



LOCATION: CURRICULUM HANDBOOK, DOCUMENT 1

AIMS AND VALUES POLICY

Date policy first adopted: June 1997

Date reviewed: March 2024

Reviewed By: Vicky Aspin / Abbey Court Staff Team

Date ratified by Governing Body: n/a

Date of next review: Spring 2026

Abbey Court School is dedicated to providing a positive and stimulating environment that enables pupils with severe learning difficulties to find ways in which they can learn rather than reasons that they can't.

The Aims and Values of Abbey Court School are:

- To know each individual child/pupil as thoroughly as we can, including any circumstances which might affect their well being, behaviour and performance at any moment in time. This includes taking a long-term view of each child, visualising the best possibilities for each, and knowing when they are ready to take the next (challenging) step.
- To maintain high but realistic expectations for each pupil, enabling the development of independence
- To ensure we always see, first and foremost, the child, not the disability and to ensure that education (and not care) remains paramount. This will include identifying what motivates each child, and using that knowledge to encourage them to “have a go” for themselves.
- To ensure that pupils feel safe, secure and comfortable to enable them to focus on learning, ensuring staff have clarity and act on policies and procedures.
- To give great emphasis to the celebration and communication of pupil achievements, thus enabling a positive impact on parents, the local community and the pupils themselves.
- To have and realise a bespoke vision for each and every pupil and each and every member of staff.
- Do everything we can to ensure that people in the local community see our school and pupils in a positive and informed light in order to close the gap between the community's perceptions of the school and its pupils and what they are really like.

- To enable our pupils to develop into good citizens and to participate actively in their local communities finding ways to encourage those in the wider community to notice what they have in common with the pupils as much as what makes them different.
- To offer opportunities and experiences for pupils to learn in a multitude of different ways and through a rich, varied and individualised curriculum.
- To give pupils an equal voice in and ownership of their education so that they are able to express opinions, choices and preferences, promoting their independence, confidence and self-efficacy.
- To use individuals' interests, skills and experiences to enhance the education of pupils and staff.
- To ensure that leadership is in the hands of as many staff as possible; to have high expectations of all staff and enable career progression.
- To learn and share information, to the benefit of all pupils through mutually supportive relationships with parents, specialists and outside agencies.
- Through self-evaluation methodologies, seek to know our school better to inform focussed school improvement, and so that others can know us better.
- To function and be recognised as an authentically exemplary school in its field.