



Alsager School
An Achieving School - A Caring Community

Character, Values and Skills at Alsager School

At Alsager School, we recognise the importance of developing students' **character, values and skills**. Our values are at the heart of everything we do as a learning community: they underpin our curriculum, our policy-making and the day-to-day life of our school at all levels. These values can be observed in many aspects of our daily school life, both through the formal curriculum and wider school life including:

1. Our Cooperative School Status
2. The Cooperative Learning Programme (PSHE), studied by all students in all key stages.
3. PINC (Particip8, Innov8, Negoti8, Cooper8) enrichment and extra-curricular programme and the Sixth form enrichment programme.
4. Assemblies, form time and pastoral care and activities.
5. Subject curricula at all Key Stages.
6. Student leadership opportunities (from Year 7 to 13), including student council and student voice.
7. Behaviour for Learning systems – including praise and rewards.

Our School Values incorporate the Cooperative Values, British values and the development of Social skills, Morality and Spiritual and Cultural awareness (SMSC)

Our promotion of all of these values across the curriculum and wider school life is a priority and the success of this can be measured through the behaviour, attitudes and habits of our learners. Our young people are the best advert we have for our success as they constantly prove themselves to be respectful, responsible, tolerant, caring and confident individuals who are actively preparing themselves to take their place in a changing world.

Cooperative values

Alsager School is a cooperative school and actively promotes the cooperative values, delivering these through the Cooperative Learning programme (PSHE) and across curricula and non-curricula activities for all Key Stages. The cooperative values are:

- Self-responsibility
- Democracy
- Self Help
- Solidarity
- Equality
- Equity

There are subject leaders for Cooperative Learning at KS3 and KS4 and in the Sixth form programme is led by the Director of Sixth Form. External speakers or companies are involved where appropriate. The programme is linked to PINC (Particip8, Innov8, Negoti8, Cooper8) and Careers provision and includes weekly lessons, Competitions and focus days.

Alsager School place high importance on our pupil voice and our student councils. Each form has one or two council representatives who attend college council meetings every week and then feedback to their form groups.

The student councils are led by our Student Voice Co-ordinator, who then follows up any necessary points with members of the Senior Leadership Team. Our student Voice coordinator is a paid position, advertised annually and open to Sixth Form students who have completed their courses.

SMSC

In order to develop the whole individual and genuinely prepare our learners for a changing world, we strive to nurture our young people's sense of citizenship and to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development at every opportunity. Our school has a thriving enrichment programme as well as opportunities to participate in numerous trips and visits. In addition, subject curricula deliver opportunities to discuss moral issues, experience awe and wonder and help students to develop their social skills.

British Values

The British Values are: democracy; individual liberty; the rule of law and mutual respect. Each is defined below and placed in a school context through the use of examples.

Democracy can be seen as a state of society characterised by equality of rights and privileges. It can also refer to our nation's electoral systems. In school we promote the importance of democracy through:

- A taught programme of lessons at KS3 and KS4, with comprehensive coverage of the topics outlined in the national curriculum for citizenship, delivered in Cooperative learning lessons.
- The free and fair electoral process for student positions of responsibility.
- Students being encouraged to form opinions and vote or consider alternative pathways in lessons.
- Student Voice on key school decisions through school council processes.
- Mock elections

Individual Liberty suggests the free exercise of rights generally seen as outside Government control. In school we promote the importance of individual liberty, rights and responsibilities by:

- Learning about Human Rights and reflecting on themselves and their talents in Cooperative learning (PSHE)
- The increasing liberty afforded to students as they move up through the years.
- The profusion of extra-curricular activities and clubs, including extended studies.
- Students encouraged to voice views in lessons in a formative manner.
- Students offered autonomy over choices regarding academic pathways.
- Learning about "healthy choices" in relation to diet, exercise, a healthy mind and positive lifestyle.
- Learning about radicalisation and extremism in Cooperative Learning and PINC activities.

Rule of Law. All people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law that is fairly applied and enforced. In school we promote the importance of the rule of law by ensuring that:

- Behaviour for Learning is promoted in every lesson.
- The school has a clear sanctions policy and actively rewards students for their achievements.
- Cooperative Learning curriculum covers the roles and powers of the police, the courts and pressure groups.
- The PE curriculum promotes the understanding of laws and rules and respect for the umpire or referee.
- Marking and feedback, as well as homework, policies set clear boundaries which are explained clearly to students.
- Targeted interventions are delivered, including prison visits, STARS programme and work with external agencies, such as the PCSO.

Mutual Respect is the proper regard for an individual's dignity, which is reciprocated. In school we promote the importance of mutual respect through such things as:

- Behaviour for Learning policy which promotes respect
- Anti –Bullying ambassadors who work their peers alongside a taught programme in Cooperative learning lessons, and an annual anti-bullying competition.
- Assemblies including those focussed on other cultures, stereotypes or prejudice.
- Learning about other cultures across curriculum areas.
- Learning about other cultures in RE which is taught at KS3 and KS4.

Prevent Duty

At Alsager School we are well aware of the Prevent Duty and have ensured that all staff understand their statutory duty. Throughout the academic year all staff and Governors receive Safeguarding Training including very specific training linked to the Prevent Duty. All staff understand that any concern about extremism or radicalisation of our young people is to be treated as a Safeguarding issue and thus should be treated in exactly the same way. Our Safeguarding Policy, updated in the summer 2015, reflects this practice. We have a robust procedure in place should we have any concerns. We ensure that through open discussion within classrooms we enable young people to test out their ideas in a safe and supportive environment where staff can challenge and broaden students' understanding of the wider world.