

British values statement

We are committed to serving our community and recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role the academy plays in ensuring that groups or individuals within the academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equality guidance which endeavours to ensure there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all our students.

The five key British values* are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The academy uses strategies within the national curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to instill British values.

** As identified by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.*

Democracy

Our Student Union (The Union of Venture Students-UVS) is central to this. Candidates apply for positions within the union, ALL students vote for their PL Captain, Sports Captain and also Head Boy/Head Girl each year. Student Leadership is growing, with our termly 'Baraza' (Parliament) now making up 25%+ of the academy and includes students from every year group. During Barazas, decisions are made about which local and national charities to support, competitions students wish to set up and even what foods to add to the academy café menu.

The academy has two elected students as Head of Key Stage 3 and two as Head of Key Stage 4, who meet regularly with other OAT academies. As of 2024, Venture has also participated in the Great Yarmouth Youth Borough Council, with meetings, debates and decisions being made with four other local academies.

Democracy is specifically taught across two units within our CASH curriculum (at KS3 and KS4) and is a recurring theme on the SMSC collective calendar. It is also a strong theme within our Enrichment Week. The academy has seized opportunities to promote democracy through parallel elections with the General Election and inviting in local candidates for our own hustings.

Students also debate a weekly question. This promotes critical thinking, debate, and decision-making, while giving young people the chance to speak out and be heard on issues that matter to them, improving oracy and confidence-while also linking to the British values of Democracy and Free Speech.

The rule of law

The Rule of Law is a recurring theme on the SMSC collective calendar and within our CASH curriculum.

Students understand our academy ethos via training in The Venture Way and our Ready to Learn program, which acts as a code of conduct, epitomizing respect and pride in everything we do and being the best versions of ourselves. Consequences of our actions (both positive and negative) are continuously referenced on recurring student training days, but also in collectives (assemblies-such as responsibilities on Halloween and using Fireworks) and even via displays in every classroom.

Our CASH curriculum includes presentations with Norfolk Safer Schools (E.g. Safer Relationships and The Dangers of Knife Crime) and units are taught at Key Stage 3 on laws, punishments, types of courtrooms and incidences of local crime. Students also learn about the criminal consequences of taking and dealing in illegal substances. In Computer Science, students are taught how to be safe online and how to recognise and avoid scams and the criminal consequences of these crimes. At Key Stage 4, students explore rights versus responsibilities, Human Rights and Employment Law. At both Key Stages, Safeguarding lessons frequently focus on sensitive, but crucial topics of extremism, prevent and FGM, while Pol-Ed (Police Education via Norfolk Police), provides lessons on the age of criminal responsibility, how to protest within the law, drugs and the law and avoiding anti-social behaviour.

The Rule of Law is also a strong theme within our Enrichment Week, with students exploring lessons on harmful language, addiction, prejudice and discrimination.

Individual liberty

Individual Liberty is a reoccurring theme on our SMSC calendar and are a regular topic with our collectives. Individual Liberty and Diversity is celebrated in a number of ways;

-Collectives (E.g. LGBTQ+ Month, Black History Month, Interfaith Week, Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Remembrance Day)

-Questions of the Week

-Within the History/Geography, English and RE curriculums in particular

-During Enrichment Week (The three major themes are Identity, Justice and Relationships)

-Via our Wellbeing Ambassadors (Anti-Bullying) Group

-Via our Safeguarding CASH lessons and collectives (assemblies)

-Via our library and carefully selected Read Aloud books that all students read together in PL time on a daily basis.

-Via our clubs and Guilds, including an LGBT group and a Boys Mental Wellbeing (BMW) group

-Via our CASH curriculum, tackling issues including careers, relationships, friendships and healthy eating, encouraging students to make informed decisions about learning and life.

Mutual respect

Venture has a set of well-established, core values that permeate through everything we do. Apart from 'Respect', these are Ambition, Kindness, Neighbourliness, Responsibility, Resilience and Teamwork. They appear in every classroom, are regularly referred to in out collectives (assemblies) and students undertake training in why these are important to Venture during STUDENT training days. This includes discussion on how to take responsibility for your own learning and the learning of others and how RESPECT & PRIDE are just two virtues that mold us all as learners and 21st Century citizens.

The Venture Way:

"Being a member of Ormiston Venture Academy community is defined by respect and pride. We all take collective social responsibility to ensure we will be the best versions of ourselves possible, as individuals, as a school and as a wider community. That is the Venture Way."

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Religious Education is taught as a discrete subject across both Key Stages and is now offered as an examination subject at Key Stage 4. However, tolerance and acceptance of different faiths and religions is also taught through our CASH curriculum. This includes lessons on diversity and multiculturalism, where the British come from, how to challenge discrimination and how non-Christians can still hold British values. Tolerance of different faiths is also a regular theme of our SMSC calendar and assembly program and our weekly 'This Week at Venture' schedule always highlights the special events of the Big Six religions, such as Ramadan and Eid. Students are actively encouraged to share the opinions and beliefs via discussions during our weekly 'Question of the Week', but also in our termly academy Barazas.