

**democracy** (abstract noun) - from the Greek *demos* = 'people', and *kratos* = 'power': the power of the people. We live in a democracy where adults can elect government officials in free and fair elections. These elected officials then represent our ideas and concerns in government.

**liberty** (abstract noun) - from the Latin *liber* = 'free'. **Individual liberty** is the right to believe, act and express ourselves freely within the law.

**law** (abstract noun) - from Old English *lagu* = 'rule, regulation'. **The Rule of Law** means that there are rules we live by to make sure we are safe and secure within our communities.

**respect** (abstract noun) - developed from the Latin *respectus* and came to mean personal worth or power in the late 16th century. Having **respect** for someone means that we are polite and have due regard for other people's feelings, wishes, or rights.

**tolerance** (abstract noun) - developed from the Latin *tolerare* = 'to bear or endure', and in the mid 18th century came to mean to be free from bigotry (prejudice) when judging others. **Tolerance** means we accept the rights of people to have different faiths and beliefs even if we disagree with them.



At BGLC we know that our responsibility as teachers is not just to pass on knowledge and assess how well that knowledge has been learned. We are also nurturing our young people to become law abiding, open-minded, resilient citizens, proud of the country they are living in because of our shared values.

These values are reflected in English lessons through:

- *Debates and discussions* where all students feel comfortable to share their views and beliefs in a supportive and tolerant environment. Topics include 'Speech is Power' and 'Writing to be Heard'.
- Encouragement of *critical thinking* where controversial or extremists views are sensitively challenged.
- The study of texts which facilitate discussion of *right and wrong*, and the consequences of behaving or acting outside of the law (eg Macbeth, Richard III, Othello, The Duchess of Malfi, Animal Farm, A Christmas Carol).
- The study of texts which explore characters with *different life experiences*, and from different backgrounds (eg The Bone Sparrow, To Kill a Mockingbird, Spirited Away, The Book Thief, Wonder)



# British Values in English lessons

