



CHARACTER AT WARREN FARM: 'IT'S WHO WE ARE, NOT WHAT WE DO'



At Warren Farm Primary School, we often ask ourselves: What does it mean to be truly excellent? Is it about what we achieve, or about who we become along the way? Over the past two years, we've embarked on a transformative journey to develop character in every child, and the results speak for themselves. Character education has become woven into the very DNA of our school. And as we always say, "It's who we are, not what we do."

Our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, compassionate, and resilient individuals isn't just a goal, it's a philosophy that guides every step we take in shaping the future of our children. But how do we ensure this commitment translates into real, everyday actions? How do we embed these values into the hearts and minds of every child?

One of the cornerstones of our approach has been the introduction of our Character Kit List Waypoints. These 12 key values—Communication, Leadership, Adaptability, Empathy, Time-Management, Attitude, Problem-Solving, Ownership, Preparation, Teamwork, Work-Ethic, and Motivation—are not mere buzzwords. They are the compass by which we guide our children, helping them navigate both challenges and triumphs in life.



How do we bring these waypoints to life for every child?

The answer is simple: Everywhere. Through everything we do. These Waypoints are embedded in everything we do, from classroom teaching slides to the stickers placed in children's books when they demonstrate a particular value. They are a constant, tangible reminder of what we aspire to be. But it doesn't stop there—our behaviour management system is built around these Waypoints. From Nursery through to Year 6, children learn that their actions and attitudes are directly connected to these values. This creates a consistent understanding that character isn't just something we talk about; it's something we live out every day.

Our work in character education has been made even more powerful through programs like Compass for Life (Floyd Woodrow), which encourages our children to think about their Super North Star—their personal goals, dreams, and aspirations. But what does it mean to live with purpose? Through this program, children learn to link their character development to their life goals, creating a deeper sense of direction. The Super North Star is more than just an abstract idea; it's a tool that empowers our children to reach higher and live with intention.

Another significant contributor to the growth of character in our school has been the MPCT Young Leaders Program. This initiative equips our Year 5 children with the skills and mindset to lead with courage, integrity, and responsibility. By taking on leadership roles, these young leaders help shape the school community and develop life skills that will serve them well into adulthood.

BUILDING A SENSE OF BELONGING WITH HOUSE GROUPS



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As part of our character development, we introduced House Groups—North, East, South, and West—to foster a sense of belonging and unity within the school. These Houses provide a strong community where children feel supported, valued, and connected to something bigger than themselves. But what does it take to lead such a community?

Enter the Student Navigators. These are exceptional Year 6 children who have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in Year 5 and have been selected to lead their House Groups. The role of the Student Navigator goes beyond just taking responsibility; it's about guiding, motivating, and empowering their peers. They embody the very essence of leadership and character, and their example sets the standard for the rest of the school. Through their dedication, the Student Navigators help their House members live the Character Kitlist Waypoints, reinforcing our commitment to ***Excellence in Everything.***



It doesn't end when the bell rings

We believe that character development doesn't end when the bell rings. It should extend far beyond the classroom and into the lives of our families and the wider community. That's why we've made it a priority to engage our parents in this journey. Through our Character Working Party, parents have been instrumental in shaping and supporting the character education program. Their involvement ensures that we're all aligned in helping children become the best versions of themselves. And this partnership with families creates a strong sense of community, reinforcing the waypoints we teach at school and encouraging them at home.

How can we/do we harness the power of sport to teach character? The answer lies in our approach to competition and teamwork. With over 70 sports competitions through Spark Active and other local opportunities, our sports coach has tirelessly ensured that every child has had the chance to represent the school at least once this year. These sporting experiences teach more than just physical skill, they teach resilience, teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship, all of which align with our Character Kit List Waypoints. Whether it's a victory or a defeat, every sporting event reinforces our values, teaching children that Excellence in Everything is not just about winning; it's about playing with integrity, learning from every experience, and always striving to be the best version of yourself.

Our Leadership Library has also been a cornerstone in our journey of character development. This collection of books (available to both children and staff) offers a treasure trove of wisdom on topics such as leadership, empathy, and resilience. But we don't just read the books; we live the lessons within them. We provide ample opportunities for reflection, asking ourselves: How can we take these ideas off the page and apply them in real life? It's not just about knowledge – it's about transforming that knowledge into action.

Over the past two years, we've worked together to create a school culture where character is at the heart of everything we do. From the classroom to the sports field, from the leadership library to the home, every aspect of our school community is dedicated to developing the values that define us. Our Character Kit List Waypoints are a living, breathing entity that guide us all—staff, children, and parents alike.

SO, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO THE WARREN FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL TEAM?



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It means being part of a community that values Excellence in Everything. It means growing, learning, and thriving in an environment where character is just as important as academic success. And it means knowing that, at Warren Farm, it's who we are, not what we do.

As we continue on this journey, we are committed to ensuring that every child leaves us, not just with academic achievements, but with a strong sense of character, purpose, and the tools to lead a fulfilling life - achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime .



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THE CHARACTER EDUCATION GUY



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