

Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery School Building Learning Power Policy

Building Learning Power & Dispositions of an Effective Learner Policy

“HELPING OUR CHILDREN TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS”

Curriculum Intent

At Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery School we believe in developing our children's dispositions to become an effective learner with the power to become resilient, resourceful, reflective and deep thinkers who are confident to take risks and who develop strong positive relationships and strategies to support their own learning. Through these dispositions of an effective learners at KPINS ALL children will have the capacity for greater success in reaching their full potential as learners.

We teach the principles of **Building Learning Power (BLP) & Effective Dispositions** in order to encourage learning, we have planned a programme of skills to support our curriculum work. We talk frequently about the learning process, linking it to real life situations. We refer to learning skills as learning dispositions.

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education.

You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

There are four main LEARNING dispositions and characters associated with them that the children are taught to relate with and praised for demonstrating their behaviours:

- Resilience - the ability to keep trying 'Tough Tortoise'
- Reflectiveness -the ability to think about what you have learnt (deep thinking and retrieving prior learning) 'Wise Owl'
- Reciprocity (working together) -the ability to work on your own and with others 'Team Ant'
- Resourcefulness- the ability to use what you know already know to help you learn 'Sensible Squirrel'.

Staff promote learning dispositions and power though:

- What they value and discuss with their children (Explaining)
- How they talk to groups and individuals about their learning experiences and achievements (Commenting)
- The activities they select (Orchestrating)
- What they themselves model about learning (Modelling)
- Offering praise when the applications of the dispositions of an effective learner are demonstrated
- Use of the language of the dispositions to promote the behaviours

Staff need to support and encourage children to be able independently to:



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- Know what's worth learning
- Know what they are good at learning
- Know who can help
- Know how to face confusion/dilemma
- Know the best learning tool for the job ([Sensible Squirrel](#))
- Knowing what they can do for themselves before they approach another for help ([referred to as 3 before me](#))
- Review and reread the learning intention
- Know that it is alright to make a mistake, as we can learn from them ([being a Tough Tortoise](#))
- Know that we can call upon prior learning to support new tasks and learning ([being a 'Wise Owl'](#))
- Know giving up is not an option, to be resilient and persevere.

Key skills need constant practice so that they become a habit and can be applied in all aspects of the child's life.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Resources

Each of the four BLP/dispositions are represented by a different animal puppet. Each class has a set of the four animal puppets. They each have unique animal characteristics which relate to each of the four BLP/dispositions of an effective learner. These soft puppets are used to support children's learning in lessons across the curriculum where appropriate.

RESILIENCE – [Tough Tortoise](#)

RESOURCEFULNESS – [Sensible Squirrel](#)

REFLECTIVENESS – [Wise Owl](#)

RECIPROCITY – [Team Ant](#)

The names of children displaying the dispositions of the four animal characters are celebrating and referenced in the early years' fortnightly parent newsletters. They are also used as a means for developing the language of the dispositions by the learners, so that they can talk with learners about the way in which the dispositions have supported their learning and progress.

Signed: R. K. Mahil-Pooni

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