

Young Transformers - A guide for parents and carers

At St. Mary's, we believe that every pupil has a right to be listened to and to be heard. We have seen how young activists like Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg have captured the imaginations of millions of people around the world. We believe that young people can bring about change through positive action grounded in knowledge, facts and experience. Not only do we want our pupils to have the chance to voice their opinions and feelings about school, local and global matters but we also want them to act on these.

Our *Young Transformers* scheme encourages every pupil to bring about a positive change through five different strands: Caring, Community, Confidence, Creativity and Curiosity. Each term, every year group will experience an action based on one of the strands. This transformative action might be building personal *Confidence* in Year three by visiting a local climbing wall or by being *Creative* in Year six where they will visit the Royal Academy to see an art exhibition. At each stage, we ask pupils how the transformation connects to our Christian vision, our values and our mission.

Alongside the positive action that takes place in school each term, we also want the pupils to be *advocates for change* at home. With this in mind, we have designed ideas with the power to transform things at home. Each term, pupils, parents and carers will be challenged to engage with a mandatory action such as learning how to make your own bed, and two optional challenges for example visiting a place of worship in London. We hope that by showing children that their voice matters, they will feel empowered to become conscious, caring and considerate citizens of the world.

On our website, you will find all the information you need for our *Young Transformers* scheme. As you can imagine, we are incredibly excited and proud to be part of such an ambitious programme for our pupils. Even though the first actions will take place in the Autumn term 2021, we will launch Young Transformers this half term by bringing the *Community* together through dance. Despite the challenges of the year, our school communities have never been so connected: new groups and teachers in Google Classrooms, supporting communities through food parcels and our engagement with the local church to guide us through it all. To celebrate our togetherness, we invite the children from the three schools to join us for a '*Dance into the Summer*'.

Of course, we will want you to partake as well and have the opportunity to share your creative dance moves with us. You can find the dance video here or online. I can't wait to see the launch of our scheme on 28th June and the dance moves that will set up our summer together.

Please join in and Dance into the Summer with us all and share your dance with us by sending it to the following address:

saintmarysyoungtransformers@genesistrust.net