



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.

Pre-Reception: In pre-reception the children make independent choices from day one. They have opportunities to make choices throughout the day, including which language to say 'hello' in, what clothes to dress the class weather monkey in and what special toys to put on the choosing mat. The children also learn and develop the skills needed to lead and direct their peers during 'hot seat news time'. In the EYFS, all the activities are child led and as teachers, we take our inspiration from them, our leaders of tomorrow!

Reception: In Reception, the children are independent learners from day one, they lead their own learning throughout the day as they are given opportunities to choose activities and staff respond to

pupil's individual interests and ideas. They are constantly making decisions; 'what book to read', 'who shall I play with', 'inside or outside', 'what shall I choose for lunch'... the list goes on and on. Reception love 'show and tell' sessions, where they learn to express themselves, ask and answer questions and share their thoughts with their teachers and peers. Two reception children currently represent the class on the school pupil council and in the coming months more will have an opportunity to be part of the new Eco school committee.

Year 1: In Year 1 our pupils love to be helpful and enjoy being given responsibility. The children 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. Class leader is a special position and has to be earned. A task such as delivering the postbag each day to Miss Slim in the school office is regarded as an honour and a privilege.

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! All the children are given monitor jobs such as 'class messenger', eco-monitor, school council representative and exercise book monitor. Changed each half-term, all these roles are taken very seriously by our Year 2 pupils.

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 and organisation of their equipment and belongings. We regularly refer to our language of learning and actively promote reliability, curiosity, perseverance, self-motivation, independence, respect, resilience and responsibility. They are given the opportunity to participate in decision making within the classroom wherever possible and at the start of the year, help to formulate the class rules. Responsibility is given to each child in the form of a classroom job which changes on a weekly basis. The class have their own 'worry' and 'happy' boxes, giving each pupil the opportunity to reflect and identify their own feelings.

Year 4: Pupils love the chance to lead by example. They take their class monitor roles extremely seriously and fulfil them with pride. Completing homework diaries teaches them valuable skills of organisation and helps pupils to take responsibility for their own learning journeys. Regular reflections in their own personal class journals and more generally through discussion in PSHEE, history, English and RE can focus on appreciating good experiences and discussing how we can all become better citizens (global and otherwise). Good behaviour is celebrated and the children are encouraged to support each other in their learning.

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 5 are now lucky enough to be given the opportunity, at the end of the spring term, to experience an adventurous outdoor residential centre at Carrot Wood in Kent. Spending two nights and three days away with their class undertaking a range of new activities, they develop skills of teamwork, independence, resilience, decision making and risk taking in a safe and controlled environment. All this, alongside spending time in a beautiful setting, allows the pupils to appreciate the non-material aspects of the world around them as they stargaze around the campfire!

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, team builders, 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.