

Personal Development- Governors Report- October 24

Personal Development at Beam encompasses a broad range of areas that contribute to our pupils' well-being, character development, social and emotional skills, cultural awareness, and preparation for life beyond school. This includes our efforts in developing students' independence, resilience, responsibility, respect, and overall readiness to make positive contributions to society.

Key Areas of Personal Development

a) Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development (SMSC)

- **Spiritual:** Our school promotes opportunities for reflection and understanding of different worldviews. This is integrated across subjects and through assemblies, religious education (RE) and visits to places of worship.
- **Moral:** Pupils engage in activities that build an understanding of right and wrong. We use restorative justice approaches, circle time, and discussions to teach responsibility and consequences. Our PSHE curriculum, incorporating Votes for Schools also provides opportunities for pupil voice, building oracy, confidence and critical thinking, through the discussion of current affairs.
- **Social:** Through group work, team-building activities, and participation in whole school leadership opportunities such as Pupil Parliament, Sports Leaders and Wellbeing Ambassadors, we foster a sense of community and collaboration. Pupils are also encouraged to think of their wider community by engaging in voluntary and fundraising opportunities e.g. Jeans for Genes Day, Christmas Jumper Day and visiting Park View Care Home to showcase our Christmas Carols to residents.
- **Cultural:** The curriculum is enriched with learning about different cultures, fostering respect for diversity through events such as international days, Beam Taste Festival, visiting speakers, and celebrating festivals from a range of cultures.

Barking and Dagenham Food Festival at Beam Primary School

<https://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/23708584.food-festival-comes-beam-county-primary-school-dagenham/>

b) Character Education

Our character education program focuses on developing core values such as:

- **Resilience:** Through structured challenges in the curriculum and extra-curricular activities (e.g., outdoor learning and sporting activities/competitions), students develop persistence.
- **Empathy and Kindness:** We integrate kindness into daily school life through peer support programs, buddy systems, and recognition of helpful behaviours in assemblies, including our behaviour code of conduct: Ready, Respectful and Safe
- **Responsibility and Leadership:** Children are given roles such as House Captains/Deputies, Pupil Parliament, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Beam Eco-Team, Lunchtime monitors and Sports leaders, encouraging leadership and accountability.

c) British Values

We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance. This is achieved through:

- **Democracy:** Holding Pupil Parliament and House Captains elections where pupils can nominate and vote for their representatives. Pupils in Year 5 also have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament during Parliament Week (Nov).
- **Rule of Law:** Pupils learn the importance of laws through classroom rules, behaviour expectations, and interactions with local key workers during school visits eg: Police, Fire Brigade and Paramedics
- **Respect and Tolerance:** Our Anti-bullying Policy, SEND policy, RE curriculum and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) lessons emphasize the importance of respect for different faiths, lifestyles and learning differences.

PSHE Curriculum

Our PSHE curriculum is at the heart of personal development. Topics such as:

- **Mental Health and Well-being:** Children are taught mindfulness techniques, strategies for managing emotions, and the importance of seeking help when needed.
- **Healthy Relationships:** Age-appropriate discussions around friendships, family structures, and respectful behaviour form an integral part of the curriculum.
- **Physical Health and Safety:** Development of pupils' knowledge of how to keep physically healthy, eat healthily and keeping safe online and offline.
- **Citizenship/Economic Wellbeing:** Pupils explore how to make independent choices, development of critical thinking, career opportunities and financial literacy.

Extracurricular Activities and Educational Visits

We provide a wide range of extracurricular activities to further support personal development. Clubs include Multi-sports, Tennis, Table Tennis, drama, art, dance, chess, football, basketball, film, Spanish and music club encourage pupils to explore their interests, develop teamwork, and build confidence. Special focus is given to activities that promote

leadership and collaboration, such as Borough sports competitions, Inter-school Film competition, Social Enterprise Project, Arts Award and Royal Ballet.

Educational trips and visitors are an integral part of the education of children at Beam. Each year group takes part in off-site and on-site educational experiences, bringing learning to life and promoting cultural capital.

Academic Year	Number of Educational Visits
2023/2024	31

Film Competition Winners-Beam County Primary School- Best Soundtrack- (*Barking and Dagenham Post*)

<https://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/24246765.dagenham-schools-pitch-film-ideas-industry-experts/>

Social Enterprise- Winners- Most Creative Pitch- (*Barking and Dagenham Post*)

<https://www.lbdd.gov.uk/news/2023/bd-pupils-pitch-enterprise-ideas-friendly-dragons-den>

Pupil Voice

Pupil voice is a priority at Beam. Through surveys, Pupil Parliament meetings, and focus groups, children are encouraged to share their views on school life and make suggestions for improvement. Their feedback directly influences areas like playground design, charity events, and lunchtime activities and our school menu.

Pastoral Support and Well-being

We have a robust pastoral system in place, ensuring that each child's emotional and social needs are met. Our approach includes:

- **Support for Vulnerable Pupils:** Identified pupils receive additional pastoral care, including Nurture group, Elsa sessions and counselling support.
- **Positive Behaviour Support:** Our behaviour policy encourages pupils to cultivate exceptionally good behaviour: for learning, for community and for life. This is evidenced by positive reinforcement, including rewards and recognition for good behaviour.

Impact and Outcomes

Personal development in our school is evidenced by:

- **Pupil Behaviour:** A significant majority of our pupils demonstrate positive behaviour, and there has been a reduction in incidents related to bullying and peer conflicts.
- **Academic Resilience:** Pupils show increasing perseverance in challenging tasks, reflected in their ability to bounce back from setbacks and work collaboratively.

- **Character Development:** Pupils demonstrate their transferable skills, preparing them for life beyond Beam; academically and socially.

Next Steps

While we are proud of our personal development efforts, we have identified the following next steps:

- **Maintaining Healthy Lifestyles:** Embedding healthy food and Oral Health Education within the curriculum and thorough the collaboration of our school catering team.
- **Global Citizens:** Further opportunities to equip pupils with an appreciation of cultural differences, developing global topics and cultural diversity, whilst developing their character, resilience, oracy and digital skills.
- **Parental Engagement:** Strengthening parent involvement in personal development initiatives through workshops, parent-pupil projects, and communication strategies.

Staff Wellbeing Survey

97% of staff are proud to be a member of Beam

100% of staff believe pupils are safe at Beam

98% of staff believe Beam effectively deals with any cases of bullying effectively.

100% of staff believe the school has a culture of calm and orderly conduct and is aspirational for all.

100% believe that Beam is well led and managed.

Personal development is a cornerstone of our school's ethos, ensuring that every pupil leaves with the knowledge, skills, and character to succeed in life. We are committed to continuous improvement and appreciate the governors' support in enhancing these vital aspects of our students' education.

Mrs McKenzie
Assistant Head-Personal Development
October 2024