



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE



Primary Information 2023

Welcome to the Aylesbury Vale Academy

This is a school where we aim to go beyond the expected to ensure that students' life chances are enhanced.

We are proud of our non-selective, fully inclusive status and believe that children and young people, regardless of their background, ability or circumstances can thrive and succeed here. That is why we place **respect**, **aspiration** and **resilience** at the heart of everything we do.

As a large all-through school, we can offer learners an ambitious range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We place significant importance on academic excellence through high expectations but value, just as highly, the wide range of experiences learners can access. It is this balance which helps to ensure that learners are fully rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to society.

To improve the life chances of all the learners we serve at AVA we will:

- Ensure our teaching and all our work with young people is grounded in high expectations so that learners achieve exceptionally well.
- Deliver a broad, ambitious and rich curriculum, going beyond the expected.
- Close all gaps between the performance of different groups of learners.
- Empower learners by developing their character so that they are resilient, aspirational, respectful and have excellent attitudes to their learning.
- Inspire attendance to be consistently above the national average.

I look forward to working with you in supporting your child.

Mr Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal



A warm welcome to our Primary Phase.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Primary Phase of Aylesbury Vale Academy. I hope that you have found our website informative and useful when making this important decision for your child. When visiting the school, use the time to gain an insight into all of the exciting opportunities that we are able to offer children at AVA.

We are in the unique position to be able to educate children from the age of 2 years through to 18 years under one roof and enjoy their journey with them. We pride ourselves on offering a welcoming, nurturing environment in which every member of our community is important. The staff here are committed to giving the children the best start in life and work tirelessly to ensure that our curriculum, social times, clubs, visits and wrap around care are the best that they can be.

We provide a high level of academic achievement, personal development and emotional wellbeing. Each class has a class teacher and access to a learning support assistant, we have school counsellors and a primary pastoral team who are always on hand to support children and families when needed. We have a daily assembly in which we come together to celebrate, share news, address topics and worship. This time each day is important to all of us and an opportunity for us to feel as one.

We are lucky to have amazing resources and facilities at Aylesbury Vale Academy. The benefit of being a large school is sharing resources, particularly in areas such as PE, Music, Design Technology and Modern Foreign Languages. Each child is able to learn a musical instrument and study two languages in Key Stage 2.

Forming close relationships with parents is crucial to the successful education of our children. I cannot wait to get to know you and your family and look forward to meeting you in person very soon.

Mrs Caroline Baughan

Primary Headteacher



Joining us in AVA Primary

At Aylesbury Vale Academy we understand that the first few years of your child's journey in education are important. We aim to create a nurturing environment where children feel confident and valued. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child and encourage all to develop the skills and behaviours to succeed as they move forward.

The AVA values of [respect](#), [aspiration](#) and [resilience](#) are part of everything we do.

We encourage mutual [respect](#) between all individuals whatever their age, this includes both adults and children. Adults model respectful behaviour on a daily basis and support children in their choices as they grow and develop.

We encourage all children to reach their potential by helping them to understand what they want to achieve and aspire to. We model [aspiration](#) through high expectations and creating a positive environment where all children feel safe to take risks and make mistakes. These are essential elements in learning.

We encourage [resilience](#) by supporting children as they learn about being a learner. We encourage exploration, active learning and nurture creative and critical thinking. We actively promote a growth mind-set where children begin to understand the process of learning.

At the Aylesbury Vale Academy we understand that starting school, and the subsequent transitions into Years 1 & 2, are big steps for small children. We aim to support the whole child in partnership with parents to enable all our children to make the best possible start to their lifelong learning journey.



Life in the Early Years Foundation Stage at AVA Primary

Pre-School

Welcome to our wonderful Pre-School; a place where your child will flourish.

Our priority is that your child will feel happy, secure and safe within our calm and engaging setting. Our team are aware of how important positive relationships are, and we ensure your child has a special grown up, that will become their key-carer.

We have a free flow unit for 2-4 year olds, open to 15-hour funded places (am and pm) and 30-hour, funded places. We can also take 15-hours paid top up or 30-hour privately funded children.

We offer a breakfast club and lunch club that parents are able to book and pay for through the School Gateway app. We have a highly experienced and knowledgeable team of six with a minimum Level 3 requirement. We also have apprentices training with us. All of our Pre-School staff are paediatric first aid trained.

All of our Pre-School staff are also trained in Makaton to support communication with our youngest members of the school. We have two well-equipped classrooms, both with good-sized, bathrooms for the children. We also have a purpose-built changing table room, for those still in nappies or pull ups. Personal care and hygiene are high on our agenda, ensuring children are supported and encouraged to become independent in their own care.

Our environment is designed for the needs of the children. We extend children's play through adults scaffolding their chosen activity, communication, invitations to play and following the children's interests. We use authentic resources within our setting, which the children incorporate naturally within their play. We encourage curiosity and carefully plan for different children's fascinations, alongside our broad themes across the year.



In our preschool garden, we have a continuation of our provision with lots of gross motor opportunities, including use of the pirate ship and bikes, climbing facilities, a mud kitchen and messy play. We also look at nature and changing seasons in our nature area, growing our own vegetables with exploration and investigations based on their interests.

Children have a fruit and snack available to them in the morning and afternoon, along with milk and water. The children love to watch and chat with their friends and siblings across the fence, a huge step in becoming part of the wider AVA community. We love to join in with the other year groups, with event days, celebrations and reading partnerships.

We are really proud of the provision we offer.



Mrs Zoe Clark

Pre School Leader

Reception

Our 60-place spacious Reception area is situated downstairs with a large gated outdoor garden, which forms part of their free-flow area. The Reception Garden sits alongside the Preschool garden. The children love to play alongside their friends and see and chat with their previous key-carers daily.

Our Reception classrooms have a purpose-built bathroom in each class, we have an adjoining door and shared classroom spaces. We have a calm, natural environment and continue with our nurturing team and enabling environment, inside and out.

We love to visit the pirate ship and use the bikes on our large playground, we also explore natural world in our nature area and can grow our own in the allotment plots. We also have a fully developed pond area that we can access in the secondary garden. We have a full library and can access Computing through our new touch screen laptops as well as PCs and I pads.



The children spend their day engaging in child-initiated activities, adult-led opportunities for learning and learning through play.

The children take part in magic maths daily, and we follow White Rose maths with the mastery approach. We also support this with *Numberblocks*, which the children love. Maths is also everywhere and the opportunity to extend their learning is infinite!

We follow *Read Write Inc.* as a phonics scheme and complete a sound a day during the autumn term. We ask parents to support their child by recapping on the sounds taught each week.

We have online bug club reading books and physical home readers that are matched to the sounds the children have learnt. It continues to be a joint partnership in your child's learning journey with home and school.

Reception children have a healthy snack that is provided, as well as water and children can also bring personal water bottles from home each day. There is wrap around care available daily in the morning and after school, which can be booked via our parent gateway app. Hot Lunches are prepared and cooked on site daily and are free up until the end of Year 2; these can also be ordered through the parent gateway app, orders must be put in a minimum of 2 clear working days in advance.

We are sure that your child will be very happy when they join us here at AVA and if you have any questions, queries or worries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Testimonials

"The school has been very helpful and supportive in helping us to catch up with work whenever we are training or competing during term time. I would highly recommend the school as it has great facilities and members of staff, making it a wonderful place to learn." Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova, Olympic and European gymnastics medallists and Year 13 AVA students.



"There is an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect across the school. Pupils' conduct is calm and orderly." (Ofsted 2019)

"Primary and secondary teachers know their classes very well." (Ofsted 2019)

"We believe that the Aylesbury Vale Academy will create an achievement climate where our daughter can be an active participant in their learning and have opportunities to flourish." (Year 7 Parent)

"I made this choice because my daughter is very good at performing arts and this school has an exceptional drama, dance and music department. The teachers are lovely and friendly and the atmosphere is very positive. My daughter felt really happy when we went to visit it."

"I like the way the lessons are planned; it helps me to learn and progress in the subject we are studying. The teachers are understanding and obviously care for our education and that is something I am truly grateful for." (Current student)

"My favourite thing about the lessons is that they are fun and interesting and a good learning environment for me to develop my skills." (Current student)

"The things I like about AVA is that there is always a teacher you can go to."





From Primary to Secondary School

The Academy aims to make the transfer to secondary education as smooth as possible and maintains close links with local primary schools. In order to quickly and effectively integrate students into life at secondary school, we bring Year 6 students to AVA for two full transition days as well as a week-long summer school for all new Year 6 students. This allows our new Year 7 students to familiarise themselves with the building, our staff, and their new Achievement Director, and to feel at ease and make the best possible start to their time at AVA.

The AVA Curriculum

We want to enrich and develop our pupils through the breadth of our curriculum. An exciting and broad curriculum encourages children to come to school and enjoy their learning. By providing a curriculum that is increasingly active, we seek to engage all pupils so that they transition to secondary school as confident, healthy and happy members of the community.

We believe that a happy learner is one who has positive self-esteem and the confidence to take on challenges with the resilience to see them through; the ability to solve problems and find the means to discover solutions for themselves with the understanding that mistakes are opportunities to both learn and grow. Our intention is to widen children' horizons and develop cultural capital by providing a wealth of opportunities and setting high expectations in terms of achievements, personal development, behaviour and attitudes.

Our aims

- To enable all learners to be immersed in a diverse, knowledge-rich environment that harnesses a passion to question the world around them.
- To equip children with learning skills that empower them to become self-motivated, life-long learners who take risks and strive for their best achievement, able to work both independently and collaboratively.
- To promote fundamental British Values and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; enabling pupils to take responsibility for their actions and to take pride in all they do.
- To develop a thirst for new knowledge and skills, allowing creativity to thrive.
- To develop life-long learning skills through our Cognition Curriculum including: reciprocity, resilience, reflectiveness and resourcefulness and recall through a growth mind-set approach.
- Use technology, offsite visits, visitors and experience days to enhance the curriculum and engage learners.
- Ensure all learners have equal opportunities for success through high expectations and skilful response to the needs of all pupils.

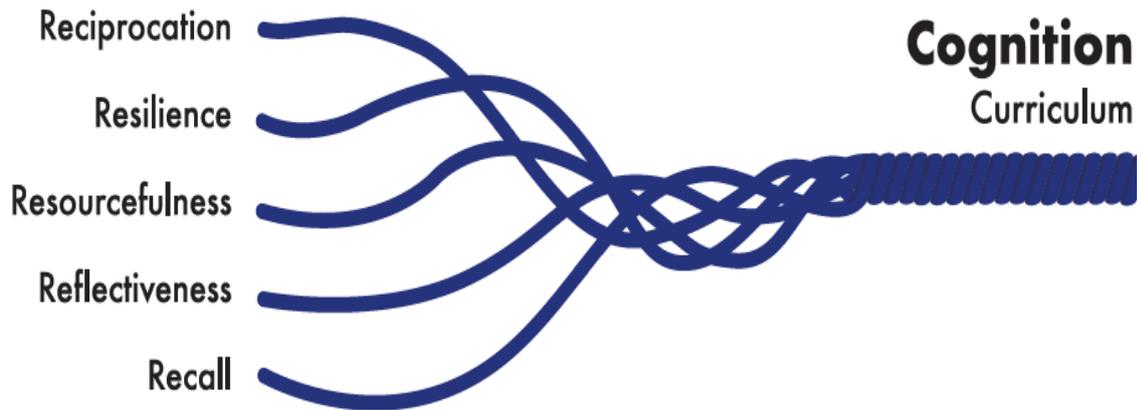
In order to meet these aims the AVA curriculum has been designed to have three threads running through it which we refer to as the 3 Cs: [Cognition](#), [Culture](#) and [Core](#).



We believe that the 3 Cs are integral to meeting the needs of our students. AVA is a large community and our students benefit from being taught how to become effective independent learners. The AVA Curriculum aims to teach students how to learn effectively and with an ever-increasing degree of independence.

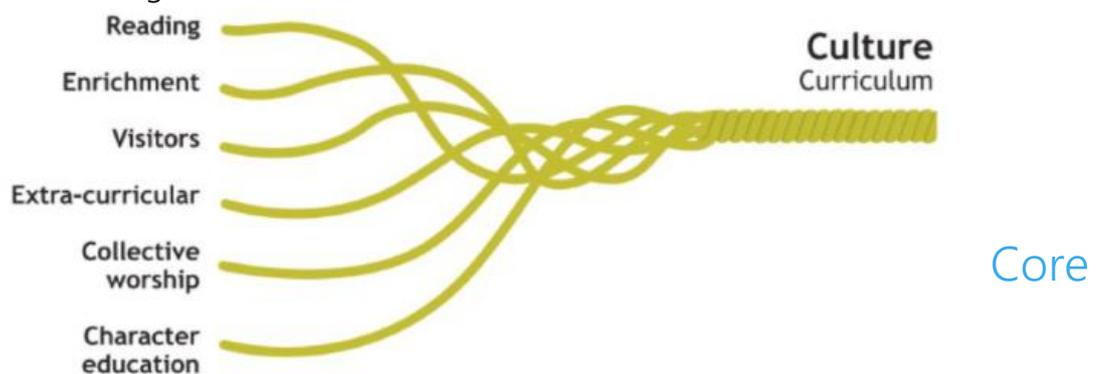
The Cognition Curriculum

The Cognition Curriculum teaches children how to become effective learners by developing the key skills of [Reciprocation](#), [Resilience](#), [Resourcefulness](#), [Reflectiveness](#) and [Recall](#). We teach these skills explicitly because they help our students become faster, better and more confident learners.



The Culture Curriculum

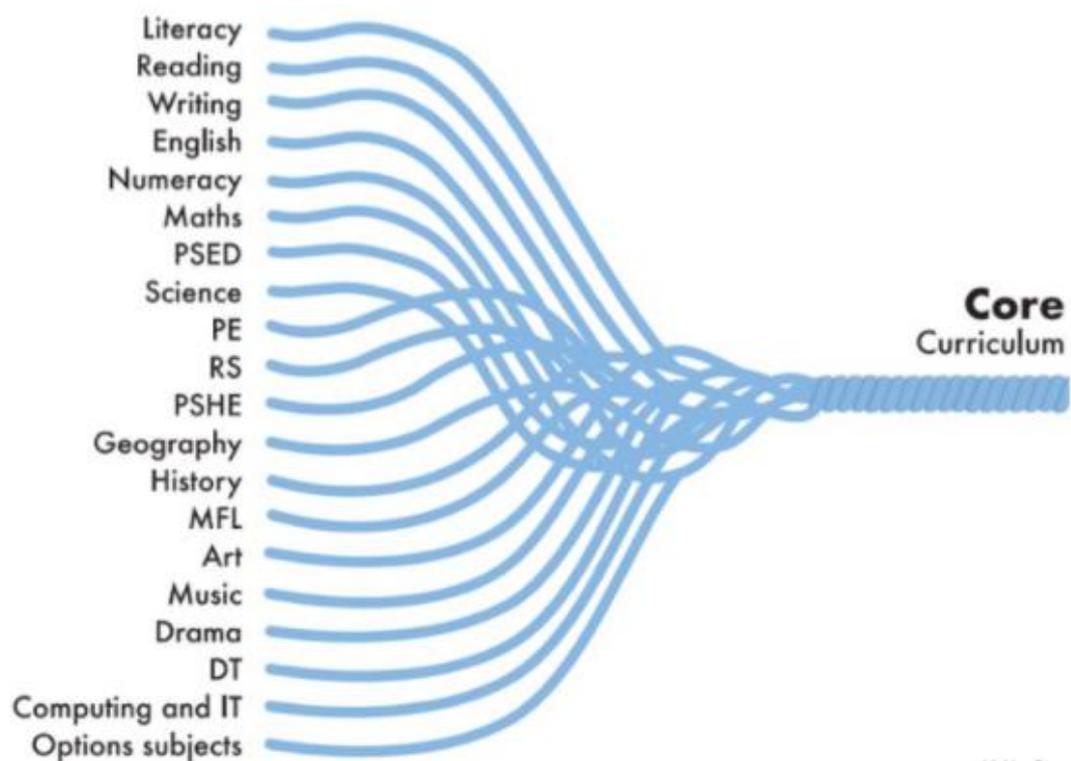
The Culture Curriculum is what we add to the National Curriculum to develop AVA learners into well-balanced citizens and it is underpinned by our drive to ensure our students read widely and regularly, both for enjoyment and to learn. Children take part in local visits, can access a wide range of clubs, and meet regular visitors and speakers to stretch their learning.



Curriculum for Key Stage 3

The Aylesbury Vale Academy offers its learners a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum.

All children access lessons in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, Information Technology, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (in KS2), Personal Health and Social Education, Religious Studies, Music, and Physical Education.



Principles of our Curriculum

Although the school serves its pupils and the community in a variety of ways, its core purpose is to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum through outstanding teaching and learning. We strive to ensure our curriculum is accessible to all by making it exciting, inspiring, relevant and purposeful. All children receive a consistent experience that leads to them making excellent progress. We celebrate children's individual achievements, strengths and success and have high aspirations so that all children can achieve.

Our curriculum has a firm Christian and moral ethos, where views and ideas are respected and valued. We work together so that we become active members of the community and citizens of the world, understanding how we relate to the world around us. Where possible and appropriate, the curriculum is planned using cross-curricular topics or themes. However, it is flexible and responsive to children's ideas and interests; local and world issues and news events; and issues and events occurring in school.

Pupils are immersed in our school values, respect, aspiration and resilience to enable them to develop positive learning behaviours and play a full part in our local community.

Topic Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Preschool	What about us? 	Can you tell us a story? 	My home, your home. 	Wheels, wings and spinning things. 	What changes? 	What happens on the farm? 
Reception	Marvellous Me! 	What happens when I sleep? 	Super you! 	Travel here, travel there! 	How does your garden grow? 	Amazing animals! 
Year 1	Me in my world! 	Lets celebrate! 	Roar! 	New beginnings 	Once upon a time 	
Year 2	Around the world in 80 days. 	The world and I 	London's burning 	Eureka! 	Wonderful wildlife and crazy creatures 	The land before time 
Year 3	Through the window... 		Footprints in time 		Walk like an Egyptian 	
Year 4	Extreme Earth! 		When in Rome 		The smashing Greeks 	
Year 5	Black history 	WW1 	Final frontier 		Terrifying Tudors 	Climate change 
Year 6	Charge! 		We are all born free 	War of the worlds 	Crack the code 	

Homework

Learners at the Aylesbury Vale Academy will be challenged at home as well as in school to ensure they reach their potential.

The Academy uses Microsoft Teams as our online platform for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to set homework to enable parents/carers to check the homework set and completed.



The younger children get set regular tasks in their home learning books which include weekly reading, spellings and maths tasks.

All Primary children have a weekly focus on Reading in which both school staff and parents will record their achievements.

Wrap Around Care/Enrichment Activities

We offer breakfast club from 7.40am-8.30am each day and after school club daily until 6.00pm (with an early collection point at 4.30pm) for children in Reception to Year 6. This is booked via School Gateway. Children are offered a selection of food at both sessions and are able to enjoy games, arts and crafts, films, sports and much, much more.

We offer a wide range of enrichment clubs for children to attend after school. These change each term and need to be booked and paid for via School Gateway. We hope that throughout the year the variety means that every child can try a new hobby or find and new interest. We also use ideas from the School Parliament (run by children) to adapt our offer. These have included board games club, film club, drama club and cricket club.

Uniform

Our Academy uniform for children from Preschool to Year 6 is the same. We pride ourselves on a smart but practical uniform that is easily available for all.

Navy jumper or cardigan with the Academy logo

White polo shirt (ideally with the Academy logo) or plain white cotton kameez

Black trousers or black skirt

Black leather or leather look shoes of sensible design with low heels (black trainers, plimsolls and canvas shoes are not permitted)

Black socks or black tights

Hijab – plain white, black or navy blue cotton

Please label and name all personal items including uniform.

(Note: The Academy will not accept any clothing which covers the face, except face masks worn as part of control measures to minimise transmission during a pandemic).

PE Uniform

Navy sports polo shirt with the Academy logo

Plain Black shorts

Plain Black tracksuit bottoms

Socks suitable for PE

Trainers/Black plimsolls

Optional: Navy ¼ zip top sweatshirt with the Academy logo / Navy hoodie with the Academy logo

Our branded uniform is very competitively priced to support parents and carers and comes from a local, reputable supplier - Print Lab (website: the-print-lab.co.uk, email: info@the-print-lab.co.uk, telephone: 01296 488000).



All items are available to purchase directly from the uniform shop and some from the school's on-line shop. We can swap, sell or donate second hand uniform in school on a case by case basis, and offer this by opening our store monthly or by appointment.

All our children and young people are entitled to:

Educational provision that meets their needs and enables them to enjoy their learning, be safe and healthy and make a positive contribution to the Academy and to the wider community.

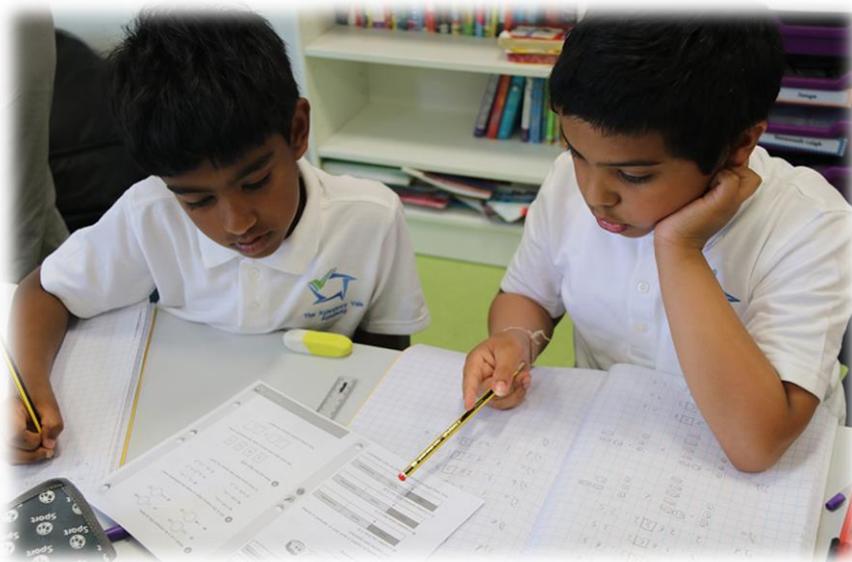
Sustained, high quality educational provision regardless of gender, race, class, sexual orientation or disability.

A creative and flexible curriculum that stimulates learning and encourages engagement.

Be taught in environments that are age appropriate for the stage of learning.

Healthy and nutritionally balanced school meals.

Be free from circumstances in which they are bullied, ignored, ridiculed, or subjected to any forms of discrimination, and to have their voices heard, to be listened to and to know where to go to share their concerns.



Religious Education and Collective Worship

Our sponsors, The Oxford Diocese and our staff, are firmly committed to our Christian values. These embrace all faiths and none.

As a Church of England Academy we are committed to teaching students about the world's major religions, developing respect for the beliefs and moral values of others.

Religious Studies is taught in all years and student engage in a daily act of collective worship and reflection.

Attendance

For children to be successful, regular and punctual attendance is essential. Parents are required to telephone the Academy's Attendance Officer each day their child is absent. If your child is absent and the Academy has not been informed, parents will be contacted by telephone. Unauthorised absence may result in a fixed penalty fine being issued by the local authority.

The only acceptable reason for non-attendance is illness. If your child is too ill to attend school, you must telephone the Academy on the first day of absence. It is a parent's duty to ensure their children attend school regularly as outlined in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised by the Academy.

Our Primary Attendance Team can be contacted on:

Primaryattendance@theacademy.me

The Primary Day

0740-0830	Breakfast club (wrap around care)
0830-0850	Children arrive (via the playground gates)
1140-1320	LUNCH (this is staggered per year group, each having 40 minutes)
1445-1500	Reception children leave
1500-1510	Year 1-6 children leave
1445-1800	Afterschool club (wrap around care)

Special Educational Needs

Academies are fully inclusive schools, required by law to cater for children of all abilities. They must adhere to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and statutory guidance on inclusion.

Children with additional educational needs receive specialist help from the Academy's Support Team. These children may be given extra support in the classroom or given some lessons individually if appropriate. Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan are given specific support determined by the level of funding provided by the local authority.

Behaviour for Learning

We have very high expectations of behaviour based on our values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience. We believe that good behaviour leads to good academic achievement, welfare, wellbeing and all aspects of learning.

We have a Home School Agreement which we ask all parents and/or carers to sign before children enrol. This can be found on our website.

Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The Aylesbury Vale Academy is committed to fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of disability. Applications for admission from all potential children will be considered and assessed on the basis of the applicant's abilities and needs.

The Academy's buildings are accessible for children and others with disabilities so that they may be integrated fully into Academy life. Evacuation procedures and escape routes for children and staff with disabilities will be carefully planned and published.

The Academy recognises that special arrangements may be required to enable children with disabilities, including specific learning difficulties, to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge. Special arrangements will be made to enable such children to perform to the best of their ability by meeting their individual needs. The Academy will not treat a child with a disability less favourably than any other child and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure the full participation and integration of disabled children.

Student Voice

The student body are represented by the School Parliament, which has representatives from each year group (from Reception to Year 11) that are elected at the start of the academic year.

The purpose of the School Parliament is to provide children and students with a voice within the Academy where they can discuss and make decisions about the issues that affect them.

Children are also able to apply to become prefects once they are in Year 6 and they work with staff in maintaining high standards and modelling expectations around the school.

We have a wide range of student roles and responsibilities in which children are able to lead others, support peers and have an influence in the projects and charities that we support.

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Finally

We hope you will decide to choose the Aylesbury Vale Academy as the school for your child.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Academy or the admissions process please do not hesitate to contact us on avaprimary@theacademy.me.

The Aylesbury Vale Academy Primary

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