

Raleigh & Admirals Academies



Our Values in Action – A Principal's view

Over recent weeks, I have talked to the pupils, staff and governors at Raleigh & Admirals about our Academy values. I have been asking them all the same question: 'What types of things are happening here that connect all of us?' In simple terms, I want to find out and understand what it is within the fabric of our buildings that give us a sense of community, belonging and purpose. The responses have been varied and interesting and have raised some further questions that I have been searching out the answers to:

- What are the things that give us all a sense of identity?
- What do we have that gives us a sense of belonging?
- How are we all able to stay focused on our core purpose of ensuring that learning is at the heart of everything that we do?



In my experience, the starting point for creating a positive ethos is always to develop an 'educational climate', which is carefully constructed using a set of well-chosen values. It is these values that determine the success of our educational journey in improving our pupil's achievement, and our values of **Aspiration, Respect and Kindness** underpin the whole community here at Raleigh & Admirals. There is clear evidence that these make a real difference to our daily practice.



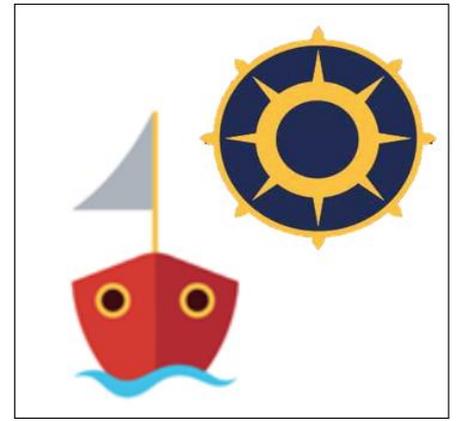
As recently reported in the Bury Free Press on Thursday 1st December, we are extremely pleased with the Ofsted inspection outcome at Raleigh Academy. The inspection team recognised the impact of our ambitious curriculum underpinned by our strong set of values. The first line of the inspection report states, '**Aspiration, respect and kindness** are the core values of Raleigh Infant Academy pupils. They say that these values make the school special. Pupils say that 'you will make lots of friends at the school' and 'when you are sad or frustrated, someone will help you'.

However, it is the responsibility of every member of our community at Raleigh & Admirals to fully contribute to making our values work; our adults here are committed to:

- open, positive and supportive relationships with children where they feel that they are listened to
- promoting a climate where children feel safe and secure
- modelling behaviour which promotes effective learning and creativity
- being sensitive and responsive to every child's needs and wellbeing

It is clear to me that all of the work around our values program is beginning to shape our sense of identity; week after week, we continue to improve. In raising the profile of our core values within our parental community, I hope to enable all of us to work together to ensure that each and every child's journey through the primary phase of their education at Raleigh and Admirals is a successful one.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2022/23

Wednesday 4th January

Spring Term Begins

13th – 17th February

Spring Half-Term

Friday 31st March

Spring Term Ends

Our Academy Improvement Priorities

Leadership within the Academy secures sustained improvement in all areas

Across the Academy, pupil outcomes demonstrate a sustainable improving trend

Improve teaching, learning and assessment in order to secure good and better rates of progress for all pupils

Embed a high standard of personal development, behaviour and welfare

Congratulations!!!

Bethany Last from Year 6 is the only pupil across both Academies who has been awarded a celebration certificate for showing Aspiration, Respect and Kindness! An amazing achievement! Well done Bethany

Jacob's School Days

We are very pleased to let you know about the work of our school therapy dog. Jacob is a 12-year-old black Labrador who has been working with us over the past half term. Jacob is a family dog and has been behaviourally assessed by the national charity 'Pets As Therapy' to undertake therapeutic visits in public settings, such as schools, as an accredited PAT Dog. We have undertaken a significant amount of research and have been delighted to see and experience for ourselves the many benefits of having a school dog:



- A calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties;
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem;
- Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children;
- Fostering a sense of responsibility;
- Increasing enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals which will motivate the children to think and learn;
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationship with each other, parents and teachers;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children and educational improvements with low achievers;
- Helping children build confidence in reading as part of the Read2Dogs scheme;
- Helping children who suffer bereavement or are upset in any way and need calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them.



We also understand that it is not possible for all families to have a dog and we hope that this is an opportunity for children to have a 'share' in a dog, gain from this relationship and enjoy contact on a regular basis. With this in mind, we are now working to begin to integrate Jacob a little more widely into school life. On the days that he is with us, under the watchful eye of Jason from year 6, Jacob has recently attended assembly, and the children have enjoyed meeting him outside at playtime.

Jacob's main place of residence when he is in the Academies is in the Principal's Office and The Ark, which are secure and separate from the classrooms. In line with our risk assessment and public liability insurance, when moving around the school, Jacob is kept on a short lead and is always with an adult. Please understand that we do everything we can to reassure children who are worried

and that under no circumstances are they forced to meet with him.

Indeed, Jacob is available to work with children (and adults) who have had bad experiences with dogs or other animals. With parental permission, over time, children who react fearfully to dogs can be supported in approaching, handling and gaining confidence in managing their fear. We have already had great success with this aspect of our pet therapy work.

We hope that the children will gain a great deal of enjoyment from getting to know Jacob better and that he becomes an established part of life at Raleigh & Admirals. However, should you have any queries or questions on the matter then please do not hesitate to contact me.





Theftord Education Foundation Trust – Investing in our future

The Pupils of Raleigh and Admirals Academies have benefitted from a very generous donation from the Theftord Education Foundation Trust. The trust provides grants, bursaries and funding for the education of boys and girls from 3 1/2 years to 18 years of age in Theftord. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Maureen Eade, the Trust Chair, and Mr. Jo Pearson, trust treasurer, who recently visited Mr. Harris and some of our year 6 pupils. They were able to see the benefits of the new technology we have been able to purchase as a result of the £6000 donation made by the trust. The purchase of iPads and other interactive technologies are accessible by all of the pupils and staff across both Academies. We look forward to enjoying the benefits of such a kind and generous donation towards our children's futures.

Primary Science Quality Mark – PSQM

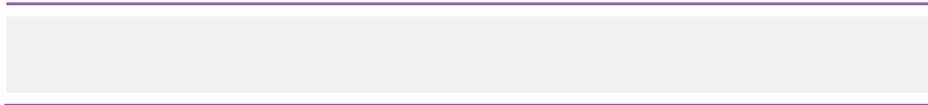
We are incredibly proud at Admirals to announce that we have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark. Nationally, over 400 Primary Science Quality Marks have been awarded to schools this month to celebrate their commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning.

The Primary Science Quality Mark is a three-year school improvement program for primary science, which provides professional development for new and experienced subject leaders each year. PSQM enables confident, knowledgeable, reflective leadership, which results in an improvement in the way in which science is planned and taught across the whole school. Upon the news of the awards, Associate Professor Jane Turner, PSQM National Director, said:



“The profile and quality of science in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as securing scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud.”

Congratulations to Mrs. Bishop, Science Subject Leader at Raleigh & Admirals, to Mrs. McArdle, Curriculum Development Leader, and all of the staff who supported the successful application process.



Academy Life



Christmas Craft Afternoon



It has been very important to us to involve parents, carers, grandparents and other family members within the life of our Academies. Over 250 adults took up the opportunity of spending time in the classrooms during our Christmas Craft afternoon. Our class teachers hosted an afternoon session of making Christmas decorations for the corridors and classrooms of both Raleigh and Admirals. Some groups also made Christmas cards and other wall displays. Feedback from both the adults and children was extremely positive, and we aim to continue to offer more events that involve families working together.



KS1 Sports Events

We recently had the pleasure of hosting 'The Active Kids' festival. This event provides opportunities to inspire and encourage young children to participate in sports through fun activities. This allows young children to feel active and part of a team without the competitive pressure that often comes with various sporting activities. We had the privilege of working with Queensway Infant Academy and Norwich Road Academy. Each Academy team included a group of KS1 children who participated in 6 different activities. These included gymnastic relays, hockey dribbling relays, football skills, netball target practice and 100m relay races. A number of Year 6 pupils from Admirals were selected to support the event by providing help and assistance as 'coaches' to the younger pupils.

Year 6 – Norwich Road Residents Association Visit

Year 6 have been studying British Geography this half term. During this unit, children have explored the following geographical issues and their impact on Britain; air pollution, flooding, waste and litter. As part of this study, we had the opportunity to explore a local environmental issue. We were privileged to enjoy a visit from Cllr. Mac McDonald, our local councillor for our area: we discussed how waste and litter are affecting our community. Mac and his team conduct a litter pick on the first Saturday of every month outside the Admirals Way shops, and we would love to encourage some of our families to join them and help make our community a better place!



The Christmas Gallery



Merry Christmas Everyone !!!!

