

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children are starting to settle back into routines now for the new school year and whilst it has been smooth for some it has been quite a challenge for others. Returning to school after spending a lot of time at home is a big change in routine and in becoming familiar with new classes and teachers it can lead to further anxiety for some.

In light of this we wanted to make sure that you have all seen our Federation inclusion statement that explains the ethos and culture we are trying to create around inclusion.

Oak Tree Federation Inclusion Statement

'As a federation, we work hard to ensure that every member of our school community - pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors - feel safe and included. We pride ourselves on the fact that both Laughton and Firle are inclusive schools that place children at the heart of everything we do. Every child, whatever their individual abilities or needs, is equally valued and welcome as an integral part of The Oaktree Federation.

Our intention is that our whole school community share and support our inclusive ethos. We believe that inclusion is a universal human right. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or other needs. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and moving away from discrimination and intolerance.

In both our schools, 'inclusion' describes the right of children to access mainstream education alongside their peers. Inclusion is about providing equality of opportunity for all children. This means that all groups and individuals have the same rights.

Sometimes children may behave in ways that we find difficult to understand. In particular, children with additional needs and/or disabilities may present with different and sometimes challenging behaviour. We provide specific resources to support individual children to access school alongside their peers, in order for them to receive the same opportunities.

Every decision we make is tailored to the needs of individuals to help them succeed and make progress. Inclusion is about valuing everybody and respecting the differences that make us all unique. We celebrate the diversity of our amazing school community, as we all learn with and from each other.'

In the current climate with lack of funding for schools and the aftermath of Covid lockdowns it is not an easy task to ensure that every child gets what they need but we are trying hard with resources we have to enable your child/ren to succeed at school and have a positive experience.

We are very aware that behaviour is a form of communication and try to unpick that with your child/ren in school to help them move forwards. If you have any concerns regarding your child then the first person for you to contact should be your child's class teacher.

We thank you for your support with this,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel West
Executive Headteacher

Mrs Vicki Brown
Head of School