



PUPIL LEADERSHIP AT ST DAVID'S PREP

WHY?

At St David's Prep, we believe in developing and growing young people who will go on to make our world a better place.

In order for them to do so, we believe we need to equip them with the necessary tools, skills and qualities of character to prepare them for an uncertain world, an uncertain future. The world of work they will probably face does not even exist as yet; it is one we cannot begin to comprehend. However, the challenge to prepare them lies very much with us and it is something we see at St David's, as a privilege and a responsibility.

We hope to prepare our pupils to become leaders of the future; good citizens able to play an important role and make a difference in society. During their time at St David's, we hope that by modelling and encouraging strong values we will grow pupils who will, in turn, become good parents, friends, neighbours and work colleagues.

By believing in all our pupils and having high expectations for each and every one, we trust they will become confident, resilient adults who can achieve anything they wish, ready to make our world a better place. Our future leaders.

HOW?

Much of our preparation for developing future leaders happens in Year 6, a year like no other. A year in which everything 'comes together', a year not to be missed! However, right from their earliest days in Reception, our pupils are being trained in small ways to grow into the strong, self-confident leaders our future world requires.

Reception: Our youngest pupils love to be 'leader of the day' and, right from the start, take the job extremely seriously. They also enjoy taking turns being monitors and good role models when playing in the home corner. Whilst in the 'hot seat', the children lead and direct their peers in asking questions, whilst suitable candidates are selected and elected to represent the class on the School Council. At St David's we encourage leadership skills from day 1!

Year 1: In Year 1 our pupils are trusted to act responsibly. Table helpers fulfil a very important role in the day to day running of the classroom; keeping tables clear and tidy, as well as distributing books and worksheets. They need to be organised. 'Star of the week' is also a special position of leadership and has to be earned. The pupils in Year 1 are learning for themselves the qualities required of a good leader and appreciate how good behaviour can bring positive acknowledgement and reward.

Year 2: Year 2 pupils start to feel very grown up! They are at the top of the 'tree' and much is made of the fact that they are now setting the tone in Pre-Prep and that it is their attitude and behaviour that is being watched by the younger pupils. The expectation of being a strong role model can, at times, be challenging, but our pupils understand what is expected of them and act appropriately – most of the time!

They love to be helpful and enjoy being given responsibility. Tasks such as delivering the postbag each day to Miss Slim in the school office, leading the younger ones back from lunch and assembly or being a 'buddy' to Year 1 pupils on the school field, are regarded as an honour and privilege.

Year 3: In Year 3, pupils are at the start of their journey in Prep school. Here they are actively encouraged to take the lead and begin to take ownership for their individual learning using the '5B's' – Back, Brain, Buddy, Bits and Bobs and Boss. The class have their own 'Worry' and 'Happy' monsters, giving pupils the opportunity to reflect and identify their own feelings. They are taught to listen to the thoughts and opinions of others and treat their peers with respect and tolerance.

'Why did I do that?', 'How can I improve on what I've already done?', 'Would I do that again?' These are the sort of questions our growing leaders in Year 3 are faced with and allowed to ponder and consider day by day. That is when they are not leading the way outside hunting for Invertebrates!

Year 4: In Year 4 pupils are always on the lookout for Secret Agents! Using their finest skills of deduction and observation, the pupils endeavour to seek out the 'kindness' secret agent in the class each week. Completing homework diaries teaches them valuable skills of organisation and helps pupils begin to take some responsibility for their own learning journeys.

The discipline of reading regularly and recording progress ensures good habits are established early in these young lives – the reward of a raffle ticket into the class draw probably helps too! Year 4 pupils take their class monitor roles extremely seriously, always leading by example and with pride.

Year 5: By Year 5, through PSHEE discussion time, pupils are challenged to consider for themselves what leadership is all about. Questions are posed; 'What makes a good leader?', 'What sort of leader might I be?' In the short term, they know that the previous years at St David's have been preparing them for the roles of responsibility awarded in the Summer Term as they begin to take over from the Year 6 pupils. Much self-analysis and self-reflection takes place as pupils speculate on the positions and jobs they may be given. Once announced, they are given the chance to make the new roles their own, drawing, of course, on the models of leadership that have gone before.

Year 6: Year 6 are certainly kept busy! A lot of responsibility is placed on their young shoulders but, for them, it is a time they have worked towards and very much earned. Previous years have prepared them well and they never fail to astound us with their maturity and perseverance.

We expect a lot; chaperones, runners, servers, administrators, counters, organisers, designers, entrepreneurs, marshals, tour guides, buddies are just a snapshot of the many roles we want our Year 6 pupils to fulfil. Day to day they act as Prefects and Monitors across a range of areas, all of which help to ensure the school runs smoothly and efficiently.

Within the classroom, Year 6 are expected to lead their own learning and school experience. They are given a growing sense of independence and overall awareness of the wider world. They are afforded opportunities to present and debate in front of an audience. They peer teach, coach one another, make their own learning choices and make decisions regarding homework tasks. Through all this they are gently guided, encouraged, instructed, informed and sometimes cajoled!

As we prepare our St David's pupils for the next stage of their education, we trust we have, in some part made the transition as seamless for them as we can. By building them up, teaching and modelling the skills necessary to become independent, confident and responsible young people, we believe our job is done. As they leave us and start the next stage of their education, we follow their journeys with interest and pride, knowing we have given them the very best start we can.

Our pupils will leave St David's ready to question and challenge, prepared to be risk takers, passionate about making a difference and empowered to lead.