

**Values and Ethos Statement**

Woolston 6th Form College’s vision is ‘to nurture and develop students’ potential while preparing them for life and potential employment.’

We aim to be an innovative, enriched and vibrant learning community that celebrates progress and achievement, in all its forms, for young people with disabilities. We set high standards in everything that we do, and we aim to create a positive learning environment where young people are engaged and motivated to learn.

At Woolston 6th Form College we will strive to:-

* provide a safe and stimulating environment where every student feels accepted and secure;
* support and challenge students to develop academically, emotionally and socially to the best of their ability;
* offer all students equal access to the curriculum, to college life and life in the community where individual differences are appreciated, celebrated, understood and accepted;
* equip all of our students with the skills required to function in the world of work and/or to live as independently as possible;
* value the achievements of all students, both in and out of college and provide opportunities to develop self-confidence and a positive self-image;
* Have regard and respect for the experiences, knowledge and cultural diversity that every young person brings to college;
* Provide a supportive culture in which all staff are encouraged to extend, develop and share their expertise;
* encourage students to become good citizens, by developing caring attitudes and respect towards themselves, other people, their college and their community;
* encourage each student to take responsibility for his/her behaviour and to act as a good role model to others.

The Department for Education states that there is a need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools and colleges 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.”

At Woolston 6th Form College these values are reinforced throughout the curriculum and in everything that we do.

**Democracy**

Students have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a college council which meets termly to discuss issues raised in college. The council members for each form are voted in by their classes, as well as voting for head and deputy head students.

Students have an annual questionnaire with which they are able to put forward their views about the college and the courses they are doing.

**The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern individual classes, the whole college, or the country, are reinforced throughout the academic and hidden curriculums, as well as when dealing with behaviour. 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.

**Individual Liberty**

Within college students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. They make choices about what vocational courses they would like to do each term.

As a college we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make choices safety, through of provision of a safe environment and empowering education.  Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our Personal Development lessons.

**Mutual Respect**

In college we have some very simple rules:

1. Be sensible
2. Be pleasant
3. Be helpful
4. Be polite

All of our college rules are reinforced throughout every day and students participate in Personal Development lessons, discussions and assemblies related to the rules and how we show each other ‘respect’ and what this means. The notion of ‘respect for others’ is reiterated through all sessions both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are shown that it is expected that we show respect to everyone, whatever differences we may have.

All students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and a big part of this is the volunteering section. Students support other groups that are less fortunate than ourselves and we feel that this teaches students empathy and respect towards other people.

**Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

As a college we promote acceptance of those who have different faiths and beliefs.  This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

As part of our college calendar citizenship days are set annually to study different religious festivals and students get the opportunity to look at the different cultures, foods, music and traditions.

As part of Food Technology sessions students will be encouraged to make and taste a variety of British foods as well as foods from around the world.