



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



3 October 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Personal Development Curriculum

I am writing to you to share information about the opportunities for Personal Development that your child will experience at Abbot's Lea School.

For a long time now, many families have commented positively on the effects of school on their child. These comments usually stretch beyond what they *know* or what they *can do*. Whether that be the first time they manage to attend a birthday party or the first time they are able to wait in a queue, we know what a positive impact these skills have on family life.

Our **Personal Development Curriculum** develops and deepens students' understanding of the fundamental British values of Democracy, Individual Liberty, the Rule of Law, Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

We have evaluated and updated our extensive Personal Development Curriculum, as well as our extracurricular activities so that all students can access a wide, rich set of experiences, including powerful discussions and debates. For our secondary students, there is a particular focus on preparing for future success in education, employment, or training.

Our Personal Development Curriculum has 3 strands which run from EYFS to KS5:

- Independence
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Communication

To cover the three strands above you will see enhancements to our curriculum provision on your child's timetable in the format of "Votes for schools," "Enrichment Clubs" and "Personal Development Themes." I include a little bit of information on each below:

Votes for schools

Votes for Schools is a weekly current affairs platform, which supports discussions on challenging topical issues, empowering our students to have their voices heard by voting and commenting on a key question relating to political and social issues. Through weekly debating and voting, not only are our students learning about the world around them, but they are also preparing for participating in our democratic processes, as they learn about themselves, others and the world around them.

Enrichment Clubs

There is a clear purpose behind all enrichment clubs. In Term 1 students have tasters of all the enrichment clubs in their own classes. From Term 2, students will be supported to choose the club that they will both enjoy, and benefit from. These clubs will run on a Friday afternoon. Examples include horticulture club, art club, Lego club and many more.

Personal Development Themes

There will be six themes that run throughout the year. The themes are:

- Travel Training
- Speak Out; Stay Safe
- Money Matters
- My Happy Mind
- Personal Preparation
- Expanding my PIT – Personal Interest Time - (looking at using students' existing interests to find new ones)

We are here for you and your children.

If there is anything that you would like us to work on with your child in school, such as preparing them for upcoming holidays, helping them to cope with medical appointments or tolerate a haircut, please let us know.

The best method of communication for this would be to email your child's class team.

I look forward to enjoying a wide range of activities with you children and welcome any feedback.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher



Families in need at Christmas

The Salvation Army at Strawberry Field would like to help any of our families who might struggle this Christmas time with buying a gift for the students at Abbot's Lea School.

If you would like your child to receive a gift from The Salvation Army this year, please complete the form below and return it to Mrs Heller – Safeguarding Assistant as soon as possible.

If you would like to donate this year, please contact Karen Carter at Strawberry Field. Karen.Carter@salvationarmy.org.uk

Name.....

Age.....

Class.....

Gender.....

Interests.....

Amount of siblings under 16.....

Last Christmas, The Salvation Army provided over 60 gifts and Turkey's to the students at Abbot's Lea School and this year we would love to provide the same level of support.

Gifts will be delivered to your home the week before Christmas as they were last year.

Thank you all in advance.