

## **Open the Book**

*Open the Book enriches school life by encouraging reflection, understanding and thoughtful discussion, helping pupils develop strong values and a sense of community.*

At Aston Rowant School, *Open the Book* is a valued and much-loved part of our weekly enrichment programme. Each week, members of our local church visit the school to share stories from the Bible through engaging storytelling, drama and reflection.

These sessions are inclusive, age-appropriate and carefully planned to support pupils' personal development, understanding of values and cultural awareness.

### **What Is Open the Book?**

Open the Book brings Bible stories to life using:

- Interactive storytelling
- Drama and role play
- Clear, accessible language
- Opportunities to reflect and ask questions

Delivered by different members of the local church, sessions are lively, memorable and engaging, helping pupils to connect with stories that have shaped British culture and history.

### **Why Open the Book Is High-Quality Enrichment**

Open the Book supports pupils well beyond Religious Education lessons and contributes meaningfully to whole-child development.

It helps pupils to:

- Develop listening, attention and confidence
- Reflect on moral choices and behaviour
- Explore themes such as kindness, forgiveness, courage, honesty and resilience
- Understand stories and traditions that are part of British heritage

The regular, familiar structure of the sessions allows pupils to feel safe, involved and confident to engage.

### **Benefits for Children**

The impact of Open the Book can be seen in pupils':

- Engagement – pupils are attentive, enthusiastic and eager to participate
- Understanding of values – children reference themes from stories in everyday school life
- Oracy skills – opportunities to listen, respond and discuss ideas
- Reflection – pupils consider right and wrong and the effect of actions on others

Importantly, Open the Book encourages children to think deeply while remaining accessible and enjoyable.

### **Supporting Personal Development and SMSC**

Open the Book makes a strong contribution to pupils':

- Spiritual development – encouraging reflection and curiosity about big questions
- Moral development – exploring choices, consequences and values
- Social development – promoting empathy, cooperation and respect
- Cultural development – introducing stories that have influenced British traditions, festivals and language

Sessions help pupils understand different beliefs in a respectful and thoughtful way.

### **Community Links and Belonging**

Having members of the local church regularly visit school:

- Strengthens the link between school and the local community
- Helps pupils understand community roles and shared responsibility
- Creates a sense of trust, continuity and belonging

Children benefit from seeing familiar visitors who care about their learning and wellbeing.

### **Inclusive and Respectful**

We value Open the Book as an opportunity for pupils to:

- Learn *about* Christian stories and values
- Engage respectfully with different beliefs
- Develop understanding without expectation of personal belief

All sessions are carefully managed to ensure they are inclusive and appropriate for all pupils.

Open the Book supports:

- **Personal Development** – values, reflection, cultural awareness
- **Behaviour and Attitudes** – kindness, respect and consideration for others
- **Curriculum Breadth and Enrichment** – meaningful learning beyond lessons
- **SMSC Development** – strong evidence of moral, social and cultural learning

