

High Expectations at Dunn Street Primary School – A Statement

“Good enough... is NOT good enough!”

Following our recent In-service (January 2015), we would like to celebrate our shared vision of **high expectations** for our children, our staff and all those involved in our school community.

We believe in high expectations for all our pupils so they can become well educated, rounded young people with the following qualities:

At all times, pupils are encouraged to aim high in order to reach further. Pupils are encouraged to realise possibilities are endless if the effort and hard-work is put into the process. Success is not an entitlement: it is something that is the result of hard work. Pupils are encouraged to reach for their dreams and see education as the passport to their future.

At Dunn Street, we believe that high expectations are driven by excellence of behaviour and attitudes to learning. We endeavour to lead by example. Dunn Street staff aim to work to the best of their abilities and they expect pupils to do the same. We foster and model the qualities of perseverance and determination which lead to taking responsibility for actions and a desire to move forwards. Through constant self-evaluation, we strive for confidence and independence.

Our high expectations are shown through our curriculum and extra-curricular activities where character building opportunities abound. Our pupils are encouraged to motivate themselves and others. When inspired by role models, pupils can then be inspiring to each other. High expectations result in pride in what you do.

We understand that an enjoyment of learning means engagement and participation where pupils discover and develop a work ethic for life.

Through these high expectations, pupils are able to realise their own expectations. Achievement as a result of differentiation and sustained success in all areas of the curriculum, and extra-curricular opportunities, is celebrated. Key to this is pupils' understanding of when they have been successful and have made progress.

The Learning Environment includes all areas of the school itself as well as our web-site. These reflect and promote our high expectations:

Staff strive to provide spaces that are neat, tidy and exciting places where children respect and appreciate their surroundings and want to learn. We believe a stimulating learning environment should promote celebration of good work and encourage thinking and questioning skills. High quality displays are relevant and cover a range of purposes. They allow us to celebrate achievement and show the process of learning with clear progression from class to class. Children are able to show their own high expectations through “Time to Shine” displays. These allow pupils to share work with which they are particularly proud. Accessibility for all is encouraged through learning prompts which are displayed predominantly at the “front” of the class for ease of reference, with appropriately sized font for the age range. Prompts match current learning. Across EY and KS1 days of the week, months of the year, alphabet, key words, current phonics focus and number lines. These all compliment a rich print environment across the school. There is consistent use, across the school, of display to enforce positive school rules and our Consequences System. As a result of thoughtful classroom layout, pupils are provided with accessibility to high quality resources that are well presented and that develop independence through labelling and organisation. Limited space is utilised effectively and emphasises positive, valued and engaging reading areas that emphasise a rich book environment which commends imagination and knowledge. Whilst endeavouring to ensure the school website covers all statutory requirements, we also believe that this is a reflection of the school to the outside world and as such it is embedded with the high expectations we have outlined above. This is shown in content that is: educational, celebratory, informative, stimulating, accessible, text rich, reading rich and constantly evolving to reflect the life of our school.