**Statement on the Promotion of British Values**

**Background and Rationale**

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 2012 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, 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.

**What is meant by “British Values”?**

British Values are defined by OFSTED as:

Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Although some people may argue that these values are not uniquely “British” there can be no doubt that they are fundamental to life in Britain and as such they are actively promoted by this school in order to prepare young people for life in modern Britain.

**How does our school go about promoting these values?**

At LSAT&PAC we believe that our statement of vision and values, found on the school’s website, makes explicit our fundamental belief in these values. This statement is the foundation of all our work with our students.

Our school’s Mission Statement, “A learning community in pursuit of excellence” is underpinned by three statements that sum up the values and ethos of the school. The second of these is as follows:

***People in our school community are to be treated equally and with fairness and respect***.

*Students will have respect for themselves, for others and for their environment. Students will display leadership and the ability to work in teams. We welcome and value every young person, whatever their academic ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality or background. Our school represents and reflects the community it serves though we teach students to be positive role models and active citizens of the United Kingdom and of the wider world.*

Promoting British Values is, therefore, inextricably linked to the delivery of our mission statement and to every single relationship and activity that takes place in the school.

British values are promoted in more specific ways too. We have recently carried out an audit of provision of the ways in which British Values are promoted through curricular and extra- curricular opportunities available in the school. The audit document is available, on request, from the Headteacher at the school. The audit showed that whilst the school does a vast amount of work to promote British Values this is done in an ad hoc way and as a result some students received more exposure to these specific curricular and extra – curricular ways of promoting British values than others.

**Therefore, the school set the following target:**

Ensure the school has a coherent way of promoting British Values and to monitor the impact of the work. Ensure that the school continues to monitor and appropriately deal with incidents where British Values are threatened by extremist views or behaviour.

Actions to be taken to deliver this target over the next two years are to be included in the School’s Development Plan.

November 2014