



Character Education @ St Aloysius

"Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking."

J.C. Watts

At St. Aloysius, we firmly believe that we have a duty to ensure that our children are able to fulfil their academic and personal potential. Central to achieving both of these is **'character education'**.

Character education is not a standalone subject. As part of our personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development curriculum we prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. This all falls under the umbrella of character education. Our aim is to help the pupils to become happy, confident and well-rounded individuals who make meaningful contributions to society.

Our Approach to Character Education

Our character education is based on the extensive research and projects carried out by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. The work undertaken by the Jubilee Centre has identified a range of virtues that are indicative of good character.

The Centre defines character education as all explicit and implicit educational activities that help individuals to develop positive personal strengths and qualities called virtues (moral, civic, intellectual and performative). There is a growing consensus in Britain and around the world that virtues such as practical wisdom, compassion, honesty, self-control, justice, and respect, which contribute to good character, are part of the solution to many of the challenges facing society today. As such everyone should have the opportunity to develop good character throughout their lives, as:

- *The virtues which make up character enable us to enjoy rewarding and productive lives; especially practical wisdom;*
- *The more people with good character, the healthier our society;*
- *Young people learn better when they also have good character;*
- *Integrity and good character are equally important to knowledge and skills in our professions.*

At St. Aloysius, character education permeates through everything we do. Our children understand that our school values are reflected through:

- The way we behave.
- The actions we take.
- The decisions we make.



'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.'
John 10:10



Caught

Taught

Sought



To ensure that our children are constantly exposed to positive character virtues, we employ a taught, sought, caught approach to character development:

Caught

Constant exposure to positive role models and a recognition of when good character has been demonstrated means that pupils are able to 'catch' positive character traits.

Our pupils take part in celebration assemblies every Friday where we highlight and celebrate positive attitudes and behaviour. Celebration awards include:

- Care and concern award, given to those who have shown kindness, care and compassion to those around them.
- Special Award, given out to a child that has stood out for any reason.
- Star Award, given out by teachers to children that have shown excellence in any area of the curriculum.
- Maths Award, given to children who have stood out in maths lessons.
- Gold Award, given to children who have stood out for showing healthy lifestyle choices.

Taught

Pupils can be taught about what good character looks like through their educational experiences; we ensure that opportunities to exploit links to character are made throughout our curriculum. For example, learning about the bravery of Grace Darling in Reception, understanding how Mary Anning overcame adversity to become one of the greatest fossil hunters of all time in Year 1, recognising how Nelson Mandela brought peace to a racially divided country and highlighted the need for equality across the world in Year 5 and studying Maximilian Kolbe's acts of compassion and selflessness in Year 6.

Sought

Pupils are encouraged to seek out opportunities to develop their character through extra-curricular experiences and an array of leadership opportunities.

Our school offers a rich variety of extra-curricular experiences such as:

- *Cooking clubs which teach basic hygiene and provide vital life skills.*
- *Mini-medics which provides children with basic first aid skills.*
- *Eco Club which highlights the importance of looking after our planet by focusing on recyclable materials.*
- *British Sign Language club which celebrates diversity.*
- *Music Festival, an opportunity to sing and act with children from around the borough of South Tyneside.*

Our pupils are also supported and encouraged to take on leadership roles such as:

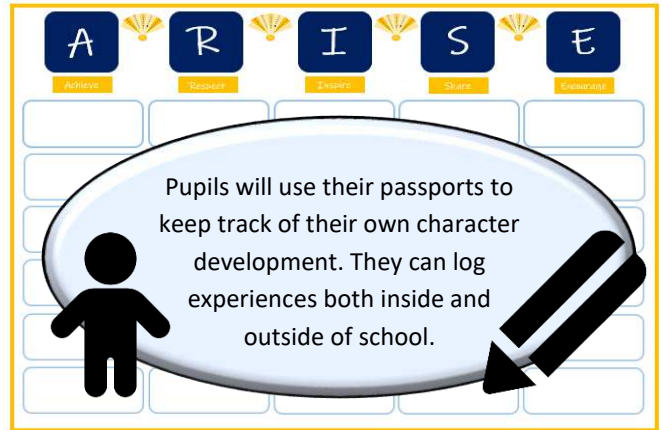
- *School council*
- *Prayer leaders*
- *Mini Vinnies*
- *Sports leaders*
- *Subject ambassadors*
- *Head students*
- *Deputy Head students*

Pupil Passports

Each key stage passport (EYFS/KS1, Lower KS2, Upper KS2) contains a series of 30 carefully selected activities and experiences that we will provide for the children during their time at St. Aloysius. The passport will go through school with the children, with a new set of experiences every two years.

Each activity has been designed to develop the children's personal skills; helping to build their general knowledge, develop their character and prepare them for life beyond primary school. Each time the children complete one of the items on their passport, they colour it in on their own chart. They will also have the opportunity to record their achievements outside of school on their passport – these will be celebrated at school.

When the children leave us, they will have learned so much through our rich and varied curriculum and through the wider experiences and opportunities they receive. Our pupil passports are an excellent way to celebrate each and every child, and the experiences they have at St. Aloysius will give them memories to treasure and talk about for years to come.



Computer Club



Exploring careers



Visitors to school



Theatre visits



Sporting events



Cooking Club



Mini medics



Musical performances

