



Courageous Advocacy at Aston Rowant CofE Primary School

Vision: To be a community of courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, live out our Christian values and enjoy life in all its fullness.

Mission: Growing together, rooted in God and inspiring one another through our values and our broad enriched curriculum.

Strapline: Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life (Col 2:1-7)

A courageous advocate is someone who stands up for truth and justice and acts with compassion to all.

The Church of England talks about 'courageous advocacy' - putting others needs first, even when it might be dangerous or difficult. Many Christians believe that God asks us to offer our skills, talents and abilities in the face of adversity, and that He will use that courageousness to achieve great things. A passage in the Bible, Proverbs 31:8, encourages us to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.'

The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word 'cor' = heart. At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School we encourage and champion our pupils to become courageous advocates to have a heart for everyone: not just locally, but nationally and globally. It is important for our children to appreciate their role as part of a community; to take responsibility, to be able to look after themselves and to foster an understanding of their importance, impact and influence in the world. We are advocates for those who cannot stand up for themselves, who are victims of injustice.

In life we can all face challenges and may need support to help us overcome these barriers. It is also important to recognise attitudes, cultures or situations that may need to change. We teach our children that it is important to help others when we can no matter who they are, where they come from or what challenges they may face.

We use our values to teach and encourage one another to be courageous advocates through:

Gratitude- we advocate for others as we are grateful for the blessings we have ourselves have received from God

Resilience - our aim is to see wrongs righted, knowing that this is not always easy or a quick fix, but being determined to try

Outreach - we advocate for others both in school and also by reaching out to our wider communities

Wonder – our right to speak freely and to care for others is a wonder that we don't take for granted

Trust - we trust our understanding of right and wrong to see injustice where it exists

Harmony - by our advocacy we bring hope to others which is inter woven in our school culture

Each year we carry out a range of different fund raising to support many good causes. These are not supported to 'tick the box' but to establish a regular pattern of engagement, reflection and giving. Our yearly cycle includes:

- Charities of significance to our children (Tearfund, Christian Aid, Save the Children)
- Jeans for Genes
- Our local food bank (Sharing Life)
- The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- Children in Need
- Comic Relief

Our children have a good understanding the meaning of belonging to a local and global community and the sense of responsibility that comes with belonging. Thereby developing their ability to empathise and make a small sacrifice to benefit others. Together we consider the beauty and fragility of our environment, the actions we take, and the impact these actions may have on the well-being of everyone. Our school community and curriculum actively embrace a responsibility for the world in which we live. We are diligent to show our connection with, and care for, the world in which we all live and care for the people who live in it. We do this by:

- Part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms focusing on Zero Hunger and linked with a school in South Africa
- Having a School Council seeks the views of pupils as to which causes we want to support
- Our Eco Warriors championing causes and initiatives and securing both Eco School and Eco Tree School status
- Changing our school uniform supplier to a local and ethnically sourced brand
- Having a strong PTA with community events such as Christmas and Summer Fayres, discos and film nights
- The Headteacher writing in the bi-monthly local parish magazine to reach out to the community

Examples of courageous advocacy by members of our school are in the weekly school newsletter. These include:

- Yearly class chosen projects (Hedgehog – eco), Local (Squirrel – Sharing Life Food Bank), Local (Fox – Travel and Traffic) Global (Owl – Palestine UN Rights),
- Children across all year groups participate in village litter-picking
- Every child in the school participated in a sponsored walk for Sobell House and won the
- A letter to the Prime Minister to highlight our concerns about global warming,
- The children have initiated events to raise money for global wars or natural disasters (Tonga, Ukraine and Palestine)
- Children's individual projects: Sobell House, Max's Muncher, Wycombe Homeless Connection

This is how we show courageous advocacy at Aston Rowant CofE Primary School.