

Wickham Common Primary School Personal Development Statement

At Wickham Common, we are committed to fostering the personal development of every child, ensuring they grow into confident, well-rounded, and compassionate individuals ready to make a positive impact in their communities. By enabling our children to develop their own skills, knowledge and understanding of who they are and how to be themselves, understand how to keep themselves safe in the world they are growing up in, we believe that we are giving each and every one of them the best chance for their lives ahead. We want the children to leave Wickham Common Primary School feeling proud of themselves and their achievements, and being life-long learners.

Throughout the school, pupil and staff alike are expected to uphold and demonstrate our school values: honesty, kindness, effort, acceptance, integrity, respect, fun, creativity and responsibility. Our approach to personal development is also embedded in the principles of British values – democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs – and is enriched through a vibrant curriculum and extracurricular activities that nurture all areas of development. This is how the British Values are promoted throughout Wickham Common Primary School.

Democracy

We empower pupils to understand the principles of democracy by creating opportunities to experience it first-hand.

- **Pupil Voice:** Through School Council elections, regular class discussions, and feedback surveys, children actively participate in decision-making processes that shape school life.
- **Debate and Critical Thinking:** Lessons in subjects such as PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and English encourage respectful debate, helping pupils articulate their views while appreciating others' perspectives.
- **Pupil Parliament:** Children are encouraged to put themselves forward to be considered to be part of the Pupil Parliament, when a wide range of issues affecting the school and the wider community are discussed and actions agreed upon.
- **Team Collaboration:** Group projects across the curriculum promote cooperative decision-making and leadership skills, fostering an understanding of collective responsibility.

The Rule of Law

Understanding the importance of laws and rules is central to our ethos.

- **Clear Expectations:** Our behaviour policy is underpinned by a focus on fairness and responsibility, with children involved in developing classroom rules at the start of each year.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Through history, children learn about the evolution of laws, and in PSHE, they explore their rights and responsibilities within society.
- **Restorative Practices:** Initiatives such as Agents for Change teach children how to resolve disputes constructively and understand the consequences of actions. Our behaviour policy is based on a restorative approach, formed collaboratively between those children involved.

Individual Liberty

We celebrate individuality and help pupils develop the confidence to make informed choices.

- **Choice in Learning:** Our curriculum is designed to offer children opportunities to follow their interests, such as selecting projects in design and technology or pursuing creative endeavours in art and music.
- **Digital Literacy and Online Safety:** Children are taught how to safely navigate the online world, empowering them to make responsible decisions about their digital presence. They participate in regular e-safety lessons during their Computing lessons.
- **Personal Growth:** Personal development challenges are sent out at the start of each half-term, with the children encouraged to complete the tasks over a few weeks.

Mutual Respect

Respect is one of our Trust's drivers and so is at the heart of our school culture, shaping every interaction and relationship.

- **Celebrating Diversity:** Through assemblies, themed days (e.g. Jeans for Genes day), and curriculum topics, children develop an appreciation of diverse perspectives and contributions.
- **Sportsmanship:** PE lessons emphasize teamwork, respect for opponents, and the importance of fair play.
- **Community Engagement:** Children engage in outreach projects such as charity events, intergenerational activities with local care homes, and partnerships with community groups, instilling empathy amongst our children.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We are proud to foster a deep understanding of and respect for different cultures and religions.

- **World Views Curriculum:** RE (Religious Education) lessons provide pupils with a comprehensive understanding of world views, fostering curiosity and growing an understanding of people in the world around them.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** We embrace festivals such as Diwali, Ramadan, Christmas, and Lunar New Year, inviting pupils and families to share their traditions and experiences.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** Visits to places of worship and interactions with faith leaders broaden pupils' horizons and encourage mutual understanding.

Other Areas of Personal Development

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Our PSHE curriculum is delivered through the SCARF programme which provides a framework to ensure a whole school approach to health and wellbeing, relationships and

health education and promoting positive behaviour, mental health, resilience and achievement.

There are six key themes which are taught in every year group.

- Me and My Relationships
- Valuing Difference
- Keeping Myself Safe
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Being my Best
- Growing and Changing

The spiral curriculum design allows children to develop their skills and learning year on year with each new topic building on the last. Children engage in discussions, debates and hands on activities which promotes positive behaviour, safety, achievement and wellbeing. To supplement this, we have regular visits from the 'Life Bus' where the children experience real-life scenarios that provides context to their learning.

Physical Health and Wellbeing

Our PE curriculum offers all children throughout the school a range of sporting opportunities, from dance and gymnastics to tag rugby, lacrosse and athletics. Through PE, Science and PSHE lessons, children learn the benefits of regular exercise, a healthy lifestyle, including understanding what a healthy diet is and how the right amount of sleep is important. Children also participate in the Daily Mile, an initiative to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. Extracurricular clubs run throughout the year and children have the opportunity to represent the school in borough cross-country competitions, athletic events, as well as sports such as cricket, football, lacrosse, tag rugby and netball.

Environmental Stewardship

Through eco-clubs, gardening projects, and lessons on sustainability, we cultivate environmental awareness and responsibility. The use of our wildlife garden and pond area encourages the children to think about how they can look after their world starting with how they can have an impact locally before looking to support global initiatives.

Enrichment Activities

At Wickham Common, we offer broad range of extracurricular clubs, including performing arts, Lego, baking and various sports, allows children to explore new interests and talents. Our older Junior children have the opportunity to experience residential trips with Year 5 having an overnight stay at a nearby Scout Centre and Year 6 enjoying a week away on the Isle of Wight at the UKSA base. There, they are taught how to sail different kinds of boats, paddle kayaks, windsurf – and so much more! Not only do the children have fun, they develop their skills of teamwork and independence whilst being introduced to a range of new activities.

Leadership Development

Children across the school have the opportunity to represent their class as a School Council or Eco rep and Years 5 and 6 can apply to become Agents for Change. Once the children reach Year 6, they have the chance to take on roles such as House captains and subject ambassadors – all these roles provide children with opportunities to develop leadership, mentorship, and organisational skills.

At Wickham Common, personal development is not just a part of the curriculum – it is woven into every aspect of school life, ensuring that our pupils leave us not only academically prepared but also as respectful, resilient and resourceful citizens who look to have a positive impact in the different communities they are a part of. They will be academically successful but understand that success can look different to different people and show in different ways. Children will look to change the world around them, no matter how big or small those changes are.