

Our Ref: CS/KS/DEC Pupil Pledge

Date: 9th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,



**Dame Elizabeth
Cadbury School**
www.decschool.co.uk

Our DEC Pupil Pledge – Supporting every child to thrive

At our school, we believe that every child deserves access to the same opportunities to succeed, not only academically, but personally and socially too.

That belief sits at the heart of our **DEC Pupil Pledge** and is rooted firmly in our STRIVE school values. The pledge is our commitment to ensuring that every pupil leaves our school having accessed a rich range of experiences that complement the curriculum and help to close the cultural capital gap. This is about **equity, not extras**.

The Pupil Pledge reflects our value of **Everyone is equal**, ensuring that all pupils, regardless of background or circumstance, are equally valued and supported to access opportunity. It also embodies **Valuable Contributions**, recognizing that every pupil brings unique talents, perspectives, and strengths that enrich the Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School community.

While the specific details of the pledge may evolve over time, the principle remains the same: every pupil will have access to opportunities such as cultural experiences, enrichment activities and clubs, leadership and responsibility roles, careers guidance and aspiration-building encounters, personal development, and wider experiences including trips and visits where possible.

These experiences support pupils in becoming **self-motivated to achieve**, encouraging positive attitudes to learning, resilience in the face of challenge, and a willingness to think deeply and reflect. They also reinforce our belief that **together we learn**, as pupils, work collaboratively, take part in shared experiences, and grow as members of a strong and supportive community.

Participation in the Pupil Pledge will be recognized and celebrated through our **rewards and behaviour points system**, reinforcing our expectations around effort, engagement, and integrity in all we do. In rewarding positive choices and commitment, we promote honesty, responsibility, and pride in belonging to our school.

The DEC Pupil Pledge is led and championed through our **house system**, with Heads of House encouraging participation, recognizing achievement, and fostering positive competition between houses. This DEC Pupil Pledge is being launched to all pupil w/c 9th February 2026 with first implementation from 23rd February 2026.



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The Pupil Pledge is also a **two-way commitment**. As a school, we commit to providing these opportunities and supporting every child to access them. In return, we ask pupils to commit to **attending school every day**, arriving ready to learn and take part. Regular attendance is essential if pupils are to benefit fully from the experiences on offer and make meaningful contributions to their house and wider school community.

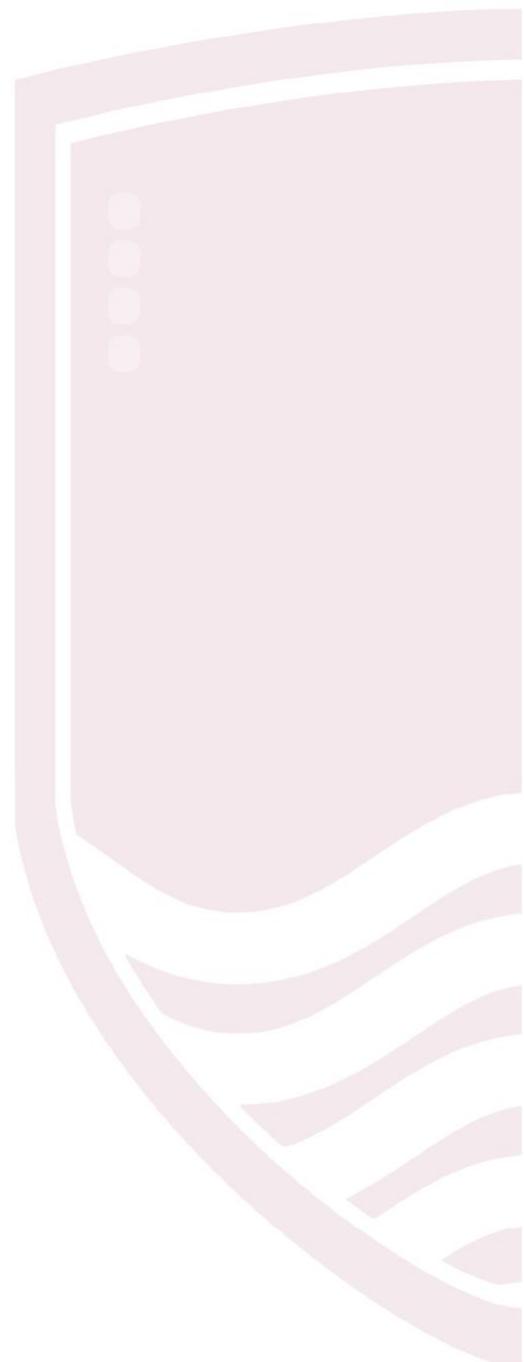
We value the vital role that parents and carers play in supporting attendance, engagement, and aspiration. In working together, and by living out our shared values, we can ensure that every child is given the best possible chance to thrive, achieve, and succeed. For further details and FAQs please see overleaf.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Seager
Head of School



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Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is the Pupil Pledge?

The Pupil Pledge is our commitment to ensuring that **every pupil** has access to a rich range of opportunities alongside the curriculum. These experiences help develop confidence, aspiration, character, and life skills, while supporting academic learning.

Why has the school introduced the Pupil Pledge?

We know that not all pupils have the same access to experiences outside school. The Pupil Pledge helps to **close the cultural capital gap** by ensuring opportunities are planned, inclusive, and available to all. This reflects our belief in **equity, not extras**.

Is it for all year groups?

Yes. Each year group has a very specific set of pledge items which have been carefully selected by subject and pastoral staff to **broaden horizons**, develop pupils as a person, and deepen their learning across the curriculum.

What kinds of opportunities are included?

Opportunities may include:

- Cultural experiences (such as theatre, museums, galleries, and music)
- Enrichment and clubs (sport, arts, STEM, creative activities)
- Leadership and responsibility (student leadership, mentoring, volunteering)
- Careers and aspiration (employers, universities, workplace encounters)
- Personal development (confidence, oracy, teamwork, resilience)
- Wider experiences (trips, visits, and residential where possible)

Specific opportunities may vary year to year, but access for all pupils remains central.



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Will my child be expected to take part in everything?

Not every opportunity will suit every pupil, but the pledge ensures that **all pupils are encouraged and supported** to engage meaningfully over time. Staff will guide pupils to opportunities that suit their interests, strengths, and needs. If there are cost implications, we have tried to minimise these.

For each year group there is a minimum number of DEC Pupil Pledge items required to 'Graduate' each year group. This takes into

consideration instances where the child may not be able to take part in a particular opportunity. If you do feel there is a barrier to your child completing some of the items, please ensure you contact your child's Head of House to see if there is any support available.

Year Group	Total number of DEC Pupil Pledge items	Minimum number of DEC Pupil Pledge items needed to 'graduate'
7	20	15
8	21	16
9	16	13
10	16	13
11	12	10
Sixth form	15	12

How is this linked to rewards and behaviour points?

Participation, effort, and positive engagement with the Pupil Pledge are recognized and celebrated through our rewards and behaviour points system. This reinforces the value we place on commitment, responsibility, and making the most of opportunities. Each DEC Pupil Pledge item, once completed, is awarded 5 points and is logged on ClassCharts. Other spot prizes and 'Graduation' prizes and badges are also available.

What role do Heads of House play?

Heads of House lead and promote the DEC Pupil Pledge within the house system. This creates positive competition, strengthens belonging, and supports our Pupil Premium strategy by encouraging participation and reducing barriers for pupils who may otherwise miss out.

How does attendance link to the Pupil Pledge?

The Pupil Pledge is a two-way commitment. While the school provides opportunities, pupils must be in school regularly to benefit from them. Good attendance is essential to accessing experiences, earning rewards, and contributing positively to house and school life.

Will there be costs involved?

Where costs apply, the school will always seek to minimise financial barriers and provide support where needed. No pupil should be excluded from an opportunity due to financial circumstances. Whilst opportunities directly related to your child's curriculum are generally paid for, there are some circumstances where there will be a charge. Contact your child's Head of House to find out more.



How does this reflect the school's values?

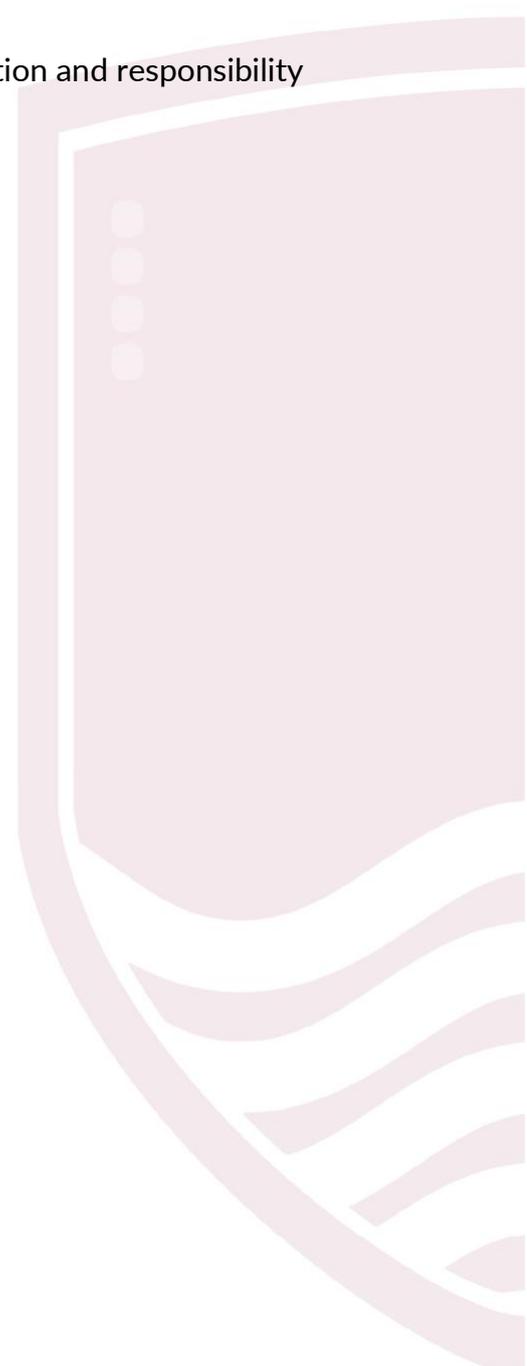
The Pupil Pledge directly supports our values:

- **Everyone is equal** – access to opportunity for all
- **Valuable contributions** – every pupil matters
- **Together we learn** – shared experiences build community
- **Self-motivated to achieve** – confidence, resilience, aspiration
- **Respectful to all and Integrity in all we do** – positive participation and responsibility

How can parents and carers support the Pupil Pledge?

You can support the pledge by:

- Encouraging **excellent attendance**
- Talking positively with your child about opportunities
- Supporting involvement in enrichment and trips
- Reinforcing the value of effort, commitment, and participation



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