Police Officers as positive role models and our community partners. We are committed to working within our College's physical boundaries and within our local, national and global environments. We are also committed to respond to community concerns or local disturbances in a positive way which supports British democratic society.

See also the following policies and protocols:

- Safeguarding
- The Single Equalities Scheme

APPENDIX I

Headteacher's Message on TCC Website

Everything we do at TCC is about giving our students an excellent education which will transform their lives. The first thing you will notice when we welcome you to TCC is the vibrant, happy and calm environment which inspires young people to learn and helps them to discover their unique talents.

We value all our students as valuable members of our College community and as citizens in a larger local, national and international community. With approximately 700 students on our roll (130 in the sixth form), we are a small, caring and successful 11-19 co-educational foundation school.

Through inspirational teaching, a genuine concern for wellbeing and a rich abundance of learning opportunities within and outside the College, we nurture high aspirations in our young people for themselves, their College and their community. Our students understand they are responsible for the choices they make. They know that making the right choices, self-belief, high expectations and working hard will empower them to shape the future they want. We expect them to respect themselves, their peers, their College and their community. In turn, each one knows they are valued.

You can read our full Vision and Aims statement [here](#), and see a summary of our students' achievements and attainment [here](#).

If you would like to see what makes our students so special, you are welcome to join us during one of our successful 'in action' Open Mornings or should you want further information about the College, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Tel **01752 812511** or email: enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Kind regards

Andrea Hazeldine

APPENDIX 2

Our Values

The College has a rich and healthy history of promoting values for students and staff here at TCC. Six years ago the College worked in partnership with a School in Melbourne, Australia which led to the development of a common set of values. Then in 2011, the College adopted Foundation Status and a Trust, and stakeholders reviewed our values so that they reflect our organisation's aims and vision and built on our co-operative ethos and values.

Our aim is for all young people who attend TCC to leave us aspiring to be the best they can be. We are committed to recognising and realising the potential in each student: of nurturing curiosity, creativity and leadership, of achieving the very highest of standards and of instilling respect and care for ourselves, each other and our environment. We aim to harness the innate drive, energy and enthusiasm of young people so they leave our College confident, knowledgeable and successful citizens, capable of learning and adapting to an uncertain future. In a nutshell – promoting 'healthy minds and healthy bodies'.

We are firmly committed to the wellbeing of our students and promote both a "can do" and a "will do" approach from all our staff. We believe that by investing in the training and recruitment of staff to recognise and realise students' achievements and the development of a positive or growth mindset across the College, is fundamental to the strongly positive learning culture we develop. Our ambition, coupled with our high expectations, is to create opportunities so that our young people are able to raise their aspirations and be ambitious for themselves.

The word 'optimism' is originally derived from the Latin 'optimum', meaning 'best':

- An optimistic learner is happy and healthy, confident and resourceful, resilient and successful, able to work independently and in teams, and;
- An inspired learner is motivated to learn and radiates a sense of purpose that in turn, inspires others.

At TCC, we believe an inspiring optimistic learner has the skills, knowledge and positive values to make the most of the changes and challenges facing us in the 21st century. We aim for our students to talk about enjoying their learning; being empowered to go and find things out rather than being 'spoon fed' information. Throughout the College, we promote the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

There has been year on year improvement in the results our students make at both post 16 and GCSE/KS4. Last year alone 62% of all our year 11 students gained 5 or more A* – C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. The results our students achieve are a reflection of our care, support and guidance and of the opportunities students are encouraged to lead and participate in.

We believe strongly that personal growth occurs through adventure and we work hard to provide learning opportunities for students' well-being as well as academic progress and attainment. TCC has accredited as an Adventure Learning School. This allows us to build on work in progress and develop cross curricular project based learning opportunities with our Adventure Learning Mentor team. Our work is widely recognised; National Co-operative Green Schools Award winner in 2013, a Learning in the Natural Environment (LINE) beacon school sharing our practice with others and recent Gold Award winner for the Woodland Trust.

We are tasked with, on your behalf and in partnership with you, inspiring such optimism.

We place a strong emphasis on working with and supporting our community – local, national and global – celebrating our community champions, regularly supporting charities and being ambassadors in other countries so that our students understand they need to be responsible global citizens. Recent trips include Nepal, a teacher and student exchange with Sri Lanka, discussion at the New York United Nations Headquarters and camping on the Isles of Scilly. We also excel in offering a range of extra-curricular activities that benefit from unique links with our environment; Ten Tors Challenges, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, Outreach Youth Challenge, and Community Action Through Sports (CATs), to TCC's spectacular original drama productions; our most recent original musical 'Eva Kids', our successful Shakespeare play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the Sixth Form production of 'Blood Wedding'.

As a result, we offer a broad curriculum from Year 7 to 13 and the opportunity to experience or specialise in the performance arts, sciences, sports and physical education, emerging and creative technologies, languages, humanities, ethics, media, literature, psychology, health and social care, public services and business... far more than our small size of school would normally allow. We have vocational courses as well as formal academic courses at KS3, 4 and 5 and work closely with parents to identify the best combination for each individual.

Our high quality pastoral care is widely recognised as an example of best practice. Students are organised into vertical learning communities: Freathy, Polhawn, Tregantle and Tregonhawke named after four local beaches. Behaviour across the College is underpinned by our positive learning ethos and with just under 800 learners, 150 of which are in our excellent Sixth Form at TCC, we are recognised for the high level of individual care given to each student; our staff going the extra mile to support.

Becoming a Foundation School with a Co-operative Trust on 31st December 2011, was a natural next step for the College. We already worked closely in partnership with a large number of other schools, higher education providers, organisations and businesses so formalising links with key partners enables us to bring even better opportunities and improvements. Harnessing their strengths for the benefit of our learners in College and in schools across Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula is an exciting and rewarding journey.

Appendix 3

Tolerance of those in Different Faiths and Beliefs

Torpoint Community College enhances students understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies; PHSE work; visits to places of worship, welcoming religious leaders from different faiths and talk about their beliefs and festivals and whole College topics where students learn about music, dance, design, living and faiths from different countries.

We enhance students understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Collective Worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in PSHE etc. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the College. We use opportunities such as the Olympics and World Cup to study and learn about life and culture in other countries. As part of our worship, students explore how a particular value is important in a range of faiths and act out traditional faith stories that demonstrate this.

Promotion of Values

During tutor time students are fully involved in the development of values for Torpoint Community College through UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Agenda. This discussion has also formed the basis of staff training.

The initial values were developed as part of a project with the Sunshine College, Melbourne, Australia in 2008 and further developed when the College status changed to a Co-operative Trust in 2011.

The values, including those identified as Fundamental British Values will reflect the ethos and culture promoted across the College.



Respect

Prepare

Focus

Values

Including those identified as Fundamental British Values



Torpoint
Community
College

Mutual Respect

We find out students skills, interests and talents involving parents, and include these in our whole College planning to be used in learning and elsewhere in the College. We appreciate everyone is different but this celebrates those differences.

We try to help students learn the art of reflection and questioning to enable them to make sense of the world around them. We try to encourage students to understanding and increasingly solutions focused.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the College or the country are consistently reinforced in our expectations throughout every College day, as well as when dealing with behaviour expectations and assemblies. We use our values to determine the Behaviour Policy throughout the College and these values are everywhere including the playground and the hall.

Students are taught the value and reasons behind laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when the laws are broken. Visits from the Police, Fire Service and other agencies develop students "strong" sense of immunity.

Individual Liberty

Within College, students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Students are actively encouraged to have rethinks during learning time. Our PSHE policy underpins and supports this decision making and enables students to make the right choices. It also gives students the vocabulary to enter into dialogue with others in their decision making.

As a College we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education, for example through our E-Safety teaching and PSHE lessons. We teach students that it is fine to have rethinks. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record or participation in our numerous extracurricular clubs/opportunities pupils are given freedom to make choices.

Our students have opportunities to direct their own learning by posing questions to co-construct learning. Our enrichment activities and vertical grouped tutor and house system offer opportunities for students to work in mixed age teams and take control of planning, organizing and holding events. Daily lessons, students are challenged by acute differentiation and constant encouragement to be independent learners.

Democracy

All students have the opportunity to have their voices heard and we have a number of opportunities for students, through our College Council, student interview, parents, mentors, e-safety and safeguarding.

The College Council is appointed following a rigorous interview involving members of staff.

We intend for College Council representatives to attend a Governing Body meeting each year so all governors have opportunity to question students and to learn their views.

Students are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other.

