

When we were all at school I am sure you can remember the rules that you were given, and even more, the consequences if you did not follow them. This created a sense of fear or anxiety in children where they could not feel safe or feel like a community.

Our schools are part of a wider trust, the Consortium Trust, and they have established 18 Learning Characteristics under the headings of Creative Development, Community Engagement and Personal Development. We use these in our lessons and daily interactions with our classes but, as a school, we wanted to create a School Culture that would focus on specific lifelong qualities to take into their future lives.

Therefore, as a partnership we introduced a brand-new culture at the start of this Academic Year. This followed a great deal of work across the Senior Leadership Team, composed of Mrs Tilley, Mrs Jones and myself.

We launched it to our staff on September 4th and the very next day, I led assemblies with your children to explain our new school culture. I have since led 'Discover more with Mr Lea sessions' and both Mrs Tilley and Mrs Jones have revisited with pupils the deeper meaning of each statement.

We have three key statements that we now all follow:

We are Collaborative We are Purposeful We are Respectful

We are already seeing the impact of this in the atmosphere around school - pupils are more focused in lessons, even more considerate and polite to everyone and engage with each other in lessons and at playtimes.

We have not discussed consequences with pupils if they do not follow these statements. Instead we have posed the question - What will our school feel like if our School Culture works? - their contributions were fantastic - 'safe' 'happy and warm' 'calm' - these were just a few.

We know that at some point there will be instances where our School Culture is not followed - but we do not have a long list of consequences to roll out - we will discuss with the pupils what have they not followed and why - how this makes them and others feel - leading to a solution focussed approach to prevent this happening again.

We are all very positive and I would urge you to contact me and share your thoughts and any queries you may have.

Mr Lea