British Values

The Department for Education requires 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 Government has published departmental advice for schools on meeting the requirements to actively promote “fundamental British values”.

Democracy
Students have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a School Council which is made up of Students from all year groups. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by members of the student body. The Council is able to genuinely effect change within the School. School Council members are voted in to post through a system of elections held in the autumn term.

There are termly meetings of the 6 School Houses, led by the House Captains, where each House decides on its Charity for the year and how they will raise money to support it.

Student focus groups are regularly consulted on issues such as Homework; Marking and Feedback; changes or additions to School Uniform and The new Reporting System.

The Rule of Law
The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. 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 Students were responsible for creating our Golden Rules. We also include visits from authorities, such as the Police, to speak on relevant issues in PSHE lessons and Pastoral time.

Individual Liberty
Students are actively encouraged to think about and make good choices in their daily lives in and out of school. The School provides students with a safe and secure environment that supports them in making the right choices through establishing boundaries and the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety, PSHE lessons and Pastoral sessions. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge in class or of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, students are given the freedom to make choices.
Mutual Respect
Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs
The School places a great emphasis on promoting diversity. Assemblies are regularly planned to address this either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforce this. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Students visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.
At Newlands Girls’ School we will actively challenge students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Extremism
HM government has published guidance for authorities, including schools, on their responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act. Under the Act, schools have a duty to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The guidance outlines activities schools will be expected to demonstrate, including:

- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, and having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify pupils at risk and refer them to relevant authorities
- Setting out protocols for ensuring that visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised
- Working in partnership with other local bodies and following local authority inter-agency procedures
- Ensuring staff are trained to identify pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Ensuring the school has internet filters in place to block terrorist and extremist material.

The PREVENT strategy is part of our Safeguarding Policy. Newlands Girls’ School works in association with PREVENT.