
What is Character Education?

Character Education is education that nurtures and promotes the moral, intellectual, social and emotional development of individuals. It allows children to identify positive character traits and to actively develop these traits in their own character.

Why is Character Education fundamental to our curriculum?

Our core values of Kindness, Curiosity, Resilience and Reflection are essential to our vision at First Base. We want our children to learn about the good values that people should possess and to actively engage in developing these values in themselves. We aim to achieve this by teaching and modelling good character and giving children supported opportunities to practice what they have learnt. The inclusion of Character Education in our curriculum allows for a range of frequent, structured opportunities where children can develop their character and display our core values.

How is Character Education delivered through the curriculum?

We have ensured that our curriculum incorporates the 5 foundations for building character, as proposed by Damian Hinds;

- Sport

Children attending First Base on the Springboard pathway receive a sport session each week. Sporting activities can be on-site or off-site and can include a combination of the following; climbing, gymnastics, yoga, swimming, horse riding, cycling, water sports, team games, dance and movement.

- Creativity and Performing

Children engage in creative and performance activities as part of their learning across the curriculum. There are a variety of projects planned across the curriculum including; cooking, art and role-play.

- Volunteering and Membership

Each term at First Base we hold a Share afternoon where parents visit First Base to engage in activities with their child. Children choose a charity each term and then design and make something to sell to parents at the Share afternoon. The proceeds go to their chosen cause. Children's memberships to clubs and groups outside of First Base are shared and celebrated.

- World of Work

Each half term children are given the opportunity to meet a role model from a different job relating to their learning theme. These include; zoo keeper, gardener, baker, author, cook, shop owner, coast guard, and many more.

How do we measure impact?

There are a number of ways through which the impact of our Character Education can be seen;

- Tracking of Personal, Social and Emotional Development against the SEAL profile. This demonstrates children's growing ability to show independence, resilience and perseverance, to self-regulate and to build positive relationships with others.
- Thrive assessment data. First Base Ipswich use the Thrive approach to support development of children's social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. Whilst children receive frequent targeted Thrive sessions, Character Education gives opportunities which further support this development.
- Our Core Values are essential to daily life at First Base and children receive stars when they demonstrate any of the values. At the end of a learning unit the number of stars pupils have received for each value is recorded. This allows staff to track pupil development of these core values and to identify where additional support may be required.
- Pupil feedback before, during and after activities and at the end of each day provides anecdotal evidence of how the children feel they have grown over the duration of a project or activity.

Policy reviewed: September 2023

Reviewed by: Stacey Laws