



## Why Active Citizens?



Active Citizens

### A message from Mrs Powell, our Active Citizens Lead:

Active Citizens are an integral part of academy life. I feel incredibly passionate about it because it affects all of us and I feel it's important to inspire the younger generation to have a voice and make changes towards that which affects them.

As part of developing our Active Citizen groups I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children or who would simply like to be more involved with our different team and attend meetings.

### Vision

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 'carbon 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 to be a voice for the children of Darlinghurst and to encourage the children of Darlinghurst stay active and healthy through positive play and exercise. Working closely with the PE team to ensure that the children's ideas and suggestions are heard and implemented when appropriate.

#### Play squad

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

### Design

#### 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 retaining our Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction which we have received for consecutive years.

We follow the Eco-schools programme ensuring all criteria is met. The curriculum ensures that all children focus on local and global environmental issues with a bespoke climate change curriculum.

### **Peer Mentors**

The Peer Mentors support children with their friendships and social interactions. They undergo training in order to help them best support children at breaktimes including mediation strategies. They are kind and helpful – a helping hand when needed. They show a sense of belonging.

### **Junior Leadership Team**

Our Junior Leadership Team consist of two Head Prefects, A Senior Prefect Team and Prefects who carry out duties and act as role models within the academy. They support academy events and represent Darlington. Democratic processes are used to appoint the senior team with campaigns and speeches.

### **Junior Governors**

The Junior Governors are a group of children from Key Stage 1 and 2 who work together to provide a pupil voice. Much like Parliament, they are democratically elected by their peers and play a vital role in listening to and 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.

### **Sports Committee**

The Sports Committee are a committed group that care about sports and physical activity. They represent their peers providing pupil voice for future sporting opportunities and providing feedback. They take on board suggestions and active plan alongside the PE team for change. They meet with wider sporting partners i.e. (school games organisers) to give their thoughts on PE.

### **Play Squad**

The Play Squad play an active role at lunchtimes. They lead fun and engaging games and activities for others. The games that the children play are mostly equipment based that can get a large amount of children involved. They encourage children to play, spotting children that may want to give it a try.

## **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 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 academy and support key events with pride.

Quotes:

"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 Prefect 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 Prefect

"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'