

Caterham School Statement of Approach to Fundamental British Values (FBV)

At Caterham School, we recognize that enabling pupils to flourish academically goes hand in hand with preparing them for adult life in modern British society. The School's Purpose Statement places core importance on personal responsibility and a clear appreciation of, and respect for, the views and potential of others.

Part of preparing our pupils to engage positively with a rapidly changing world means ensuring that we actively promote and reinforce Fundamental British Values (FBV):

- 1. Democracy** – Giving pupils a voice and active participation in decision-making processes.
- 2. The Rule of Law** – Instilling an understanding of fair boundaries, protection, and civil responsibility.
- 3. Individual Liberty** – Fostering personal choice, agency, and intellectual independence within a safe framework.
- 4. Mutual Respect and Tolerance** – Celebrating diversity, inclusion, and multi-faith understanding across our community.

These values permeate our school community through our academic curriculum, whole-school provision, pastoral systems, and co-curricular programs.

Embedding Fundamental British Values (see also FBV Audit and Compliance Report, Aug 2026)

1. Democracy

- **Pupil Voice & Pupil Leadership:** Democratic elections take place for Form Representatives, School Council, Year Group Councils, Sixth Form Council, Day House representatives, and Boarding Prefects.
- **Influencing School Life:** Pupil surveys—such as the Whole-School Pupil Wellbeing Survey—directly shape our curriculum and priorities of pastoral care
- **Elections & Civic Engagement:** Whole-school mock elections, Democracy Week assemblies, and pupil-led societies provide a real-world understanding of civic structures and political systems.
- **Academic Integration:** In Politics, History, MFL, Economics, and P&T, pupils study democratic governance, international political structures, and the role of public voting in business and societal policy.

2. The Rule of Law

- **School Culture & Standards:** Clear, transparent behavioural expectations (such as our Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct) demonstrate how fair boundaries protect individual freedoms and ensure collective safety.

- **Academic Curricula (Business & Economics):** Covers employment law, consumer protection, competition policy, and international regulatory frameworks (e.g., WTO, GDPR).
- **Academic Curricula (Psychology, P&T, STEM):** Explores legal frameworks, criminal behavior, custodial sentencing, forensic ethics, health and safety legislation (HASAWA, COSHH), laboratory safety protocols, and intellectual property/copyright law.
- **Co-Curricular Standards:** From strict workshop safety in Tech Club to parliamentary procedure in Model United Nations (MUN) and fair-play policies in sport and gaming, pupils learn the necessity of agreed legal and ethical frameworks.

3. Individual Liberty

- **Personal Responsibility & Choice:** Boarding routines, co-curricular options, and academic pathways empower pupils to build autonomy, self-regulation, and self-advocacy skills. This is embedded through our positive approach to behaviour management.
- **Digital Liberty & Safety:** Supported by our Online Safety Policy, Acceptable Use documentation, and the Caterham Online Partnership, we teach pupils that online freedom goes hand-in-hand with responsible behaviour and digital literacy.
- **Intellectual Freedom:** Pupil-led initiatives—such as the Moncrieff-Jones Science Society, Econ Society, Thunk Club, and Preview Magazine—give pupils autonomy to lead research, select presentation topics, and express their identity.
- **Ethics & Safeguarding:** Wellbeing and EDGE lessons equip pupils to explore free will, consent, human rights, and responsible personal decision-making.

4. Mutual Respect and Tolerance for those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

- **Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion:** Sectional EDI societies (including the African Caribbean Society and Feminist Society) and initiatives such as Neurodiversity Celebration Week actively challenge stereotypes and foster an inclusive culture.
- **Multi-Faith Understanding:** Religious Education, P&T, and Wellbeing cover major world religions, non-religious worldviews, and secularism. Whole-school assemblies and house events celebrate key religious and cultural events (e.g., Ramadan, Eid, Chinese New Year, Holocaust Memorial Day).
- **Inclusive Spaces:** Spaces such as the Quiet Room accommodate pupils of all faiths—or those seeking a quiet space for reflection—reinforcing our celebration of diverse cultures and beliefs.
- **Global Perspectives:** MFL, Geography, Music, Art, and Drama explore global traditions and indigenous cultures, encouraging empathy and broad horizons.

Safe Climate for Open and Controversial Debate

- **Classroom Ground Rules:** Across all academic subjects—from debating climate change ethics in Science to analysing economic inequality or historical conflicts—teachers set clear ground rules for respectful, evidence-based discussion.
- **Debating Forums:** Societies such as the Ethics Cup, Model United Nations, Wright Society, and Debates in Tutor Time teach pupils how to critique ideas rigorously without targeting individuals, listen well and provide a resilient defence against extreme narratives.
- **Political Impartiality & Prevent:** Staff ensure that political issues are presented in a balanced, non-partisan manner, meeting our statutory requirements under the Prevent Duty and Independent School Standards.