



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear parents

ABBEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

We learn, we care, we achieve.

Our Values

In the education of children at the Abbey School, we value:

- ❖ **the Christian ethos of the school within the Anglican tradition;**
- ❖ **the individuality of each child within the school community;**
- ❖ **the right of every child to the best quality education within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment;**
- ❖ **the importance of teaching children to become responsible and caring citizens in the 21st century.**

Promoting British Values at The Abbey CE VA Primary School

The Department for Education have reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**" We have a statement about each of these British Values on our school website.

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Green Council and Faith Council and regular pupil questionnaires. The elections of these Councils each year are based solely on pupil votes. Straight after half term, the children in Year 1-6 will be able to stand for election for these posts. Two representatives are voted for by their class for each Council. Children have the half term to prepare a short speech to the class to explain why they would be a strong representative and what ideas they have. The teachers have a record of prior Council membership, but not all children want to stand for election and this has to be respected. Children are not allowed to stand for the same Council two years in a row.

The democratically elected children will then be awarded their enamelled Council badges and I am sure they will bring many interesting and sensible suggestions from their classes. The **School Council** will meet with the Headteacher at least twice a term to discuss issues and ideas to





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improve Abbey School. Debbie Gupta, Chair of the Governing Body, is looking forward to meeting the children to listen to their thoughts and ideas.

The **Faith Council** will meet at least twice a term with Mrs Yates, our RE Coordinator, to help shape our RE lessons and Collective Worship both at school and in the Abbey. Father Richard will also attend some meetings as will our RE and Collective Worship Governor, Linda Marchment.

The **Green Council** will meet with Miss Dunn, our DT and Garden Coordinator, at least twice a term to discuss issues and ideas to improve the school grounds and garden, promote recycling, sustainability and environmental issues. The Green Council will meet with the Site Manager Mr Hollick to discuss ideas and potential projects.

Year 6 Responsibilities

All Year 6 children look forward to the responsibility of being a Special Friend to a Reception child. In addition, Year 6 children enjoy taking turns reading the Bible passage in the Lady Chapel on a Thursday in our Collective Worship.

Year 6 children can apply for additional positions of responsibility such as Librarians, Music Captains and sporting Bronze Ambassadors. New this year, after half term Year 6 children will be able to apply for the roles of Playground Buddies and wear our new high visibility vests on the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds to help initiate play for those who would like to get involved.

Sibling Application Reception 2017-2018

The online application system for a Reception place from September 2017 will open on Monday 7th November. If you already have a child here at school and you would like to make an application for a Reception 2017-2018 place for a sibling, please submit a Supplementary Information Form, and hand this to the School Office as well as making an online application by 15th January 2017. A sibling application would fall under Category 3.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be downloaded from the school website where it can be found under the tab 'Admissions' or alternatively, one can be obtained from the School Office. With sibling applications, there is no requirement for a Cathedral Form to be signed by Father Richard Watson. Allocation day will be 18th April 2017.

KS2 Swimming Lessons St Albans School - Swimming caps to be worn

The swimming instructors at St Albans School have let us know that it will be compulsory for all girls to wear a swimming cap during their swimming lessons at St Albans School effective the first lesson after half-term, Friday 4th November. Swimming caps can be purchased from the School Office. (School Caps £1 or logoed Abbey School Swimming Caps £3)

New School Lunch Menu

Monday 31st October will be the first day of a new school lunch menu here in school. All KS1 children have returned their menu choices and these have been entered in the registers by the School Office. As usual KS2 children will decide on the day what their lunch choice will be. The new school menu will remain in place until week of 27th March 2017.

Abbey School Orchestra

There will be no orchestra in the first week back after half term.



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St Albans Cathedral Choir

Year 4 boys, Ben Buckner and Alex Beetlestone, are the two newest probationer choristers in the Cathedral Choir. There are a few places available for boys in Year 3 and 4, if any would like to audition.

Please contact Mrs Price if you would like more information, or Lizzie Smyth in the Cathedral Music Department – music@stalbanscathedral.org telephone 011727 890245.

I hope that you and your family have a relaxing October half term. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 31st October 2016 when school resumes.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher