

## **Personal Development Curriculum at Oak Lodge**

### **What we aim to achieve (Intent)**

At Oak Lodge Primary School we cherish the children in our care and their futures by ensuring that they are at the centre of all we do. We aim to foster within the children a life-long love of learning in which they develop a curious mind and for them to become happy, well rounded individuals who have the confidence and resilience to deal with the inevitable challenges that they will face in their lives.

We aim for our children to be Respectful, Responsible and Resilient Citizens both during their time at the school and in their adult lives, so they can play an active role in modern Britain.

We expect the children to be well-behaved, polite and courteous and to be respectful to each other and their surroundings. It is also very important to us that children are ethical thinkers in order to develop into global citizens.

### **How we achieve our ambitions (Implementation)**

Personal development is a continuous process and permeates all aspects of school life. However, it is important to us that we are intentional about the opportunities we provide the children in order for them to develop as well rounded members of society.

As with all schools, we are required to promote the fundamental British Values of: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. Our Oak Lodge Values of Cooperation, Communication, Adaptability, Thoughtfulness, Resilience, Enquiry, Respect and Morality underpin the British Values and are embedded in school life and they are further supported by our core Trust values of Resilience, Respect and Resourcefulness. We also have our overarching Global Themes (which are woven into our curriculum) as we want our children to: look after each other, show responsible leadership and look after the world. Through promoting these values and attributes, we aim to support the children to become Responsible Citizens.

All children have a 'School Passport' in which they collect school values. Once all of the values have been collected the children are invited to a special lunch with Senior Staff. These lunches are purposefully designed to have pupils from different year groups as this is an opportunity for them to further develop their communication skills as well as the social skills of eating together and meeting new people.

At Oak Lodge our learning environment is stimulating, attractive and one in which children thrive as a result of them feeling happy and secure. We are very lucky to have beautiful grounds through which learning is enhanced. We ensure that all year groups are able to spend time learning in our 'Forest Area'. This helps to develop an appreciation of the world around them and how to look after it, as well as supporting cooperation and communication skills.

Team work, collaboration and cooperation are valued and these support the children to be good communicators and show respect and tolerance for others. It is important to us that the children understand that we live in a rich and diverse world and the benefits that this brings. Through our curriculum we plan for opportunities to embed an appreciation and understanding of diversity, whether this is via texts specifically selected for assemblies and class books, historical characters being discussed, our PSHE curriculum or through the children sharing their own experiences.

We have a 'School Parliament' which includes pupils in Years 1-6. In the older year groups children are given opportunities to volunteer to take on Leadership Roles such as Play Ground Buddies,

Sports Leaders, House Captains, Reading Ambassadors and Head and Deputy Boys and Girls. Our older pupils also have the opportunity to run clubs for others. This includes putting in a proposal and planning the sessions. These opportunities enable the children to develop responsible leadership skills, act as role models, improve their self-esteem and self-confidence and have a feeling of self-fulfilment. All of these roles require the children to use and demonstrate our values and help them to become active citizens.

Our PSHE, RE, PE and RSE curriculums are carefully planned and progressive in order to support personal development in an age appropriate way. We invite the 'Life Bus' into school in alternate years to support the teaching of PSHE and further promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the pupils so that they can make healthy lifestyle choices and have the confidence to make good choices even when there is peer pressure.

We provide a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their self esteem and communication skills such as assemblies, Christmas performances, music concerts and end of Year show in Year 6. We encourage pupils to take part in a range of extra curricular activities (particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds).

Our assemblies are carefully planned so that they cover a range of issues in order to support the children to develop tolerance and empathy. These assemblies also support British Values as well as those of the school.

We live in an ever changing world and it is important to us that the children develop skills to keep themselves safe in both the real and virtual world. We explicitly teach keeping ourselves safe in different scenarios, whether it is through curriculum lessons or presentations from outside agencies such as the Breck Foundation, through road and rail safety talks, Bikeability courses in Year 6 or First Aid courses.

Healthy eating is important to us and this is promoted through the science curriculum as well as through our school meals. We also teach the children about good dental and oral hygiene and the important of keeping ourselves 'sun safe'.

As a school we support a range of charities and the children are active in suggesting which to support and how they can do this, knowing that they can make a difference. We also encourage our children to be active citizens as each class takes part in a litter pick in the local area. This encourages the children to take pride in where they live and to see the positive impact they can make by volunteering in the community.

It is important to us that we develop the cultural capital of our children as much as possible and we do this through providing a range of clubs, educational visits, opportunities to experience the arts, whether this is through visits to the theatre or workshops in school.

We ensure that the pupils are ready for the next phase of their education, whether this is within the school (through social stories, additional meetings with staff ahead of the new school year or time with our Family Worker) or if it is when moving to a new educational establishment.

### **How we know we have achieved our ambitions (Impact)**

The children at Oak Lodge are polite and respectful. They leave us as well rounded individuals who have the confidence to move to the next phase of their education knowing how to keep themselves safe and make a positive contribution to society. We know this through feedback from our local

Secondary Schools. At sporting fixtures it is regularly commented on the way the children embrace fair play, support each other and show strong sportsmanship. When going on educational visits members of the public often come up and say how polite, well-mannered, smart and respectful the children are and what a credit they are to themselves and the school.

Our children also show round perspective parents and the way they conduct themselves and speak confidently, and proudly about the school is regularly commented upon.

When parents and visitors come to the school for events such as: concerts, assemblies, class museums and exhibitions they praise the way the children speak both knowledgably and confidently about their learning.

The children themselves tell us many positive things about their time at the school for example: 'My time at Oak Lodge has been wonderful and it has really helped me to grow in confidence.' 'The atmosphere at Oak Lodge is so positive and we are given responsibilities which help us to prepare for Secondary Schools. I wouldn't want to go anywhere else!'