

IPSWICH SCHOOL



Personal Development Programme

The emphasis on pupils' personal development is something that has a high profile at Ipswich School – unusually so, for a largely day school. Many schools make claims in this area, but few give it the priority we do. This priority is based on the knowledge that, while academic development and qualifications are vitally important, personal skills and attitudes (concentration, ambition, motivation, self-confidence and so on) contribute towards academic success but also go far beyond this, underpinning all aspects of our lives – including, in adult life, our career success and our personal relationships. For day pupils, the home environment has the greatest influence, but there is plenty of evidence that a school can make a huge difference.

In what ways? Here are some threads:

- The general culture of Ipswich School helps pupils to be self confident and encourages them to respect and to work with each other. We value individualism, providing it is compatible with communal responsibility and loyalty – both are important attributes. We promote self-confidence in all sorts of ways – for example by helping pupils to feel happy and secure at school and by praising pupils for their achievements, whether through the blue card system or by other means. While promoting self-confidence we also discourage arrogance. We value courtesy and consideration. We, as teachers, attempt to model these attributes as well as actively to promote them.
- We encourage pupils' spiritual development, in particular through our Chapel Services and assemblies, but also more widely (through music and drama, for example). We are active in getting pupils to think about their beliefs and values. We promote reflection.
- Teamwork and leadership opportunities / training are built into the school both academically and through a whole range of areas such as cultural activities (think of the teamwork involved in a choir or a play) and sport.
- We promote our pupils' involvement in extra-curricular activities, encouraging breadth of interests and skills, the opportunity to meet different groups of students and potentially kindling life-long participation.
- We aim to involve pupils in accepting responsibility for their own learning (through the use of planners or through our Independent Learning initiative for example), behaviour and progress, including a self-review element in the report process.
- While many aspects of Personal Development are allied with the everyday activities of the school, some aspects are overtly planned with Personal Development in mind, for instance
 - the Year 8 Cumbria week;
 - the Year 10 Leadership Course;
 - aspects of Thursday Activities such as the CCF, JSLA, Community Service and the International Leadership Programme;
 - the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme;
 - the training that we give to Senior Prefects and Peer Tutors;
 - the Personal, Social and Health Education programme;
 - outdoor activities such as World Challenge.

The planning and integration of these strands is the remit of Tracy Boyle, our Head of Personal Development. She liaises with those responsible for activities (both in and out of the curriculum) that promote Personal Development, encourages additional activities and seeks further opportunities for us to promote Personal Development throughout our school life. She also works with Tutors to monitor and advise pupils about their involvement in extra-curricular activities so that they are encouraged to make good use of what we offer and to establish a good balance between study, leisure and wider interests. In the coming year she is developing a system of e-portfolios so that pupils can record their involvement and discuss this with their tutors. The e-portfolios will also give pupils practice in creating CVs and help staff when writing references.