

## Education with Character

**“Character isn’t something you were born with and can’t change, like your fingerprints. It’s something you weren’t born with and must take responsibility for forming.” Jim Rohn**

### **Our pledge:**

**At Abbey Hey Primary Academy, we recognise that academic success is important but there is more to good education. We aim to develop character, compassion and service within our children so that they can find the best in themselves.**

### Intent, Implementation, and Impact

#### Intent:

At Abbey Hey, we work hard to ensure that we provide our children with a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to provide the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life beyond primary school.

This curriculum extends beyond the academic and enables children to develop and discover their interests and talents.

We endeavour to support our children to develop their character – their resilience, confidence and independence – and help them to know how to keep physically and mentally healthy.

We want to equip children to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society; to develop their understanding and appreciation of diversity; and to celebrate differences and things we have in common.

Abbey Hey is a family, a supportive and loving community, where children feel safe, secure and valued, able to challenge themselves and take pride in their achievements and development.

#### Implementation

At Abbey Hey, our character curriculum is weaved throughout our academic curriculum offer. All staff have adapted their curriculum plans to encompass opportunities for our preferred traits and values to be explicitly taught and have made local links where possible to enable pupils to continue to develop their sense of identity.

Our Primary Pupil Charter has been created to set out the co-curricular experiences that we believe are every pupil’s right. Some of these experiences are planned for yearly, for example visits. Other opportunities will be provided in a specific key stage, for example learn a musical instrument outside of the Music curriculum.

We have created an individual Record of Achievement to track and celebrate our Pupil Charter, and this document will follow our children from Nursery to Year 6.

The Pupil Charter is organised into the following categories:

- Take part in a co-curricular club
- School trips and residentials
- Perform music or drama to an audience
- Represent their class in individual and team activities
- Hear from an inspirational speaker or author
- Volunteer time to serve the local community
- Leadership and sharing views on the school
- Represent school in a sporting, cultural or academic event
- Deliver a presentation to an audience
- Reflect on aspirations and personal development goals (Year 6 only)
- Experience a workplace (or workplace professional visit to school)
- Further Education

We also offer additional opportunities to develop character:

<p>Links with the wider community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbey Hey has developed strong links with a local residential care home and a supported housing facility for over-55's.</li> <li>• Pupils from our choir regularly perform for the residents, and pupils visit the residents to chat and play games, giving them the opportunity to build relationships and to serve the local community.</li> <li>• Local community members are invited to school events and performances.</li> </ul>
<p>Careers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Abbey Hey, we are passionate about raising our children's aspirations and showing them the different routes, they can take to achieve their desired profession after leaving full time education.</li> <li>• All curriculum subjects have a careers word cloud at the bottom of</li> </ul>



	<p>the disciplinary knowledge sheet in their exercise books. This signposts children towards the variety of career opportunities available by mastering this subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children visit secondary schools, colleges and universities as part of our Pupil Charter.</li><li>• We have an Abbey Hey Alumni page on our website celebrating the career successes of our former pupils.</li></ul>
British Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All children are taught explicitly about Modern British Values and current affairs that are happening in the wider world.</li><li>• Weekly 'Votes for Schools' assemblies provide children with the opportunity to democratically vote on key topics of discussion, allowing their voices to be heard.</li></ul>
Ambassador roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to represent a range of areas as ambassadors.</li><li>• Ambassadors are appointed for all subject areas, and other areas of school life such as attendance, mental health, road safety etc.</li><li>• Once appointed, subject ambassadors work alongside the staff subject leader to monitor the subject and participate in pupil conferencing.</li></ul>
Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All children in school are encouraged to take part in a variety of after school and lunchtime clubs.</li><li>• We offer a range of clubs such as coding, football, dance, cross country and forest school.</li></ul>



<p>Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We work hard to ensure that our children are provided with the opportunity to meet and speak to people and professionals from all walks of life.</li><li>• From members of the emergency services, professional sports people, members of the local community, faith leaders, authors and musicians, we want to expose our children to a range of potential future careers and areas of interest.</li></ul>
<p>Cultural links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We celebrate a range of religious festivals at Abbey Hey. We have strong community links, with parents and families often sharing their heritage with our children.</li><li>• We visit a range of places of worship and invite faith leaders to school to teach us about their customs and beliefs.</li><li>• We acknowledge and celebrate many cultural and world days at Abbey Hey Primary. We recognise and celebrate the diversity that we have in school, offering children chance to share their cultures with others so their peers can learn about and appreciate differences.</li></ul>
<p>Student Leadership Programme</p>	<p>Children in Year 6 have the opportunity to take part in a leadership learning programme, provided by United Learning and enhanced by our school staff. The programme is delivered over the year centred around three core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Personal reflection and self-awareness</li><li>➤ Leading with impact</li><li>➤ Communication</li></ul>



Throughout the course, beginning with an initial training day for students, the facilitator will provide opportunities for children to develop their leadership through exploring the following questions:

Session 1 – Who am I as a leader?

Session 2 – What makes a good leader?

Session 3 – How will I overcome obstacles?

Session 4 – How will I inspire and influence others?

Session 5 – How do I impact on my community?

Session 6 – Why are British Values important in leadership?

Session 7 – How will I lead with impact?

The impact of the programme will be to:

Improve children's learning and cultural capital by giving them the skills and traits needed for success outside of the classroom; help children develop effective communication and interpersonal skills and demonstrate the skills and attributes of a good leader; help children to become resilient in overcoming obstacles and know how to plan for successful change; enable children to have increased self-awareness resulting in children being able to self-reflect and manage their own behaviour; help children identify their own strengths and weaknesses.

Our leadership programme is embedded with core disciplinary knowledge and skills resulting in happy, confident children who



	<p>have had a lasting impact on the wider community.</p>
Curriculum Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All children in school will be provided with the opportunity to attend engaging, exciting and purposeful educational visits outside of our school grounds, planned to bring our learning to life.</li><li>• All year groups will have the opportunity to visit educational sites and learn from a range of visitors that link to our curriculum.</li></ul>
Character Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At Abbey Hey, we work incredibly hard to develop our children's characters and support their personal development.</li><li>• Staff have selected several virtues/traits that we would like children to develop throughout their time at Abbey Hey. Our Abbey Hey traits are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Moral virtue – Respect</li><li>➤ Intellectual virtue – Curiosity</li><li>➤ Civic Virtue – Civility</li></ul></li><li>• The virtues, alongside our behaviour expectations, ensure that on a daily basis children are focussed on developing their character and becoming well-rounded citizens of the future. These traits are discussed through our curriculum, and through our celebrations.</li></ul>
Music lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to join the choir. The choir performs at many venues/events such as Young Voices at the Manchester Arena, Christmas celebrations at Gorton</li></ul>

Mill, the Mere Golf Club and school-based events.

- We have had support and training from the Voices Foundation to ensure children develop a love of singing outside of the music curriculum.
- All children in Year 4 also learn to play the trumpet, having weekly tuition from a peripatetic music specialist.

## **Impact**

“Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking.” J C Watts

We believe our curriculum allows pupils to discover new talents, develop confidence and aspirations for themselves, make memories that will last throughout their lives and guide them in their moral decisions forevermore.

Abbey Hey staff strive to bring the best out of every child. We challenge and test our pupils at every step of their Primary journey; to learn about teamwork and feel a sense of belonging and responsibility, to overcome difficulties and develop a growth mindset, to know what is right and have the confidence to stand up for themselves and others.

True character is demonstrated when nobody is watching. Our character curriculum develops a depth of character and individualism in our pupils which enables them to be the best they can be and become active, principled citizens of the future.