

# A Pocket Guide to



## Values-Based Education

*Living our Values, Learning for Life*

# Values-Based Education

This is a short guide to explain the basics of values-based education and how it is used at Oatlands to support children in their learning and behaviour.

## **What are values?**

Values are principles that guide our learning and behaviour. At Oatlands we have 22 different values which are introduced to the children monthly over a 2-year cycle. Many of these values overlap with each other to give children a chance to consolidate their understanding of how they can help.

## **Values are for everyone!**

At Oatlands we try to live our values at all times and they are not just for the children! We encourage all staff, parents and members of the school community to talk about them, model them and help our children to understand them better.

## **How can parents help?**

It is really important the children hear about values not just at school but also at home. We send home activities to support each month for you to try with your child and to help develop understanding of different values.

## **Why values?**

Teaching values gives children a vocabulary to discuss their feelings and learning. This 'hidden curriculum' is vital as children begin to learn to regulate emotions, develop learning behaviours and mature into responsible citizens. It also helps us as adults too consider how we interact with others as well!

# Values for Learning

Values help us to develop effective learning behaviours! At Oatlands, we talk to the children about having a '**growth mindset**'. That means that we tell children that if they keep practising something they will succeed, even if they make some mistakes along the way. They just can't do it 'yet'!

At Oatlands we have learning behaviour characters that help us to develop this mindset. In Reception these help support the characteristics of effective learning.

**Concentrating Crocodile**  
**Persevering Parrot**  
**Go for it Gorilla**  
**Proud Parrot**  
**Reflective Rabbit (Y1/2)**  
**Creative Chameleon**

We encourage children to develop these learning behaviours so that they become resilient and have a positive attitude to learning.

Our values support these learning behaviours by giving children skills and strategies to use them in their work. For example, we need the value of **confidence** to have a go at something new, or to approach a task differently. Other values such as **respect** help children to learn to take pride in their presentation and care over their work to produce their best.

As adults we can support the growth mindset by using specific praise. We can tell children **what** they have done well; rather than just saying 'Well done' we can say 'Well done, you have tried hard to keep your writing on the line!'

# Values for Behaviour

Values also help us to develop our emotional literacy skills. It is just as important that children learn to regulate their behaviour as it is for them to become a successful learner. Values develop these two aspects alongside each other.

We use the language of values to help children to problem solve, manage their relationships and understand how they are feeling.

As adults we can support this by labelling children's emotions for them and then by helping them develop strategies to cope. We can say: 'I can see that you are feeling frustrated. What has made you feel like that? What could we do to make things better?'

Values also help children learn about how to become responsible citizens. They learn the importance of caring for the environment, for their communities and their friends.

One of the ways we do this in school is having times of reflection. We give children opportunities to take time out and to be still. All classes do 'just-a-minute' which is a time when children might listen to some music, explore an object, look at some images or film or just sit in silence.

## Values in School

Your child will also learn about values in daily assemblies, through songs and rhymes, values stories and values circle time in class. Parents receive our values calendar, monthly values@home sheets, values-based parent and child workshops, updates on the website and you are always welcome to come and ask us any questions!