

Thrive at Oldbury Park Primary RSA Academy

As part of our aspiration to enable children to be successful and able to engage in their learning to gain better skills for future success in society, we have adopted the Thrive Approach.

The emphasis in Thrive is the child's emotional and social development. We want all our children to have a strong sense of self-worth, be confident and happy so it is for this reason that two members of staff are being trained as Thrive Practitioners and the rest of the staff are undergoing training in the Thrive approach so that all pupils can benefit.

Through training and research, we know that the brain has incredible plasticity. This means that new pathways can be developed in a child's brain. Sometimes neural pathway development can be interrupted but we can work together to build new pathways.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, children are watching adults, mimicking them and experiencing themselves in relation to adults and siblings and peers. It is essential then, as adults, that we are conscious of our own self to be good-enough role models for their emotional and social development.

In Key Stage 2, not all children have gained sufficient self-confidence to put themselves forward for visibly responsible roles. Some may struggle to engage with their peers, feeling isolated in their difference. The challenge for us is to find appropriate strategies to bring the best out in our children. Adults need to be observant, creative, and encouraging and create opportunities for responsibilities to be taken up and followed through.

The key is building relationships. From termly assessments, teachers can plan opportunities for the children in their classes to engage with creative activities that will support their social development and build positive relationships.

For a few children, who need more intensive support because they may have suffered a trauma, a loss, poverty or suffer from attachment anxiety for example, our licensed practitioners will work on a one to one basis to support the building of new neural pathways for these children through creative play. Parents are informed if we think their child would benefit from working with a Licensed Practitioner on more bespoke work and this will only occur with parental permission.

Parents can learn more about their child's needs through the Thrive assessment and therefore can begin to develop their understanding of how to help their child too. We have learnt so much from our training which we will be happy to share with you.