



*Little steps leading to big strides in progress*  
**Inclusion**



Summer 1 - 2019

## More to education than testing



For Year 6 pupils the Summer Term brings with it a sense of excitement and anticipation which can for some pupils be mixed with feelings of anxiety and a fear of an unknown future.

The end of Key Stage 2 SATS provide many pupils with the opportunity to shine and put into practice the skills and knowledge they have worked hard to learn throughout their time at Primary School.

We should not be afraid to show how proud we are of them all. Nor can we dismiss such testing. However much we agree or disagree with its implementation, SATs testing has become ingrained within education and is the first of many formal assessments our children will need to navigate before they leave school.

For some of our pupils their learning pathway has not been straightforward; they may have encountered a few bumps in the road or they may

have needed to take an alternative road, taking them on a journey ending in a different place.

So what is it that the school can do to support those pupils who need that extra encouragement to cross the finish line or to achieve their own personal goals?

It is important to remember that schools should be much more than a centre of academic learning. Pupils deserve an excellent education that prepares them academically and emotionally for the challenges they will face inside the classroom, and for the world they will enter when they leave school and reach adulthood.

Pupils need education to include how to understand and look after their mental health – just like we learn how to look after our physical health. By shifting the focus to preventing mental health problems and building resilience we can do so much to improve the lives of so many. Good wellbeing on leaving school has as much impact on life outcomes as exam success.

## Whole School approach

'A mentally healthy school is one that adopts a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. It is a school that helps children flourish, learn and succeed by providing opportunities for them, and the adults around them, to develop the strengths and coping skills that underpin resilience. A mentally healthy school sees positive mental health and wellbeing as fundamental to its values, mission and culture. It is a school where child, staff and parent/carer mental health and wellbeing is seen as 'everybody's business'.'

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/whole-school-approach/#>

At Southfields we provide safe and nurturing classrooms and a wider school environment to support pupils wellbeing and to help them make the most of their learning.

Pupils have Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons to discuss a range of wellbeing topics from 'keeping themselves safe' to 'being a good friend'.

At playtimes and lunchtime pupils take advantage of the extensive outdoor area to either burn off that extra energy, let their imaginations loose or find a quiet spot to chat with friends.



A small number of pupils also have support from our welfare team, councillor or play therapist.

## Celebrating success

**(not just Mathematics and English!)**

We have celebration assemblies each week to celebrate pupils who have achieved their own personal goals by excelling in a particular subject. We also reward pupils for excellent attendance and behaviour. Those pupils who really go the extra mile to achieve or to help others are rewarded with a purple light treat.

As a school we strive to provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum to enable everyone the opportunity to discover what they enjoy and gain a sense of achievement, self-confidence and pride. While some pupils might be a whizz at recalling their times tables it is important to value those pupils who are budding artists or musicians, those who excel at sports and team games, those who have a head for remembering historical facts and enjoy immersing themselves in the past including the next generation of dinosaur mad paleontologists and the pupils for whom computing is a way of life.

We also value social skills, manners and politeness and feel these still have a place in school and the wider world.

Please  
and  
thank  
you  
are still  
magic words!  
(No matter how old you are!)

## Moving on - secondary school transition

We work closely with all our receiving secondary schools to ensure that pupils with Special Educational Needs have as smooth a transition as possible to their new school. We not only pass on information about pupil's academic progress and achievements but also their likes and dislikes, what level and type of support has worked for them and information about them as an individual.

All pupils will have transition days. The school will arrange for some SEND pupils to have additional visits or to meet someone from their new school to discuss any questions they may have. It is really important that pupils attend the transition days to begin to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings and to get to know some of the staff and other pupils.