

Bank End Primary Academy

Education with Character

Curriculum



Education with Character – Intent

At Bank End Primary Academy, we offer an education that develops the whole person, not just the mind. We want pupils to look back on their schooling as a time of enjoyment and happiness which has inspired and challenged them in equal measure and prepared them for the ups and downs of life.

United Learning Academy is a group of schools committed to providing excellent education through which all pupils are able to progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. Our approach is underpinned by a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing what is right for children and young people, supporting colleagues to achieve excellence and acting with integrity in all our dealings within and beyond the organisation, in the interests of young people everywhere. We summarise this ethos as 'the best in everyone'.

Our Bank End Values:

Ambition – to achieve the best for ourselves and others

Confidence – to have the courage of our convictions and to take risks in the right cause

Creativity – to imagine possibilities and make them real

Respect – for ourselves and others in all that we do

Enthusiasm – to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests

Determination – to overcome obstacles and reach success

As a school, we offer all our pupils many opportunities that extend their knowledge and understanding and to improve their skills in a range of artistic, creative, and sporting activities. Amongst other things, our pupils are able to play for a sports team, learn an instrument, join a choir, perform in plays/concerts in public, and take part in acts of service and volunteering.

Our Education with Character Curriculum supports the development of children's own character by exposing them to people, ideas and opportunities that stretch their horizons and deepen their understanding of the world around them. These opportunities and experiences develop children's sense of themselves as citizens, in their communities and globally; we teach them that they have a place in the world and a valuable and important contribution to make towards keeping it safe and making it better.

Education with Character – Implementation

At Bank End Primary Academy, we want our children to become the very best versions of themselves and reach their full potential. In order to achieve this, we have designed our Character Curriculum which enhances our children's skill set and builds their cultural capital, leading them to becoming well-rounded, contributing, members of society.

What do we offer?

Outlined below are the different aspects of the Education With Character curriculum. These traits, characteristics, experiences and opportunities allow children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, but also their own understanding and sense of themselves.

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| Bank End Brilliance Award  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have written our own document which began in the academic year 2024 / 2025• Children throughout the whole school are involved in completing a series of challenges, bespoke to each year group• Bank End Brilliance Award badges are presented in an end of year celebration with the Barnsley Mayor in attendance• Linked to Bank End Values• Linked to Bank End Top 20• Helping to shape the community of the future |
| Parent Partnerships   | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Parent Partnerships from first admission into school with coffee mornings, workshops, stay and play sessions.• Berne Slai Homes Links - workshops for adults as primary educators. #educationwithcharacter• Adult learning links – weekly well-being sessions in school, along with further training.• Bank End Parent Ambassadors – led by parents for parents' voice and support in school. |
| Charities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each class has a chosen charity which we support throughout the year fostering pupils' knowledge and understanding of supporting our local community• Strong links build up throughout the year with visits, sponsored events and assemblies to raise money. |

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| <h3>Community Project</h3>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank End has links with the local councillor, Mr Jake lodge who supports school with making stronger links within the community. • We have close links with local residential care homes in our local community. • To enhance our curriculum offer, we have identified key areas where residents can become involved and work alongside the children as primary sources to bring their learning to life and offer a real-life perspective of what life was like in the past. |
| <h3>Educational links</h3>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Centre collaborative working – sharing stories with younger children. • Nursery teacher visits family centre for children moving up to become familiar with pupils before they start. • Secondary schools / colleges / university visits. • Links with other UL schools for visits, experiences. • Oughtibridge Primary School – Linking project. Working with children from different areas. (affluent area, higher % working families, urban vs rural surroundings – worked on empathy, circle times) • Links with local authority schools – sharing best practice, 'steal with pride' UL motto |
| <h3>Careers</h3>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Bank End, we are passionate about raising our children's aspirations and showing them the different routes that they can take to achieve their desired profession after leaving full time education. • All curriculum subjects have a careers page which demonstrates to children the different career paths they could pursue by mastering that subject. • Children visit secondary schools, colleges and universities as part of our core offer and regularly hear guest speakers for different professions in assemblies or class workshops. • Careers Days celebrate the people we know in the community and show case opportunities to children – pupils can then interview professionals to find out more #leadership in every role • Careers display to show Education to work journey – pupils know what's coming next and can contribute to what jobs they want to know about. |

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| <h3>British Values</h3>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children are taught explicitly about Modern British Values and current affairs that are happening in the wider world. • Assembly recaps • What's in the news – in weekly assembly, looking at current affairs. Children are asked to think about their own views and opinions when hearing weekly news. • Votes for schools – part of assembly time is used to vote personal opinions and look at schools across the county. • Links across UL curriculum, e.g. history learning about how laws have developed over time. |
| <h3>Subject Ambassadors</h3>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in KS1 and KS2 represent all curriculum subjects as subject ambassadors. 2 pupils per subject per class. • Once appointed, the ambassadors follow the subjects standard operating procedure alongside the staff subject leader, and work alongside them to monitor the subject, observe and participate in pupil conferencing. #leadershipineveryrole |
| <h3>Enrichment through after school clubs</h3>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in school can take part in a variety of after school club activities that either contribute towards their cultural capital or provide them with key life skills. • We offer a variety of after school clubs to all year groups from expert professionals. • This includes archery, forest schools, combat, dance, multi sports, golf, gymnastics, games and choir. • Barnsley Youth Choir – we have strong connections with BYC, who attend school to deliver workshops. This has led to pupils joining the club for extracurricular sessions. |
| <h3>UL links & links with other schools</h3>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are continuously building stronger links with other schools across the cluster, working at moderation, joined up working for subjects and sharing best practice. This includes PSHE, R&W, EWC, EYFS • Huddersfield Primary Academy – immersive classroom usage |

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| <p>Education with character celebration events</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWC celebration days offer opportunities for children to choose and excel in a subject / activity of their choice. • Local businesses working with us to offer workshop style sessions with pupils in groups. • Staff are given opportunities to deliver something they are passionate about. • 105 minutes of workshop, finish with celebratory assembly and thank you to local support. <p><u>This had led to pupils joining extra-curricular activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby – pupils pursuing rugby out of school. • Acting – drama club with Joseph led to pupil now acting on adverts. • Dance – pupils now attending Starstruck out of school also. • Combat academy – several pupils have signed up after each session we have had in school |
| <p>Visitors</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work hard to ensure that our children are provided with the opportunity to meet and speak to people and professionals from all walks of life. • From Olympians, nurses, doctors, to care home residents. We want our children to learn from a range of people and learn about inclusivity and the power of never giving up on their dreams. • This includes visits from cultural educators, such as our local Christian community youth workers. They work with the children in workshops for R&W, support our events with pupils and families such as Harvest and Carol service, and they also provide educational resources to enhance learning. |
| <p>Cultural Links</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in school will visit a different place of worship in each academic year of their studies. • To promote community cohesion, we have created a link with High Hazels Academy, a school within our Trust with a different cultural make up than our own. - Children will attend joint visit to a Sheffield Mosque and learn alongside children in a different school about their customs and heritage. |
| <p>Year 6 opportunities</p>  | <p>Children in Year 6 have the opportunity to take part in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid training • Life skills • Crucial crew • Secondary school visits – transitions • College visits • University visits • The Dirt is Good project – encourages pupils to create and run a project focusing on their intrinsic values and the UN sustainable goals |

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| <p>Enterprise</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classes contribute an enterprise stall to Christmas and Summer Fayre's • Competitions run throughout the year from community – e.g. Playground challenge from Barnsley; winners went to the Metrodome. • Eco-warriors – designing the outside garden. Working with local community to fund these improvements in school. • Year 5 run their own 'tuck shop' on KS1 and KS2 breaktime. They are learning to handle money – use profits to buy more produce. |
| <p>Curriculum Enhancements</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in school will be provided with the opportunity to attend engaging, exciting and purposeful educational visits outside of our school grounds, planned to bring their learning to life. • All year groups will have the opportunity to visit educational sites and facilities that link to the teaching of their school learning. • Our educational visits are purposeful and contribute towards the development of our children's knowledge and character. • In school activities and experiences – such as professionals visits / workshops / pantomimes / forest schools and educational experiences all link through different subjects and are spread throughout the year. |
| <p>Music at Bank End</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Steady Programme – heavily subsidised by School giving amazing musical skills to pupils across all key stages • Recently updated Music curriculum to Sparkyard. • Mr O – cover supervisor, expert in Music and Drama, having positive impact in lessons throughout school. |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our drive to develop a love for reading, since September 2024 we have worked with EmpathyLabUK as their research shows that an increased empathy focus through reading has a positive impact on children's wellbeing in a number of different ways. Their books and whole ethos are designed to be folded into reading work already taking place. • Recent Empathy Lab Festival – whole school celebration and 'push' with books. |

Reading



- Links with Barnsley Libraries – help to set up own
- Visits from librarian sharing stories with pupils in school.
- Amazon wish list – visitors and local community contributed to the buying of books through sharing QR codes.
- Celebration and thanks given from pupils.
- RWI – working to a high standard, pupils making excellent progress
- Books for home, match sounds taught in RWI groups.
- Books chosen to foster reading for pleasure.
- Learning with Parents – online reading record new. Parent engagement has increased.
- 'Fred star readers' weekly for EYFS and KS1
- Weekly Rock up 'n' read – Autumn 1 to boost engagement.
- Weekly shared reading with supportive year groups e.g. Nursery and Year 1 (2 stages higher)
- Special events planned throughout year to keep the love of reading
- Class authors – for each half term to build up exposure to amazing authors for each year group.
- Author visits booked in for throughout the school year to deliver workshop style lessons with the pupils / classes.
- Year 4 – linking with St Catherine's in Burn Greave (different demographic) PHSE and philosophy for children. Visiting each other's classes throughout the year
- Shakespeare Trust – Drama teacher coming into Bank End to deliver workshop for Year 4 along with St Catherine's
- Story slam winners two years running.
- We are committed to every child leaving Bank End being able to read.

Impact

Our curriculum draws out the best in our young people and develops something very deep, which will last throughout their lives and continue to be sustained and guide them when their memories of facts and theories learnt at school begin to fade – their character.

Bank End Primary Academy tests and challenges our young people in unexpected ways – we help them to develop creativity and resilience, to learn about teamwork, to care and to serve, to overcome difficulties and to manage themselves and their feelings. We give our young people the confidence and articulacy to enable them to stand up for themselves and for what is right. This is done both inside the classroom and also in the opportunities we provide beyond the classroom – in sport, music, performance, clubs and societies, in chances to lead and take responsibility and in opportunities to volunteer and to serve.

We believe that a pupil's character is demonstrated by what you do when you think no-one is looking. Our Education with Character curriculum develops a depth of character and confidence which enables children to be at their best, whether anyone is looking or not and develop aspirations for themselves and their future lives.

What next?

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| <p>Website updates</p>  <p>Bank End Primary Academy The best in everyone™ © Park United Learning</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous Improvement • Facebook posts – listening to parent feedback from staff survey we continue to use FB sharing • Education with character tab – sharing all our community work • Showcasing Values, Top 20, Student leadership roles, career opportunities • Listing what we have on offer in school. |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing our own Leadership programme for Upper KS2 pupils • Considering our Bank End Values • Park Springs link – working with them to create our Leadership Programme |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest School Leader – Level 3 qualified by July 2026 • Sessions have already started in School • Future of Bank End means FS activities will be mapped out throughout school for each Year group to build on skills and linked to curriculum for best experiences |
| <p>Cradle to careers</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on our relationships with local Family Hub. • Working on strengthening relationships with local secondary schools. • Continuing to offer additional training and events for our parents and carers. • Constantly adapting to suit what our community needs. • |