

Personal Development at St. Aidan's



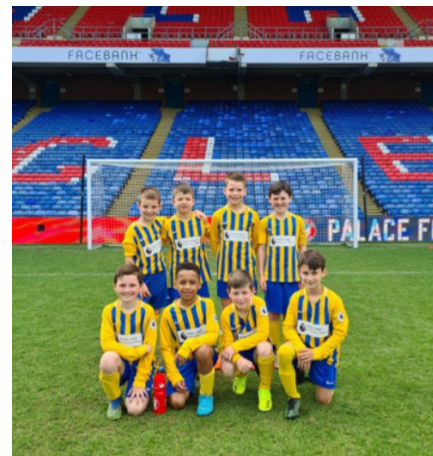
Intent - Personal Development

Our personal development curriculum is designed to nurture the "whole child." We explicitly prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life by fostering self-belief and a strong moral compass.

- **Whole-Rounded Character:** To intentionally cultivate specific character virtues (e.g., resilience, integrity, empathy) alongside academic success, ensuring pupils leave as emotionally mature, confident citizens.
- **Lifelong Values:** To instill a deeply rooted value system that acts as an internal compass, guiding pupils' moral decisions and behavior long after they leave primary school.
- **A Culture of Self-Belief:** To foster a growth mindset where pupils genuinely believe that their potential is not fixed, learning that sustained effort, hard work, and determination lead to achievement.
- **Equity of Experience:** To provide a deliberately designed, non-negotiable calendar of rich and varied experiences, ensuring that disadvantage is never a barrier.



*Personal
Development
at
St. Aidans*



Implementation

We deliver our intent through a deliberate combination of explicit teaching, a progressive "experiences guarantee," and a school-wide culture that rewards effort.

- **St. Aidan's University (Rich & Varied Opportunities):**
 - Our Curriculum offers a wide variety of pupil experiences and trips, competitions and faith in action.
 - We believe that learning beyond the classroom is essential to foster a growth mindset and we track every hour of learning outside the classroom by our whole school designed St. Aidan's university where every pupil has the opportunity to graduate.
- **"Hard Work = Achievement":**
 - Praise and rewards are systematically shifted away from "natural ability" and focused intensely on effort, deliberate practice, and overcoming failure. Our school designed St. Aidan's excellent learners promotes growth mindset and gives pupils opportunities to be rewarded for effort.
- **Explicit Values & Character Teaching:**
 - Values are not just posters on a wall; they are the framework for assemblies, PSHE, and restorative behavior conversations. Each term we have a value focus. Pupil leadership groups reward pupils displaying that value in assembly.
 - When addressing conflict, teachers ask: *"Which of our school values did we forget to use here, and how can we show it next time?"*
- **Pupil Leadership & Agency:**
 - To build well-rounded adults, pupils must practice leadership. Every child holds a role of responsibility over time—such as Head boy/ girl, school council, faith leaders, sports leaders, friendship ambassadors, or community volunteers—giving them tangible opportunities to impact their school world.
 - Our school designed pupil led Catholic Social Teaching allows all pupils to take lead in making a change from volunteering at local food banks to visiting care homes. Children take an active role in charitable giving.



*Personal
Development
at
St. Aidans*

Impact

The impact of our philosophy is seen in the actions, attitudes, and outcomes of our pupils, proving that our intent has become their reality.

- **Resilient and Motivated Learners:** Pupils approach difficult academic and personal challenges with a "can-do" attitude. They do not give up when work is hard; they view mistakes as an essential step toward achievement.
- **Articulate, Value-Driven Citizens:** Pupils can clearly articulate their personal values and demonstrate them daily through exceptional behavior, kindness, mutual respect, and a highly inclusive school culture.
- **Future-Ready Foundations:** Alumni and secondary transition feedback confirms that pupils enter the next phase of education as highly independent, confident, and well-rounded individuals who actively seek leadership roles and maintain high aspirations.