

Citizenship education at Sackville School is rooted in our belief that every member of our school community works together to achieve the very best for each other – our motto ‘Together We Achieve’ sums this up. The Sackville Rights enshrine the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs within all decision-making structures and systems. We are a Unicef Rights Respecting School (Level 1).

Our Personal Development and Beliefs & Values curriculum ensures that all students study key areas such as rights, democracy and government, criminal justice, diversity, identity, culture and community. Sackville students are encouraged to enquire into and explore their own beliefs and values as well as those of others, while always receiving clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong. Our Beliefs & Values syllabus ensures a balanced approach to the students’ religious education, which is broadly Christian but encompasses all six of the major world faiths in Britain.

Lessons are supported by a range of activities in and out of school, which all contribute to the well-rounded provision of citizenship education and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all. These activities include a varied and rounded programme of assemblies with local, national and global themes, opportunities for students to take on leadership roles – such as the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award, and a range of trips and visits – including to the law courts and Parliament. The tutor system is an invaluable part of the Sackville approach to preparing students for life in modern Britain. This role is further developed through a series of de-timetabled days for each year group, during which they follow a tailored programme relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

The Sackville Student Voice group ensures that leaders and managers in the school are kept in touch with the views of students, from year 7 to year 13. Students have recently carried out learning walks, with a focus on independent learning and behaviour for learning; this clearly demonstrates that they are taking responsibility for their own learning and education. In 2015 we will once again be running mock elections to shadow the General Election and expose students to the operation of democracy in a very real way. Through this we will be renewing our Democracy Award.

Sackville students are unfailingly generous when it comes to charitable giving and volunteering. This is emphasised by our links with two local charity schools Step by Step and Chailey Heritage where our students volunteer and raise funds. Each year our non-uniform days raise thousands of pounds for good causes and students think imaginatively of any number of ways to give to others with both their time and money. It is this spirit which is woven throughout the fabric of Sackville – ensuring that the community thrives and that ‘together we achieve’.