



Wychwood School
OXFORD

GUIDELINES ON THE TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL OR POLITICAL ISSUES

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In accordance with the Equality Act of 2010 and the DfE guidance of November 2013 and 2014 Wychwood, Oxford will aim to attain its ethos of tolerance and inclusion of all within its Christian heritage and tradition by undertaking to act in the following manner when teaching pupils:

1. Wychwood, Oxford will not discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or prospective pupil by treating them less favourably because of their:

- sex (except in that we are a single sex school and do not admit boys)
- race
- disability
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy or maternity

or because people associated with that pupil have any of the protected characteristics listed above. Pupils will be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

2. Wychwood, Oxford will ensure pupils' SMSC development according to its SMSC policy and also by actively promoting fundamental British values which will

- enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- encourage respect for other people

- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England. This is actively modelled throughout the school by the voting procedures used for Citizens and Councillors and in whole school votes
- develop in pupils an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- develop in pupils an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- promote an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence
- ensure that pupils understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- ensure that pupils accept that other people having different faiths or beliefs from oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- embed an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination
- not promote extremist views, or partisan political views, through the curriculum and/or teaching
- offer pupils a balanced presentation of views when political issues are brought to their attention.