

Ethos/Mission

At Edward Feild our mission is to give children a well-rounded and balanced education, ensuring that they reach high standards in the core subjects and also grow as individuals during their time at our school. We want to equip our pupils with the skills and capacities they need to become successful adults in a 21st Century world, such as courtesy, resourcefulness and resilience, creativity and innovation, and a thirst for knowledge. We endeavour to do this by developing children's:

- Love of learning
- Resilience and perseverance to overcome life's challenges
- Confidence to take the risks needed to meet these challenges
- Courage to recognise when to seek support
- Ability to communicate with each other respectfully
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team

Our mission in practice:

Our mission is supported by our **5 School Rules** (outlining the 'non-negotiable' expected behaviours for our school), and our **House Point Reward system** (rewarding pupils who go above and beyond).

5 School Rules:

1. Try our best
2. Do and say kind things
3. Look after our school and property
4. Listen to each other
5. Help each other to learn

House point reward system

House points are awarded in recognition of outstanding work, achievements and behaviour. Each week in a reward assembly, children are honoured for:

- perseverance and staying focused
- curiosity about learning: reasoning and explaining thinking and knowing how to help oneself when stuck
- listening to others, commenting on others' ideas constructively, working with others and collaborating
- being organised, using feedback to improve work and identifying what can be improved in their own work.

High standards for all:

We have high expectations of children and parents when it comes to punctuality and attendance, uniform, and communication. Attendance is rewarded with certificates at the end of each term, and a certificate each week for the class with the best attendance.

In return, we also hold ourselves to a high standard. We believe in open communication and accountability, and make ourselves readily available to parents via direct email and in person. Our Headteacher (Simon Jackson) can be found on the driveway meeting and greeting parents and children most mornings and afternoons, and he is always happy to discuss any issues parents might have in an individual meeting.

We also have a highly engaged Senior Leadership Team, who are constantly looking at educational best practice so that we can continue to evolve and continue building on the driving principles that currently sit at the heart of our school:

Vision

When it comes to something as important as the education of our country's young people, there is a lot to consider, but at Edward Feild we have a clear vision of the driving principles behind our curriculum and school environment:

Our learning is unlimited

We encourage children to be active participants in driving forward their own learning. From the moment they start in Reception we start to teach them about neuroplasticity – that is to say, the limitless potential of the human brain to learn and develop. Our pupils know not to say that they can't do something – just that they can't do it *yet*. We believe in Learning without Limits – encouraging children to challenge themselves and push themselves further, evaluating their own and each other's work in order to learn better from their mistakes, and learning to use self-reflection and peer support through our **Brain, Buddy, Boss** system and **Talk Partners**.

We read (and read, and read).

We are a school that prizes and values reading. We encourage all of our children and staff to read widely for pleasure, and to read daily. Not only because we know that literacy is a key predictor of academic success – but because it helps children develop skills such as empathy and philosophical questioning, and learn about a wide range of issues of moral and social significance. Great care is taken over the selection of the core texts that serve as the basis of half-termly units of work in English so that they showcase not only fine examples of literature and traditional tales, but that they are also representative of a wide range of cultures and ethnicities and that they deal with deeper PSHE related topics that often feature moral dilemmas on behalf of the protagonists.

We take care of each other

We aim to provide a nurturing environment for our pupils and we run a number of initiatives to ensure that pupils feel safe and happy at all times. Playtime is an essential and enjoyable part of the day for all pupils, but we are aware that it can also be the scene of emotional upsets.

We have a dedicated pastoral support role in place who manages Eddie's Room, which is a dedicated space available to pupils who need a calm sanctuary for a 'time out' during playtime, while we also have 'Playground leaders' - volunteers from Years 5 & 6 – who help to run games on the KS1 playground.

Several members of our School Council (made up of elected representatives from among the pupils from each year group) have received anti-bullying ambassador training and are responsible for keeping it on the agenda, organising assemblies and engaging with the other pupils to make sure any problems are spotted.

The safety of our pupils is paramount, and we offer pupils road safety training via the Footsteps programme as well as cycling proficiency and swimming lessons.

We make learning varied

We seek to enliven the curriculum as much as possible through learning in exciting contexts and through a variety of methods. We make use of the local area as much as possible, taking children on trips to Oxford Castle and the Ashmolean, for example, or even simply on a walk around the village looking at the period architecture. We often bring in specialists to bring specific subjects to life – such as our recent visit from poet Joseph Coelho, or the wonderful ‘History off the Page’ organisation who ran a hands-on workshop about the Egyptians for us.

We are fortunate to have extensive outdoor space and are in the process of setting up a Forest School for younger pupils. There has been a lot of research into the benefits of these sessions, which include reduced stress, improved focus, and pupils learning to manage risk themselves.

We work hard, play hard... and eat well

We believe it is of paramount importance for children to learn about healthy eating and the benefits of an active lifestyle. We have been running the ‘Change for Life’ programme with our pupils and we offer after-school sports clubs (for example athletics, tennis) in addition to our regular weekly PE lessons. Not only is exercise important for pupils’ long-term physical health and well-being, it has also been shown to improve pupils’ learning ability.

We offer children swimming lessons for a term each year from as early as Year 1, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn this potentially life-saving skill.

We reach out beyond our railings

We have good relationships with other schools within Kidlington and the broader county, helping facilitate the sharing of best practice and ideas and ensuring we can offer our children the best opportunities.

In addition to the Kidlington Schools Partnership and the North Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, we are also working with Gosford Hill School on a peer listening project, offering our pupils access to a ‘big brother’ or ‘big sister’ figure with whom they can share any worries they might have.

As our children grow, so do we

We expect our children to keep challenging themselves, and we hold ourselves to that same ideal. We will continue to build on our successes and take Edward Feild back towards being an outstanding school. As the local community expands, we will grow, to provide more high-quality school places for incoming families, all while maintaining our commitment to pastoral care. We will continue to work with other local schools to become a hub of excellence for the core subjects, and continue investing resources into our sports offering so we can maintain our reputation for excellence in this area.