

The Vision for the Aspirations Academies Trust

Our vision is to deliver an authentic education for the 21st century for children from the age of 2 to 18. We aim to ensure all students achieve high levels of success in a broad range of SATs, GCSE and A Level examinations, whilst at the same time equipping them with the skills required to play an active and successful role in today's highly competitive, fast-changing world.

Central to the philosophy of the curriculum delivered in our academies is that it should provide an authentic education for the world today. This requires the curriculum to allow for the development of the skills required for success in the world today, alongside the attainment of high level qualifications. Children in Aspirations Academies learn in a challenging, engaging and supportive environment.

Aspirations has a duty to prepare our young people for success in this future world. This is being done through developing an approach to teaching and learning in which:

- All students achieve at least expected academic progress and high levels of attainment in national qualifications
- All students acquire knowledge to be remembered and constantly built upon cumulatively from Early Years to the Sixth Form to deepen their understanding
- All students develop high level 21st century skills
- All students enter skilled employment or higher levels of study
- All students develop high levels of self-worth and self-confidence
- Learning is challenging and engaging
- Learning is highly relevant to the world today and in the future

Aspirations Academies share a common philosophy, with each Academy operating as an individual school, serving the local area and reflecting the leadership style of the Principal. However, Aspirations Academies have a distinctive approach to education and so there are a number of elements which are expected to feature in each academy:

- **The three guiding Principles** are in place:
 - Self-worth
 - Engagement
 - Purpose

These are the basis of the Aspirations Trust. If people feel good about themselves they can achieve anything, if they are engaged in what they are doing and see a purpose then they will achieve their dreams.

- The **Nine Core Principles** are a clear feature in every element of the academy:
 - High Expectations - Being the very best you can be in your school and community
 - Opportunity - Matching your interests with activities that will help you to leave school well-rounded and confident
 - Challenge - Making your learning exciting and relevant to the real world
 - Talent Development - Enhancing your natural strengths and abilities so you thrive in school and beyond
 - Innovation and Enterprise - Supporting your creativity by encouraging you to ask 'Why?' and 'Why not?'
 - Makers and Creators - Being a creator, not just a consumer, of technology in our digital world
 - Global - Having the cultural awareness needed to communicate in our interconnected world
 - Employability - Equipping you with the skills and abilities you'll need to excel in our ever-changing world
 - With Big Dreams and Hard Work, Anything is Possible - Aspirations means to dream about the future while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams.

These should be modelled by the Principal and should be embedded in all operations of the academy. They should drive the curriculum and teaching and learning processes.

- **Every teacher provides academic teaching and pastoral support/guidance for pupils.** This is done through the 'school' system in each secondary school whilst primary schools ideally have at least two teachers sharing each teaching group. This is essential to ensure students have a sense of belonging as they are well known by several staff. It is also designed to ease the transition from primary school to secondary school.
- **Aspirations policies, systems and structures** are followed to ensure effective communication, clear roles and responsibilities and efficient organisation.
- All Academies have **employability and future skills** are the centrepiece to their educational provision:
 - Resilience
 - Cross-cultural competency
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
 - Creative and adaptive thinking
 - Cognitive load management
 - Sense-making
 - Media literacy
 - Entrepreneurialism
 - Transdisciplinarity
 - Productivity and accountability