

What Personal Development Looks Like at Aston Rowant

A values-led whole-school approach supporting character education, wellbeing, spiritual formation, citizenship and readiness for life.

What Personal Development Means

Definition

Personal Development at Aston Rowant is the planned and intentional way we help children grow into **confident, responsible, compassionate and reflective individuals**. It is everything we do to build character, strengthen wellbeing, develop values, and prepare pupils for life beyond primary school.

It includes pupils':

- Character and moral development
- Behaviour, attitudes and resilience
- Relationships and respect
- Emotional literacy and wellbeing
- Safety (including online safety)
- Confidence, leadership and responsibility
- Understanding of British values
- Cultural capital and enrichment
- Preparation for future learning and life

Personal Development is not a single lesson - it is a whole-school ethos, woven through daily interactions, curriculum design, assemblies, routines and extracurricular opportunities.

Why Personal Development Matters

We believe that:

- Children flourish when they are **emotionally strong, socially skilled, and morally grounded**
- Character education supports **behaviour, wellbeing, resilience and academic success**
- Opportunities beyond the classroom build **confidence, curiosity and aspiration**
- A strong sense of identity and belonging helps children feel **safe, secure and valued**
- Children benefit from understanding the wider world and their place within it

Aston Rowant pupils should leave us as **well-rounded young people** who are ready for the next stage of their education and who contribute positively to their community.

What Personal Development Looks Like at Aston Rowant

Personal Development at our school is seen in:

- Clear, consistent values taught explicitly and implicitly
- A curriculum that nurtures emotional literacy, creativity and critical thinking
- High-quality PHSE and RSE provision
- Assemblies that teach character, ethics, faith and celebration
- Opportunities for leadership, responsibility and service
- A strong safeguarding culture and pastoral support
- Visits, visitors, trips and enrichment experiences
- Daily routines that promote kindness, respect and responsibility
- Inclusion, diversity and equality woven through school life

Our approach is shaped by the values:

Gratitude • Resilience • Harmony • Trust • Outreach • Wonder

The following sections show how each value contributes to Personal Development through Intent, Implementation and Impact.

Gratitude

Intent

We aim to develop pupils who recognise and appreciate the positive aspects of life, including people, opportunities and experiences. Gratitude supports emotional wellbeing, humility and kindness — strengthening relationships across the school.

Implementation

- Thankfulness moments in class and collective worship
- Celebration assemblies and recognition of kindness
- Curriculum links promoting appreciation of nature, culture and community
- Reflection journals encouraging gratitude and mindfulness
- Encouraging pupils to notice and value one another's contributions

Impact

- Pupils express appreciation confidently and sincerely
- A positive, respectful school culture grounded in kindness
- Improved relationships and emotional wellbeing

Resilience

Intent

We aim to help pupils develop perseverance, courage and confidence when faced with challenge. Pupils learn that mistakes are part of growth and that resilience is essential for lifelong learning.

Implementation

- Explicit teaching of growth mindset
- Problem-solving, challenge-based and practical learning opportunities
- Emotional regulation strategies woven through the curriculum
- Supportive transitions and pastoral guidance where needed
- Opportunities for leadership and responsibility

Impact

- Pupils demonstrate perseverance and determination
- Increasing confidence to try new things and learn from setbacks
- Greater independence, self-belief and emotional regulation

Harmony

Intent

We aim to support pupils in developing emotional balance, respect, healthy relationships and reflective behaviour. Harmony enables pupils to learn alongside others productively and peacefully.

Implementation

- Restorative approaches to conflict
- Emotional literacy teaching across PHSE and daily practice
- Mindfulness, reflection and sensory regulation opportunities
- Collaborative work and structured play promoting teamwork
- Clear behaviour expectations supported with consistency and warmth

Impact

- Calm, respectful behaviour and positive peer relationships
- Pupils who manage emotions with increasing maturity
- A settled, safe learning environment

Trust

Intent

Trust is fundamental to pupils' sense of safety, belonging and confidence. We aim to help pupils develop trust in themselves, in others, and in the safe structures around them.

Implementation

- Strong relationships with trusted adults
- Daily check-ins and pastoral support systems
- Clear routines, expectations and safeguarding practices
- Opportunities to take responsibility and be relied upon
- Peer support and leadership roles across school

Impact

- Pupils feel secure, listened to and supported
- Growing confidence and self-esteem
- Responsible behaviour and positive attitudes to school

Outreach

Intent

We aim to help pupils understand their place within the wider world, developing social responsibility, citizenship and care for community and environment.

Implementation

- Community partnerships, charity events and service projects
- Environmental responsibility (eco-initiatives, gardening, nature care)
- Engagement with local organisations, churches and families
- Cultural capital opportunities: trips, visitors, experiences
- Achievement and aspiration celebrated across the curriculum

Impact

- Pupils show awareness of their role in community and world
- Increased empathy, responsibility and understanding of diversity
- Stronger connections between school, families and wider community

Wonder

Intent

We aim to nurture curiosity, imagination and a sense of awe. Wonder drives creativity, joy and deep engagement with the world.

Implementation

- Opportunities for creative arts, music, storytelling and drama
- Outdoor learning, exploration of nature and enquiry-based learning
- Encouraging big questions, investigation and curiosity
- Celebrating pupil interests, passions and talents
- Rich curriculum experiences that widen horizons

Impact

- High engagement and enthusiasm for learning
- Increased creativity, expressive confidence and curiosity
- Pupils who approach the world with joy and inquisitiveness

In Summary

At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School:

- Personal Development is **intentional, values-led and woven through school life**
- It supports **character, wellbeing, behaviour and academic success**
- Pupils develop **confidence, resilience, curiosity and strong moral foundations**
- Strong partnerships with families and community enrich learning
- Every child is supported to **flourish, grow and live life in all its fullness**