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Europa School UK – Our Community Values

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The philosophy of the school is ‘be inspired to learn,’ which encapsulates our belief that being part of a vibrant and active community enriches the learning experiences of our students. We understand the importance of the school’s role in actively promoting a strong sense of community amongst our students.

The values enshrined in the Equalities Act of 2010 are at the heart of our school. We believe that it is wrong to discriminate against anyone on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, disability, political beliefs, financial status, or any other protected characteristic, and actively promote these values within the school community. We recognise the vital role played by schools in safeguarding young people from discrimination and radicalisation and ensure that this role is supported by extremely robust safeguarding procedures.

The five British values, set out in the Government’s 2011 Prevent Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011>), are the foundation of an effective community. The values of

- democracy,
- the rule of law,
- individual liberty,
- mutual respect
- and tolerance for other faiths and traditions

are celebrated within the school community, through our curriculum, and through enrichment activities and extracurricular events.

These values are shared with many democracies across the world and this global awareness of shared values is a key objective of our Europa curriculum.

The Europa School UK works to ensure that its students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.

Below are some examples of how the British values are celebrated within the school:

Democracy:

All pupils, parents, and staff should have the right to have their voices listened to

The principle of democracy is reinforced at Europa School UK, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community. For instance, elections are part of the process for selecting the School Student Presidents' positions, Student Heads of Committees in S7, and class representatives to the students' councils. Students have a voice that is listened to through various Primary and Secondary students' councils and followed up by meetings with the Heads of School and the Principal.

The Governing Body values staff members on the Governing body and governing committees. The school has a Health and Safety Committee which meets each term and invites representation from all staff including union representation. The wellbeing committee was started during the COVID pandemic and is a forum for staff to discuss stress-related issues. The Parent-teacher association is very active and supportive of all aspects of school improvement.

Every year, upper primary and secondary students complete questionnaires on a full range of school issues. Their opinions are then used to feed into future planning. Changes to Europa School UK because of this feedback have been a new food hub, refurbished toilet facilities, and the provision of more recreational space at break time and lunchtime.

How we influence and shape democracy is explored in many ways, through lessons on current affairs, themes, and assemblies. These are often connected to national or international celebrations and commemorations such as International Day of Peace, Holocaust Day, National Days, and Remembrance Day.

In the Personal and Cultural Development (PCD) programme in the secondary school, students learn about Democracy and how young people can participate at a local and national level.

The rule of law:

Everyone is equal before the law

Everybody is expected to follow the rules of our school and understand the consequences if we don't.

Students are taught the rules and expectations which are highlighted by the student code of conduct, student expectations, behaviour, disciplinary escalation, and consequences. Staff, parents, and governors, likewise, have codes of conduct that sets expectations for their conduct. We also have an IT and social media code of conduct and rules for science laboratories which all students must understand, accept and sign.

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, is reinforced, and consequently, our students possess a strong sense of equality and understanding of what is right and wrong.

Students are taught the 'rules' of the school along with the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when rules and the law are broken. An important part of our behaviour Policy is the use of restorative justice. It aims to increase student awareness of how their actions affect others in the community and ensure students are better able to make the right choices in the future.

In the PCD programme, we educate our young people on how they can be affected by crime and how to stay safe. Students are also able to access further e-safety support within the school.

Students also learn about the rule of law by learning about the importance of shared values and responsibilities of citizens.

Individual liberty:

The freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs in a safe environment

At Europa School UK, students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, in the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure, and supportive environment. The personal development curriculum focuses on the UN Convention, The Rights of a Child, and explores issues surrounding the death penalty. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries so that students can make informed choices and respectfully express their views and beliefs.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms, and are advised how to exercise these safely and respectfully, for example through our assemblies, PCD curriculum, current affairs, and tutorial activities.

Stereotypes are regularly challenged, and we are working hard to raise the aspirations of all of our students with regular opportunities for career information covering all the Gatsby benchmarks. All students are encouraged to set high aspirations for their futures. We believe that success is achieved through interest, motivation and application.

Across the Primary and Secondary schools programme, students learn about individual liberty by learning about how they can express their rights and personal freedoms safely.

Mutual respect:

Regard for an individual's dignity, which is reciprocated

Mutual respect is encouraged and nurtured throughout Europa School UK, both through study in the classroom and through the application of school expectations. Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Staff and students treat each other with the utmost respect and courtesy. Students address teachers by their form of address for their country of origin (Mrs, Mme, Senhora, Frau, etc). We encourage a verbal greeting when staff meet students.

Students learn that their behaviours affect their rights and those of others. All members of the school community are required to treat each other with respect. Our Behaviour Policy means that students know that their choices affect their rights and those of others. We also provide a model for civil resolution of conflict through restorative justice.

We plan Anti-Bullying week with a series of class and whole school events to promote difference and equality in our school. Students are also taught about respect and bullying in the online world through our curriculum and e-safety lessons.

In the relationships and PCD programmes, students learn about mutual respect through relationship education, e-safety, and the work they complete on shared community values.

A key element of the Religion (RE) syllabus taught throughout the school is the encouragement of mutual respect and the discussion and acknowledgment of a variety of beliefs and opinions.

Students are provided with a safe environment in which to explore and express their own views.

Tolerance for other faiths and traditions:

Awareness of religion, traditions, cultural heritage, and preferences

Europa School UK School is rich in cultural diversity, and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Students learn that all members of the school community deserve to be treated with respect and that differences are to be accepted.

Religious Education is taught in Primary, KS3, and KS4 and promotes mutual respect and understanding between those of different faiths or beliefs.

Staff plan lessons that actively challenge stereotypes and reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others no matter their ethnicity, beliefs, gender or disability. A variety of topics are covered in Religion and part of the Relationships and PCD programmes including Yom Kippur; International Day of Peace; Black History Month; Ramadan, Diwali; International Day for Tolerance; Holocaust Memorial Day, Hanukkah; Martin Luther King Day; St Nikolaus, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year; and Passover.

The weekly newsletter celebrates cultural events and celebrates the successes of all students.

At Europa School UK we actively challenge students, staff, or parents to express opinions contrary to the values we hold as a school and those that underpin the fabric of a democratic Britain. We take our responsibilities seriously as set out in the Government's Prevent Strategy designed to tackle 'extremist' views and prevent children being radicalised.

In the relationships and PCD programmes, students learn about acceptance and different forms of discrimination including discrimination against people due to their gender, religion, disability, sexuality, and ethnicity, as well as how to challenge discrimination in society. The curriculum educates students about the dangers of radicalisation and extremism.