



## **Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy**

### Developing Aspiration and Resilience

The character development and wellbeing of all of our children is paramount at ACE. We collectively promote the inclusive Christian belief that we are made in the image of God and are loved unconditionally by him. We seek to ensure that all children know that they are important and valuable to God, and that they are respected.

At ACE we encourage a growth mindset regarding learning and behaviour, which permeates all that we do from teaching in the classroom to encouraging children to make positive choices. The school has a range of councils that provide the children with opportunities to be courageous advocates by championing causes that are special and meaningful to them. These include the RE Council, Learning Council, Eco Council and Junior Safety Council. Involvement in these councils enables children to be actively involved in the learning process, collective Worship reflections and to be more aware of the responsibilities to their neighbour and God. In addition to this, children are provided with opportunities to reflect on their hopes and aspirations during the normal school week and during such occasions as Prayer Week.

### Ethical and Charitable Activities

At ACE we encourage children to think about the wider world and to ask 'big questions' as part of their learning. These ethical questions range from exploring areas such as the use of plastics within society, to the injustice and deprivation experienced in some developing countries.

The school is actively involved in a number of charities. Through the Diocese of Chichester we have links with a Christian school in Mano Dasse, Sierra Leone, and as part of this representatives from the charity Education West Africa (EWA) visit the school to talk to the children and to share with them the positive impact their fundraising has. We also work closely with For Education and Social Transformation (FEAST) through our links with St Nicholas' Church, as well as local and national charities such as Chestnut Tree House, Chichester Rotary, Turning Tides, St Barnabas and Children in Need. Children and their families are actively involved in all charity work and in line with our Vision Statement are supported in order to be able to '[Reach] out to our neighbours in love'. We focus on exploring injustice around the world and on empowering the children to become courageous advocates.

At ACE we value the importance of British Values and encourage children to make personal responses. We promote the idea, both through our Vision Statement and through the way that we conduct our daily school life, that all members of the school community should be '[inspired] to grow into the people God is calling us to be'.