



Dukesgate Academy

Dukesgate Academy

Education with Character

Character Curriculum



'Seven deadly sins...knowledge without character' Gandhi

Education with Character – Intent

At Dukesgate Academy, we recognise that it is not only important to offer an education that develops the mind but the whole person. We would like our pupils to look back on their school years as a time of happiness and enjoyment which has equally inspired and challenged them and prepared them for the ups and downs of life.

Our school gives all pupils opportunities to lead and to serve. Our children learn to work independently as well as working collaboratively with others. The opportunities that we offer are designed to develop integrity, resilience, determination, self-discipline, compassion, courage and respect for self and others and leadership.

As a school, we offer all our pupils many opportunities that extend their knowledge and understanding and to improve their skills in a range of artistic, creative, and sporting activities. Amongst other things, our pupils have the opportunity to play for a sports team, learn an instrument, join a choir, perform in plays/concerts in public, and take part in acts of service and volunteering.

Dukesgate family is a supportive school community where all are valued. Our Character Curriculum supports the development of children's character by exposing them to people, ideas and opportunities that stretch their horizons and deepen their understanding of the world around them. These opportunities and experiences develop children's sense of themselves as citizens, in their communities and globally; we teach them that they have a place in the world and a valuable and important contribution to make towards keeping it safe and making it better.

Education with Character – Implementation

Each year all pupils will:

- be encouraged to take part in at least one co-curricular club, within or outside of school, attending for the duration of the club (or for a minimum of one term across several clubs).
- go on a school trip.
- perform music or drama to an audience.
- represent their class in individual and team activities.
- share their views on the school through student leadership structures.
- hear from an inspirational speaker or author.

In Key Stage 1, all pupils will:

- have a named role with classroom responsibilities.
- volunteer time to serve the local community.
- go on a school trip to place of local significance.



In Key Stage 2, all pupils will:

- represent the school in a sporting, cultural or academic event.
- learn a musical instrument.
- have the opportunity to spend a night away from home and bond with classmates.
- watch a professional performance, production, sporting or cultural event live at an inspiring venue or in school.
- deliver a presentation to an audience.
- volunteer time to serve the local community.
- demonstrate leadership outside their class through working with younger pupils, helping with whole-school responsibilities or taking on specific named pupil leadership roles.
- experience a workplace environment and hear from people who work there.
- reflect on their aspirations and personal development goals with an adult in the school.

At Dukesgate Academy, we want our children to become the very best versions of themselves and reach their full potential. In order to achieve this, we have designed our Character Curriculum which enhances our children's skill set and builds their cultural capital, leading them to becoming well-rounded, contributing, members of society.

At our school, we all work collaboratively to provide equal opportunities and experiences for *all* pupils within our care regardless of their background, needs or abilities.

What do we offer?

The pupil charter below outlines everything we offer our children by the time they leave Dukesgate.

The table shows the different aspects of the Dukesgate Academy character curriculum. These traits, characteristics, experiences and opportunities allow children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, but also their own understanding and sense of themselves.



Pupil Charter

By the time I leave school:

1. I will embody the academy's core values of ambition, confidence, creativity, enthusiasm, determination, and respect in all my actions.
2. I will gain valuable insights from an expert to broaden my understanding and perspective.
3. I will actively participate in fundraising efforts to support both my local community and the global community.
4. I will represent my school with pride through involvement in cultural, artistic, charitable, or sporting events.
5. I will develop essential life skills and safety awareness to equip myself for the next stage of life.
6. I will gain confidence and mastery in swimming.
7. I will contribute to a school production, embracing teamwork and creativity.
8. I will perform in front of an audience, building both my confidence and character.
9. I will visit inspiring places that ignite my curiosity and encourage further learning.
10. I will participate in a residential trip that strengthens my confidence and personal growth.
11. I will engage in the Forest Schools Initiative, deepening my appreciation of the environment and the world around me.
12. I will take part in a musical performance, honing my skills and self-expression.
13. I will have the opportunity to read every day, expanding my knowledge and imagination.
14. I will visit a major UK city, gaining a deeper understanding of its culture and history.
15. I will participate in a sporting event, enhancing my physical abilities and teamwork.
16. I will meet a real-life scientist, gaining firsthand insight into the world of scientific discovery.
17. I will connect with an inspirational figure who will empower me to believe in my potential.
18. I will meet an author whose work will inspire me to read more and fuel my writing aspirations.
19. I will have the chance to develop my creative talents by collaborating with artistic professionals.
20. My unique talents will be recognised and celebrated, reinforcing my sense of accomplishment and self-worth.



Intergenerational Project



- Dukesgate has a sustained and strong relationship with a residential care home within our local community.
- To enhance our curriculum offer, we have identified key areas of learning where residents can become involved and work alongside the children as primary sources to bring their learning to life and offer a real life perspective of what life was like in the past.
- As well as the residents being part of our teaching curriculum, pupils within our choir are invited regularly to perform for residents' or other events which provides opportunities for children to contribute to the local community and to serve.
- Children are building relationships with the residents. They attend school events and performances and are becoming part of our DukesgateFamily.

Careers



- We are passionate about raising our children's aspirations and showing them the different routes that they can take to achieve their desired profession after leaving full-time education.
- Children visit secondary schools, colleges and universities as part of our core offer and regularly hear guest speakers for different professions in assemblies or class workshops.



British Values 	• All children are taught explicitly about Modern British Values and current affairs that are happening in the wider world. • Our assembly platform, Votes for Schools, supports children's knowledge of world news and the provides them with the opportunity to take part in a weekly democratic vote on key topics of discussion, so their voices can be heard.
Subject Ambassadors 	• Children across school represent all curriculum subjects as subject ambassadors. • Once appointed, the ambassadors follow the subjects standard operating procedure alongside the staff subject leader, and work alongside them to monitor the subject, observe and participate in pupil conferencing.
Enrichment 	• All children in school are able to take part in variety of after school clubs activities that either contribute towards their cultural capital or provide them with key life skills. • We offer a variety of after school clubs to all year groups such as eco club, tennis, dance, multi-sports Club, book club, read and create, Phonics and many more.
Visitors 	• 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. • From Olympians, to Paralympians, from nurses to doctors, to care home residents. We want our children to learn from a range of people and learn about inclusivity and the power of never giving up on their dreams.



Cultural Links	• All children in school will visit a different place of worship in each academic year of their studies. • Visitors will educate the children about their religious beliefs and celebrations.
Student Leadership Programme 	On this programme students in year 5 and 6 will: • Learn about social issues such as climate change, poverty and mental health; and their role in tackling these issues. • Design and deliver a social action project in their school or local community. • Attend a celebration day held at the University of Oxford, where they take part in activities hosted by the university and present on their project. Students will leave the programme with skills to effectively represent their fellow students' views and excited that they can make a difference to their community.
Curriculum Enhancements 	• 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 their learning to life. • All year groups will have the opportunity to visit educational sites and facilities that link to the teaching of their school learning. Our educational visits are purposeful and contribute towards the development of our children's knowledge and character.
Music Lessons 	Throughout our children's learning journeys, they will each be provided with the opportunity to undertake music lessons from trained professionals in school. The violin is currently being taught in Year 4. The recorder is currently being taught in Year 3. Children in Year 3 have the opportunity to take part in 'Young Voices', the largest school choir in the world, and perform at the Manchester Arena.



Impact

Our curriculum draws out the best in our young people and develops something very deep, which will last throughout their lives and continue to be sustained and guide them when their memories of facts and theories learnt at school begin to fade – *their character*.

We test and challenge our young people in unexpected ways – we help them to develop creativity and resilience, to learn about teamwork, to care and to serve, to overcome difficulties and to manage themselves and their feelings. We give our young people the confidence and articulacy to enable them to stand up for themselves and for what is right. This is done both inside the classroom and also in the opportunities we provide beyond the classroom – in sport, music, performance, clubs and societies, in chances to lead and take responsibility and in opportunities to volunteer and to serve.

We believe character is demonstrated by what you do when you think no-one is looking. Our character curriculum develops a depth of character and confidence which enables children to be at their best, whether anyone is looking or not and develop aspirations for themselves and their future lives.