

# Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy

## Young Leaders 2023-2024 (to date)

*'Striving for life in all its fullness' John 10:10*



### **Introduction**

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Our parliament and young leader roles provide a meaningful way in which we, the pupils, can voice our opinions.

Within the school curriculum, one of the key areas making up our Beyond Expectation Curriculum Model is 'a climate of participation' and a 'culture of opportunity and ambition': our Parliament and Young Leader roles provide an excellent way in which to increase participation, helping us to learn first-hand about democracy, local and global citizenship and accountability.

Our Pupil Parliament was formed to give students a forum to speak and to ensure our voice is heard. The parliament is a democratically elected group of pupils who represent their peers and enable students to become partners in our own education, making a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos. The teachers encourage us to demonstrate independence and promote leadership opportunities with the aim of developing valuable leadership, communication and organisation skills. We relish the opportunity to become a greater part of our school life.

### **What are the benefits of promoting leadership skills at a young age?**

In taking on our roles as young leaders at a young age, we have the opportunity to work as part of a team alongside our peers, which prepares us for our future by encouraging effective communication and respect for others. As part of our different roles, we work alongside other pupils from different classes to plan and organise ideas.

Our confidence has grown through being offered the opportunities to take responsibility for ideas and act upon them. For example, as part of our fund-raising towards a Wellbeing Hub for our school, we organised and ran stalls and a Sleigh Bell Stroll. As part of this we planned the activities, arranged for the equipment to be ordered, made posters and discussed price options, set up and ran stalls. This process also taught us leadership skills for enterprise and business that we can use at secondary school and beyond. Leading assemblies and speaking in front of others as part of Anti-Bullying Week and UK Parliament Week have also helped our confidence to grow as we have presented our ideas to the whole school.

In our roles we also develop responsibility because the teachers trust us to lead on our own ideas and find solutions. In the autumn term, we successfully helped to set up three new clubs across school: dance club, football club and baking club. We also worked alongside our peers to try to set up an astronomy club, this is something we're working on and hoping to set up in the future.

We also have developed our communication skills through being challenged to share our ideas with different members of staff, as well as presenting in front of the whole school. We have learnt to use our voice effectively, taking ideas from the National Younger Leadership Group sessions.

### **The impact of young leadership on our peers, teachers and the school community:**

One area in which we felt that we needed to focus on at the beginning of this academic year was our school library. We knew that our library area and books needed updating to offer the children in our school a wide range of books to choose from that linked to their interests and the curriculum. For this, we worked alongside Mrs Rogers, our Deputy Head teacher and our school's Reading Subject Lead, to audit what books were needed. We wanted to make sure that each class had sets of books that they could read linked to the protected characteristics as well as engaging texts to foster pleasure for reading. We ordered over 500 books for classrooms and the school library and helped to label, organise and deliver books to the classrooms. We also helped to organise a pyjama and breakfast with books day where we shared our favourite books over a delicious breakfast, which helped to encourage reading across school. This has had a positive impact on our teachers, pupils and the school community as it has helped more students to enjoy reading.

### **How have you been encouraged to develop your role as a young leader?**

In our young leader roles, we are linked with different teachers in school who we meet with to discuss and plan our ideas. The teachers help us to problem-solve and make decisions based on our ideas. Teachers also come to us with tasks and ideas to lead on. This encourages us through providing us with responsibility to come up with plans that will affect the whole school. For example, we worked alongside Miss Miranda and Miss Robinson to organise the Sleigh Bell Stroll in December 2023. Miss Miranda encouraged us to develop our roles through helping us to brainstorm fundraising ideas and by being open-minded to our different initial ideas before guiding us to make decisions which would work to make money. She encouraged our independence by allowing us time to work on our ideas and make plans before reporting back to her with our requests for what we needed to run our stalls.

As Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, we meet regularly with Mrs Stevens, our head teacher, to discuss our ideas. From the beginning of the year, Mrs Stevens has encouraged us to take responsibility by offering us opportunities to plan and deliver on exciting things for the pupils, this included: creating a Christmas Quiz for the whole school which was completed as a fun end-of-term activity, the opportunity to plan our Year 6 party and work alongside Mrs Rogers to plan Careers Week. Mrs Stevens also encourages us to develop in our role by signing us up for the National Younger Leadership Groups sessions where we meet with over 67 other schools to explore how to use our voice to enable flourishing. These sessions are inspiring because you get to learn about different inspirational people. By finding out about these different people and their skills we have been able to develop our roles to become better young leaders through learning that "you're bigger than you think": this has given us confidence to lead and make decisions for the other pupils in our school. These sessions are helping us to develop in leadership, grow in faith, and have our voices heard on key topics and issues that are important to us and our communities. For example: How can you use your voice to help yourself and others to flourish?' and 'What stops people from flourishing both individually and in community?'

### **How do we work together to achieve common goals and make a positive difference to our school community?**

In our Pupil Parliament and Young Leader roles, we are given different areas of responsibility. These include: ministers of our school curriculum, ministers of our environment, ministers of Christian distinctiveness, ministers of our community, ministers of wellbeing, the equity and leadership team, digital leaders, playground pals, sports leaders, worship committee, tour guides, catering leaders, chicken leaders, hedgehog leaders and gardening leaders. Through these different roles we are able to focus on particular areas of school life and work alongside link teachers to achieve our goals. For example, our ministers of wellbeing planned and led on Anti-Bullying Week in November whilst our curriculum ministers planned for Maths Week England – where these events happened around the

same time, we were able to successfully take part in both events as the planning was shared between our different roles. This also works well for bigger tasks such as the Sleigh Bell Stroll where we have been able to allocate different roles to share the organisation of the event.

### **How have you been given opportunities to share ideas, opinions and concerns?**

We meet with Mrs Stevens weekly and this allows us to share our ideas, opinions and concerns that have been shared by our peers. Our MP's meet regularly with link teachers to share ideas, opinions and concerns on their leadership area. We plan and deliver assemblies to share our plans and outcomes of our meetings with Mrs Stevens and staff. For example the Curriculum Ministers introduced and explained the whole school activity for Maths Week 2023. We also write up meeting minutes and share these with our wider community.

### **How could Archbishop Cranmer continue to support and enhance young leadership?**

We would highly recommend other children to take on Young Leader roles because being offered these opportunities has helped us to grow in confidence to use our voice to make a change. We know that we're inspiring and trusted by adults and feel excited to embark on our future: these skills could lead us to become the next world leaders. We would like our legacy to inspire future generations of children at Archbishop Cranmer to take on leadership roles and be confident to be the change they want to be. We hope to ensure the leadership roles adapt to meet the needs of the school, for example the implementation of Chicken Leaders following the adoption of chickens on our school premises.

*"The best thing about being a Curriculum Minister is you work with lots of fellow pupils who you'd might not always get to speak to. I enjoy being able to talk about school developments and inspire others to take on future roles."*

*"I love being a Sports Leader because you get to help and encourage others."*

*"In my role as a Playground Pal, I love to speak in front of other people and teach them how to be nice people."*

*"I love to inspire people through my role as a Sports Leader by delivering entertaining activities."*

*"In my role as Tour Guide, I love to show my knowledge of my school."*

*"As Chicken Leader, I like talking to others about the chickens and showing others how to look after them."*

*"My role as Environment Lead allows me to inspire others to be good future citizens."*