

Why are we here?

What does it mean to be an adult working in our school?

What does it mean to be a learner in our school?

‘The future of the planet lies in the hands
of those who dedicate their lives to
children.’

Sir John Jones

Bart McGettrick (Professor of Education at Glasgow University)

The purpose of education

To form people of love, care and compassion.

To develop individuals with a deep appreciation of beauty.

To help create those who will serve others by their gifts.

To foster an awareness of one's inner self and what it is to be a human being.

To become someone more than we could be.

To make, foster and keep relationships.

At Dunmow St. Mary's Primary School, our vision is that:

Our children will flourish by becoming resilient, reflective, independent learners in order to achieve their very best academically.

Our staff will be united in providing a stimulating and supportive learning environment.

Our parents will have confidence that their children will receive an education that embraces academic excellence underpinned by strong Christian values.

Our Values are:

Integrity Our school community is built upon strong Christian values. We teach the children through our actions and behaviour that truth and respect lie at the heart of everything we do.

Nurture We share the belief that a loving, nurturing and inspiring learning environment will lead to academic and emotional achievement.

Individuality We make time to listen to the ideas and needs of every child, understanding that they can be challenged to reach their full potential when they feel valued and happy.

Creativity We work hard to ensure that our curriculum provides opportunities for curiosity, exploration, imagination and innovation: through this our children believe that learning possibilities are endless.

Success We foster an ethos of life-long learning and develop confident achievers who understand the importance of effort, challenge and determination.

Our responsibility is to ensure that the curriculum is fit for purpose but that it is delivered by those who possess or aspire to these qualities and values.

Adults who model the right attitudes and behaviour will have the biggest impact.

The children will forget what you made them learn - they won't forget how you made them feel.

Ask anyone to name 3 people who have positively influenced them.

One is bound to be a teacher.

Ask anyone to name 3 people who have negatively influenced them.

One is bound to be a teacher.

You have the biggest impact on the children in this school!

The impact of the relationship between adults and children is massive.

+7 months progress per year

(curriculum +4 months, quality of teaching +4 months etc)

What does it mean to work in our school/ What does it mean to be a learner in our school?

We can all be at fault for looking at things through our eyes.

We must look at things through the pupils' eyes

And listen to them

And understand how they feel.

The fate for children depends on the mind frame of the adults.

YOU may be the only person in that child's life who believes in them.

Build a rapport - get to their level - don't expect them to be on yours.

Education is still the most effective weapon available to break the link between where a person is born and how well they do in life.

David Miliband (when he was Education Secretary)

The moral purpose of our school and the role of the adults

‘In the hands of the right people children can be empowered to change their perceptions of themselves and release their potential’.

Sir John Jones

What can I do to make your life better?

Smile at me

Make me work hard

Greet me

Ask good questions

Notice me

Make the lessons interesting

Listen to me

Let me find the answers

Believe in me

From research by John

Laugh with me

Hattie

When children trust you they'll take risks
for you, they'll problem solve, they'll put
themselves in the pit, they'll laugh with
you, they'll forgive you, they'll learn!

Christian Schiller wrote that children will not give the adult permission to take them to places where they cannot go on their own unless they have connected emotionally and feel safe.

John Hattie's research shows that children in a positive mood state improve their ability to be creative, problem solve and achieve by up to 35%.

We need our classrooms to be...

An adventure

A challenge

Free of put downs and

‘Dark sarcasm’

David Bouchard (Canadian children's author)

Doing things by example is not just the best way to influence others: it is the only way that works'.

The biggest influence on children's
behaviour is our behaviour.

Diffuse De escalate

Model the behaviour you desire - don't copy their behaviour

If they shout, speak quietly

If they snarl, you smile

If they criticise you resist judging

If they are argumentative you become conciliatory

Paul Dix says..

Be kind, be humble, be nice.

Children bring things with them learned from home.

What really matters is consistent adult behaviour and the most damaged children need the most certainty and positivity.

Punishment doesn't teach better behaviour - restorative conversations do.

He goes on to say...

Shouting at children, bouncing them through all available sanctions within the first five minutes of a lesson, talking down to children - all these gain nothing. What does mean something is having a rapport with the children and having a certainty around expectations for behaviour that are expected, respected and unquestioned.

Every adult has to be consistent and to create a culture of certainty.

Our education system still has vestiges of the Victorian model of controlled schooling.

But we want to build characteristics

Determination

Optimism

Emotional intelligence

Collaboration

Creativity

Critical thinking

Inquisitiveness

And every child is different

Are we ready to recognise value in
people/children who do things differently from our
schema?

We don't want children who know the rules of the game -
listen to the teacher and you'll get everything right.

We want to teach less so they can learn more.

We want to encourage ingenuity not drive it out. Ingenuity is
what you do when you don't know what to do.

Children need

Opportunity

Time

Passion

They need teachers and other adults who...

Build trust

Use dialogue not monologue

Set challenges

Encourage errors

Have high expectations

Celebrate successes

Make lessons interesting

Have a passion for what they do

Ask questions rather than answering them

Don't teach the subject but teach the love of the subject

Make the lessons worthy of their good behaviour

Deeply care

Back to Sir John Jones

We need to have the ability to win permission from children to take them to places they cannot go alone.

To see beyond the sometimes ugly reality of their drab little cage.

To be the keeper of their dreams

To know where they are yet always see what they could be.