

Design and Purpose

At Darlinghurst all children are active in their learning and encouraged to be active citizens within the academy and the wider world. We know that we can make a difference! Our active citizen groups make a positive contribution to academy life and the world around us. We are proud of our roles and responsibilities and take community action. This demonstrates our sense of belonging.

Eco Committee

Our aim is to promote eco-awareness across the school, making a difference to our 'footprint'

Peer Mentors

Our aim is to help others to manage their feelings and friendships. We help them to find ways to resolve problems and use mediation. We are "Playground Buddies" and Mentors. We encourage kindness and daily happiness. Have you filled someone's bucket today?

Junior Leadership Team

Our aim is to be reliable role models for the rest of the school. We encourage positive behaviour and thrive to achieve high expectations.

Junior Governors

Our aim is to give every pupil a voice and ensure their views and opinions are heard.

Sports Committee

Our aim is to ensure the children of Darlinghurst stay active and healthy through positive play and exercise.

Play squad

Our aim is to make the playground safe, fun and enjoyable for all.

Difference

Our active citizens are able to gain new skills and abilities as they grow within their roles. They know their actions make a difference within the school and wider community. The play leaders have made a real impact to the playtime experience through leading and implementing games. Peer mentors offer support to younger children, giving them the confidence to become resilient and manage their emotions. The Sports Committee have shared their voice and made changes to PE lessons and the curriculum, for example, including the popular 'dodgeball' as a learnt game. The Eco Committee have been able to make many connections with other eco groups and shown a care for the world we live in through their ideas. The Junior Governors have regularly visited Admiral Court to help show a sense of belonging and have ensured all pupil's voices are heard by representing their class. The Junior Leadership support the day to day running of the school, share their views with governors and attend events such as Open Evening and the Art Exhibition.

"One of the most important tasks as a Junior Governor is to represent the children in my class to make sure that their voices are heard. Mrs Nicholls values our concerns and ideas and thinks about how we can put our thoughts into action".

Proud member of the Junior Leadership Team

"As a member of the Sports Committee I listen to children's suggestions for sports, health and fitness. I encourage children to stay active and healthy through play and exercise. The PE team help us to bring our ideas alive. They are encouraging and really passionate about PE and health related fitness."

Proud member of the Sports Committee

"When I was a Play Squad member I led games at lunchtime. I undertook training to be a play leader, learning how to lead games and encourage others to join in. It has been nice to see everyone playing happily together."

Proud member of the Play Squad

"We are proud to have been chosen for the Junior Leadership Team as good role models for the rest of the school. We encourage positive behaviour and thrive to achieve high expectations."

Prefect

"I am proud to have been elected as Head Girl for Darlington Academy. I am proud to be part of a caring school with really kind teachers. I would love all of the other children who attend Darlington to have a brilliant time here too!"

Head Girl

"As Head Boy, I am enjoying this important role of responsibility and am so pleased to represent a wonderful school, full of amazing staff and friendly children. I have had many inspirational years at the school and relish the position of modelling my own good behaviour to the younger students."

Head Boy

"As a member of the Eco Committee, I feel a huge sense of belonging as we make a difference locally and for making the world a better place. Being on the team has empowered me to make a difference to our school and community."

Proud Member of the Eco Committee

'Achieving Excellence Together'

Reflections

Junior Governors

The Junior Governors are a group of children from Key Stage 1 and 2 who work together to make the school a better place. Much like Parliament, they are democratically elected by their peers and play a vital role in representing the views of all children at the school. By meeting, sharing ideas and completing activities throughout the year, the Junior Governor Team fulfil their role as active citizens, listening to suggestions from other pupils about ways in which to improve the school. They then provide this vital feedback to the teaching staff and the Principal. Some of the projects they have been involved in this year include ways in which to make lunchtimes even better, discussing their views on school uniform and lunches and creating artwork to share with Admiral Court.

Eco Committee

Caring for our environment is a huge part of daily life in our school, especially as it promotes our core value of belonging. Our Eco Committee, which consists of pupils from Years 1-6 work hard to promote eco-awareness across the school working towards our renewal of the Green Flag Award. We follow the Eco-schools programme, which covers 10 key areas in which we can protect our environment. This year we focused on waste, litter and the school grounds. We litter pick our school grounds, the nearby streets and Chalkwell Beach throughout the year. We have worked hard at planting trees, creating our own wildflower garden and improving our allotment area. We have continued to recycle paper, plastic bottles, plastic food wrappers, pens, ink cartridges and batteries and have taught the other children how best to do this. We have taken part in several national events including a Youth Climate Summit, the Great Big School Clean and Essex Green Day.

Sports Committee

The Sports Committee have worked really hard this year, making sure the children's voice is heard. With the PE team, they looked through the suggestion box and are planning to put some of the children's ideas into action next year, they also met with Kirk Edwards our SGO (School Games Organiser) to give him their thoughts on all things sport and PE. One of the Sports Committee's biggest successes this year was helping the PE department promote and run the #letgirlsplay campaign. Over 175 girls in our school

took part in this event and spent an afternoon joining in with a giant football tournament. The committee also ran a 'Bring and Buy' sale of unwanted sports equipment alongside the Eco Committee to raise money for the school. It was a great success and they are already planning another 'bigger' sale in the future.

Play Leaders

The Play Leaders have been amazing this year, sharing their knowledge of playground games with a various amount of children. We have adapted groupings to make sure that some of our superstars go into the KS1 playground and make their experience of lunchtimes, amazing. Our aims for next year are to add to our playground equipment to add variety to playgrounds. The Play Leaders were treated to a trip for their commitment this year to Chalkwell Park.

Peer Mentors

The Peer Mentors received training this year to arm them with the skills needed to support others. They have been incredibly helpful in supporting the work our pastoral team does at playtimes and lunchtimes. Mrs Grant rewarded them with frozen refreshments as a thank you for their hard work with supporting their peers this year.

Active Citizens Gallery

