



British Values Statement

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Date of Policy:	January 2019
Status & Review Cycle:	3 years
Next Review Date:	January 2022

British Values Statement

The Altius Trust is committed to serving its communities and recognises the multicultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of both our city and the United Kingdom. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum whilst ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

At Manchester Enterprise Academy, we value the diversity of backgrounds of all students, families and the wider school community that we serve.

The MEA Way, for all staff, students and visitors is **'safe, respectful, ready'** and our British Values, Prevent and SMSC work permeates all that we do to ensure that students embrace these values and model them at all times.

The Trust also understands the vital role it has 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.

As set out in the equal opportunities guidance, we are dedicated to ensuring that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status within the academy.

In 2014 the Department for Education issued new guidance which compels all academies to promote Fundamental British Values, and states that there is a need:

"To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to 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 Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

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

Our academy reflects British Values across all of our provision. We embolden our students to be creative, tolerant, open-minded and independent individuals who are respectful of themselves and of others in our academy, our local community and the wider world – acting as 'Community Citizens'.

Democracy

The academy is committed to providing opportunities for students to engage with, understand and participate in democracy and democratic processes. We believe it is important that our students are able to understand different political views, discuss current events and develop political literacy. Some of the ways we do this are:

- Annual whole school participation with the UK Youth Parliament Youth Ballot
- Weekly Smart School Council meetings for all tutor groups, linked to the Academy Improvement Plan
- Fantastic Futures lessons explicitly teach about The Political System and the United Kingdom's democracy
- The academy is part of the United Nations Rights Respecting Schools and is currently working towards achieving the silver award
- Democracy and the theme of democracy is featured throughout the curriculum. For example, in History lessons, focusing on the development of democracy from 1000A.D to the present day, including The British Civil Rights Movement.
- Students across the academy work closely with the Manchester Youth Council

- Dedicated time exists within Tutor Time for students to discuss and explore current political events and issues
- Student feedback and student voice is placed at the heart of decision-making
- Students take part in Debate Mate which encourages the skills of debating and oracy
- Students take part in UK Parliament Week each year as well as key SMSC calendar events such as Women's History Month, LGBT History Month and Black History Month.
- Developing student oracy is one of our key improvement priorities

The rule of law

The academy is committed to developing law-abiding citizens by:

- Promoting and encouraging respect behaviour and attitudes, helping students to distinguish right from wrong through our 'Community Citizens' work, behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy.
- Through Fantastic Futures lessons, students are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. The Fantastic Future's Curriculum specifically explores Hate Crime, Drug Classification and Human Rights.
- The academy enforces the idea of consequences for those who do not follow the policy and rewards learners who follow The MEA Way and provides reflection opportunities for all learners to understand their behaviour.
- We facilitate visits from authorities and local partners such as the Police and Fire Service to help reinforce the importance of the rule of law within both the academy and the United Kingdom.

Individual liberty

We believe in the importance of developing students who are able to make informed choices and become independent adults who are aware of their rights. Individual liberty is covered through:

- The Fantastic Futures curriculum engages students to explore the importance of rights from Year7-Sixth Form and aims to develop the skills of resilience and empathy
- In 2014, the academy established Diversity Ambassadors to promote tolerance and inclusion across the academy and the local community – our work has been recognized and celebrated across the city when we won the Youth Buzz Award in 2016/17 and The Be Proud Award in 2017/18.
- The Rights Respecting Action Team meet to discuss the promotion of The UN Rights of The Child across the school as part of our A Rights Respecting School Award.
- The school is working to become A Rainbow Flag School to further embed LGBTQ+ tolerance and awareness
- Encouraging learners to make individual choices within their personal pathways through a planned programme of CEIAG
- Actively promoting and helping learners to express their views, ideas and thoughts in an open and safe environment
- Enforcing the Academy's robust anti-bullying policy

Mutual respect

It is important that learners know their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and the rights of others; treating each other with respect is actively promoted throughout the academy and is part of our MEA learning principles. The academy teaches and upholds this value through:

- Staff and students are encouraged to challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. All such incidents are recorded.

- Groups of students across year groups have received explicit training on how to promote and up-hold respect and tackle prejudice.
- Mutual respect is enforced and re-enforced through our behaviour and anti-bullying policies
- School assemblies focus on respect, tolerance and equality throughout each academic year
- The tutorial programme is designed to encourage students to reflect on their behaviour and conduct towards others
- Students are provided with an array of extra-curricular clubs, activities and events that enable them to work with a wide range of other students.
- The Fantastic Futures curriculum explicitly covers the importance of mutual respect
- Curriculum design, which encourages students to work in groups and understand each other's needs/strengths and weaknesses, thus promoting a culture of mutual respect and helpfulness.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The Altius Trust does not actively promote one faith or belief system over another but actively encourages students to be aware of, understand and be tolerant towards the range of views, which exist within our society. The academy does this through:

- Celebration of different faiths on key calendar days.
- Through the Fantastic Futures and RE curriculums, students are encouraged to discuss and respect differences between people, such as differences of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality and differences of family situations.
- Our Diversity Ambassadors and Rights Respecting Action Group play an active and lively role within the academy and local community – upholding the values of tolerance and inclusion
- The academy is working towards achieving The Rainbow Flag Award
- Discussions about prejudice are a part of our tutorial programme
- Recognition and discussion of religious celebrations in lessons, form times and assemblies.
- Students who are marking religious or cultural events are encouraged to share their beliefs and practices within their tutor groups
- As part of our Pastoral Pledges, students visit a range of places of worship, with each year group visiting a different site each year.
- The Tutorial Programme engages students each week to make decisions and discuss topics as part of our Smart School Council and also provides a space for students to explore current events
- The academy takes part in key national, local and regional events – such as Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBT History Month, Black History Month and Women's History Month where students are encouraged to reflect, empathise and form their own views on these topics.