



Middlefield Community Primary School

Outstanding Teaching of Life Skills

MIDDLEFIELD PASTORAL PROVISION

At Middlefield we believe that we can have a transformational and lifelong impact upon our children.

Securing excellent academic outcomes for our pupils can only be achieved through a strong teaching and learning process; an engaging and challenging curriculum, quality teaching, robust assessment, appropriate targeting, interventions and a constant desire for improvement.

However, running alongside this is the equally significant and vitally important work that we do to ensure that our children are fully supported to develop the social and emotional skills, resilience and wellbeing that are essential for modern life.

Our pastoral provision is a key strength of Middlefield. The challenges within our community are such that we have four members of staff in our Safeguarding Team. In addition to our pastoral assistant head teacher, who leads our provision, our DSL and two full-time learning mentors and SENCO, work tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable children are met.

We are constantly striving to help our children overcome any barriers to their learning. These barriers can often be very complex. We use a wide range of educational therapeutics and supportive interventions including **'A Quiet Place'** programme and **'Theta'** which are holistic action learning programmes aimed at improving Well Being and developing the child's Emotional Intelligence. Our robust referral system ensures that the correct children are identified and can be offered the appropriate support that they require. We also currently offer: **Body Work** (promoting the sense of safe touch, security and trust), **Heart Math emwave** (a bio feedback programme that teaches the children how they can change their level of arousal using a controlled breathing pattern), The **'Socially Speaking'** programme (focuses on Communication, Friendship and practicing those skills), **'Talking and Drawing Therapy'**, **'Lego Therapy'** and **'Think Yourself Great'**. During the autumn term we provided an essential intervention to 76 children (22% of the school) and many more children who have been identified through the referral system and regular Pastoral Team meetings, received support throughout the year.

The introduction of the **'Philosophy for Children'** programme into our school this year has brought our bespoke curriculum and outstanding pastoral care closer together in the classroom than it has ever been. The principles that we aim to instil in our children through **P4C** include; valuing each person's interests and questions, acknowledging that each person's experience or story is unique and appreciating different ways of interpreting and thinking. We are already seeing that creating a 'Community of Enquiry' through P4C is having a positive impact on children's deeper thinking and understanding in the curriculum and their own self-esteem and respect for others.

Outstanding Teaching of Life Skills- June 2018



This year we have also embarked upon becoming a '**School of Sanctuary**' and will be assessed in the Summer Term. There are three simple principles to being a 'School of Sanctuary'; Learn what it means to be seeking sanctuary, take positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within the school and wider community and to share our vision, practice and achievement.

Within our curriculum, we provide ongoing access to life-skills such as '**Lets Get Cooking**' from SiL. This runs from Year 1 to Year 6. We also engage our older children in life skills programmes including '**Get Away 'n' Get Safe**' and '**Safe Skills**' from the Ariel Trust. These promote safe, positive lifestyle choices and reinforce anti-crime messages. We ensure that all of our children, from Year 1 upwards, develop vital entrepreneurial and money management skills through the '**Fiver Challenge**' each summer.

Our extensive offer of life skills, well-being and emotional skills is summarised on our comprehensive Provision Maps which detail both our precise, targeted interventions and our wider whole-school approach.

We believe that we are equipping our pupils with the essential skills that they need for their journey through life. We are committed to providing our children with the very best opportunities to enjoy school and to achieve their potential. We provide a caring environment where children feel happy, safe and secure. Our children know that as part of our community, they have both rights and responsibilities. We aim to ensure that all of our children become independent and resilient learners who will be well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Children's Voice

Jake- Year 5- THETA

My determination has improved. I listen,
work hard and understand my emotions.
I am better at handling my stress.

Claire- Year 5- THETA

I understand now what I am
feeling and doing. I have more
confidence and believe in
myself.

Abbie- Year 6- 'A QUIET PLACE'

I have more confidence and can even speak in
assemblies now that I am a school councillor!



Macie- Year 3- 'THINK YOURSELF GREAT'

I have learnt the importance of being kind to others.

Marley- Year 4- 'SOCIALY SPEAKING'

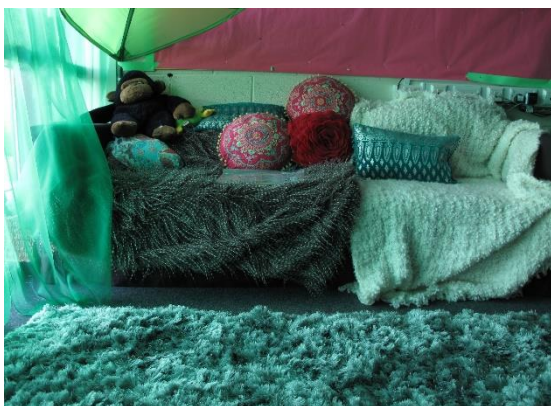
I am now a really good listener !

Further information & Pictures

Theta & 'A Quiet Place'

The key characteristics of the Theta and AQP environs are soft lighting, soft furnishing, deep pile rugs, aromatherapy oils, natural materials (such as wood and tree bark), a rich variety of materials for creative play, carefully selected range of reading (consistent with Emotional Intelligence themes) and ambient music. The importance of the Theta interior was described by one facilitator:

The Theta room was designed around a woodland theme and the fixtures and furniture were chosen to develop this as a consistent theme throughout the space. The woodland theme is one of three AQP themes for therapeutic environments, the other two being seascape and mountain ranges.





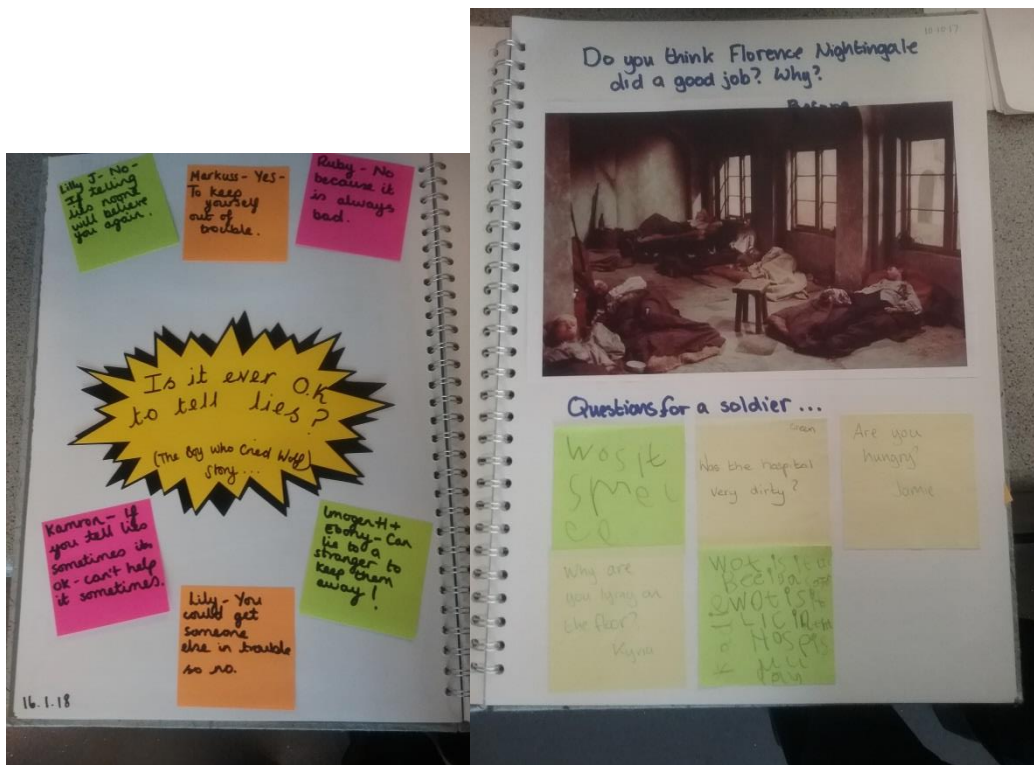
'Fiver Challenge'

Year 3 chose to invest their money in running a fun fair for the whole school- a tidy profit was made and a good time had by all!



P4C

Taking part in a circle of enquiry... Philosophical Questions...



Outstanding Teaching of Life Skills- June 2018



'Let's Get Cooking'- SiL

Delicious and healthy food prepared by children in Year – enjoyable and a vital life skill for the future.



Outstanding Teaching of Life Skills- June 2018



'Get Away N Get Safe'

The inspirational James Riley delivering a powerful message to Year 6- To educate, inspire and empower young people to take control of their future by rejecting the gang lifestyle and anti- social behaviour.



Mental Health Awareness

Year 5 children worked with the Ariel Trust to produce a film to raise awareness and reduce the stigma attached to mental health. 'Mental 'Elf' was a huge hit!





