

Working in Partnership at George Abbot School

A values-led community

Our school mission statement informs the culture at our school: *Academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised.* In addition to this, our personal development curriculum supports your child to develop the following key characteristics, all of which underpin our community cohesion:

- creativity
- resilience
- confidence
- empathy
- honesty
- integrity
- teamwork
- kindness
- leadership.

We ask that our parents/carers respect and value the culture at our school. Working together in partnership with us supports your child's success and contributes to a harmonious and productive environment. Division between the school and parents/carers serves to undermine your child's respect for our values and willingness to be a member of our community. We know that children who feel that they are represented and belong are able to thrive. Your child's happiness, health and character development are fundamental to their George Abbot journey. It is our wish that parents/carers also feel welcomed into our community, seen and heard.

Communication Protocols

George Abbot staff work actively to communicate effectively with parent/carers and to inform them about their child's progress, wellbeing and experience at our school. Accepting the offer of a place at our school includes valuing the George Abbot culture, accepting our school policies and understanding that there is a mutual need to work together in best support of your child.

The school provides a number of formal, calendared opportunities to receive information about your child, including pastoral events, Parents' Evenings and Progress Report publication. In addition to this, there is the facility to email staff, arrange additional meetings and request telephone calls. For such communication, parents/carers should contact their child's tutor or pastoral team, in the first instance, as this ensures a key person is able to lead, manage and, where necessary, resolve matters. Schools are busy environments and parents/carers should be aware that, although our aim is to respond within 48 working hours, this might not always be achievable. The exception to this would be in relation to a safeguarding matter, which will be prioritised for a swift response.

There will be times when issues arise - we ask that you treat staff as professionals and approach issues peacefully and reasonably. Being aggressive and accusatory serves to erode trust and partnership. George Abbot staff do not expect to be recorded in meetings without their consent, to receive unreasonable demands for immediate responses or to receive offensive and derogatory comments in person, by email or on social media.

Safeguarding and Healthy Lifestyles

Safeguarding is at the heart of all that we do at George Abbot. We have a large, effective safeguarding team who are complemented by home-school link workers and mental health support professionals. We are well placed to facilitate early help for families and children who are in need and work alongside the three safeguarding partners (local authority; integrated care systems and the police) to support your child's safety. There are times when such work necessitates sensitive and challenging conversations with parent/carers. At such moments, please be assured that your child's wellbeing is our central duty and concern.

Students at George Abbot are taught the fundamental aspects of how to live a healthy lifestyle. This is delivered throughout our personal development programme and within the academic curriculum. We ask that parents/carers take a lead responsibility in cultivating and instilling healthy habits in their children, such as promoting a good diet;

ensuring sleep hygiene; managing appropriate use of technology; modelling conflict resolution and encouraging citizenship.

Student resilience and self-efficacy are facilitated as the foundation for future success and we work hard to ensure that students have the oral and written skills to advocate for themselves and others, in matters that are important to them.

Opportunities for Involvement

George Abbot welcomes parent/carer involvement in the life of the school and there are many ways in which this may be achieved, from formal roles which come with a good degree of commitment and accountability – such as joining the Parent Teacher Association, applying to be a Parent Governor or becoming an Examination Invigilator, to opportunities such as supporting the Careers Team to facilitate Year 10 Interview Day (in the capacity of an interviewer). In addition to this, we run a Parent Reading Volunteer programme which enables parents/carers to support us to help those students for whom reading might be a challenge. Attending Performing Arts events, aiding sports fixtures and assisting with relevant trips and visits is another way to be involved in our community and to show your child that you, too, are part of our school.

Student and staff partnership

At George Abbot, positive behaviour is essential for strong engagement with learning; it is fundamental to every child’s ability to learn in the classroom. It is also a prerequisite to ensure that all children are safe and happy at school. We insist on high standards of conduct, behaviour and appearance and strive to achieve this through strong partnership with parents/carers and highly positive relationships between staff and students.

Our proactive Behaviour Strategy is underpinned by three key culture expectations: **aspiration, community, respect**. With these values in mind, the ‘GA Way’ and the six principles below were formed as an overview of behaviour expectations for students at George Abbot.

Present – be at school every day and be on time

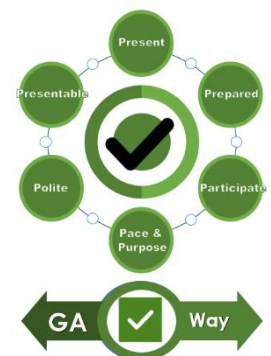
Presentable – uniform correct

Prepared – have all equipment and home learning complete

Polite – to everyone. Have respect for staff, students, the school and our community

Participate – engage fully with your work in the classroom and get involved in clubs and events

Pace and Purpose – work hard within lessons and move around school calmly and with purpose



The George Abbot behaviour policy includes detentions and suspensions; these are not negotiable and do form an important part of your child learning that actions have consequences in childhood as in adulthood.

Curriculum

Alongside our work on our school culture, we have a thriving teaching and learning environment at George Abbot School. Teachers work hard and are skilled experts in their field, always seeking to learn and improve.

Our curriculum is broad, aspirational and academically rich offering rigour, challenge and access for all. We want our students to experience the best that has been thought, discovered, created, expressed and to reference their learning within time, place and context. Knowledge is sequenced effectively and we are committed to responsive teaching. We ensure learning is accessible to every young person through skilled pedagogy. Our curriculum extends well beyond the classroom and incorporates a deep commitment to diversity and respect, artistic and physical endeavour, character development and wellbeing. Children at our school make very strong progress and receive the very best education for life.

The George Abbot curriculum is aspirational and clearly laid out in our curriculum policy – this policy is applied fairly to all students.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for your child to achieve their potential and feel that they belong. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that your child feels willing and able to attend school, every day. Your child will be assigned a Form Tutor who will play a key role in welcoming them, each morning, and establishing the routines necessary to facilitate a positive start to the day.

We recognise that there are times when children find attendance to be a challenge. On these occasions, we work alongside parents/carers to identify the necessary help and provision to enable your child to reconnect with school life.

In general, term-time holidays will not be authorised unless it is agreed that there are exceptional circumstances to do so. In these instances, parents/carers should seek prior written agreement, from the headteacher.

In accepting a place for our child at George Abbot School, we understand and value our partnership with the school and agree to work in partnership with you.