

The Story of Our Vision, Values and Aims

In 2019/20 children worked in small groups with their Headteacher, Mrs MacQueen to decide on the best things about our school. They came up with lots of ideas but settled on four which are our OWLS:

Opportunities

Wellbeing

Support

Learning

Our OWLS are our aims at Balmerino PS, we try hard to make sure every child has good opportunities and that their wellbeing and learning is supported.

The next step was to think about our Vision and Values so in 2020/21, with Mrs Jess, all the staff, pupils and parents thought about what makes our school special. We also spoke about what makes us good learners, how can we look after each others' wellbeing and our own and what would be our next steps in developing our school. Parents completed a survey, pupils talked about it in class and shared their ideas and staff talked about all those ideas and theirs as well.

One of the things we knew was that 'Kind, Gentle and Helpful' was already a strong vision in Nursery and we didn't want to lose that. So we decided to put Kind, Gentle and Helpful at the start of the statement just as Nursery is the start of our school.

Using all of these ideas, in May 2021, we wrote Our Vision Values and Aims statement:

We are Kind, Gentle and Helpful and have ownership of our learning.

We aim to provide:

Opportunities

Wellbeing

Learning

Support

We learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing Indicators and about how these can support us as we grow up. We develop our understanding of sustainability, our impact on the environment and our responsibilities.

To support Wellbeing, our values are:

Inclusion

Friendship

Respect

Personal Achievement

To support Learning, our values are:

Perseverance

Independence

Enthusiasm

Curiosity

Effort

Teamwork

As we deliver our curriculum, we aim to provide quality resources and make use of the whole environment including the school grounds and the local and wider area. We embrace our rural setting to enhance learners' experiences. We involve children in planning their own learning, in target setting and in discussing their progress and next steps in learning. We maintain good links with parents, carers and the community. We make opportunities to discuss feelings and how we act upon and them we know that we can learn from our mistakes. We celebrate our success. We respect and celebrate diversity and recognise individual needs. We prepare our learners for transition and develop skills for life and work.

But we weren't quite done!

We wanted to come up with a catchy slogan so the next step was to ask children to get busy at home thinking of a few words to sum it all up. The winning idea was:

Our School. Our Future.

We all live Our School. Our Future. everyday at Balmerino. It helps us remember how to be good learners and it helps us to remember how to support Wellbeing. It helps us to plan our improvement priorities as it helps remind us of the school we always aim to be.

A lot of this happened during Covid so we couldn't all meet together. We used videos to engage all children with the same ideas.

Example of work with children to build values:

<https://sway.office.com/f40i59EMizi1g2BY?ref=Link>

The Launch of the statement and introduction of the slogan competition:

<https://sway.office.com/AwktwPI4eUsSjN4Q?ref=Link>

