

# Opening Minds

What is Opening Minds?

It is a set of 'competencies' that are believed to be important for developing children into well rounded adult citizens.

# Moral and Ethics



- Following Rules
- Reflect on the Choices we have made

At WEPA, our behaviour policy is based on children knowing they make their own choices for their behaviour. They are given an opportunity to reflect on choices they have made and know the consequences.



# Making A Difference

- We can each make a difference to our community.

Do visit the WEPA website to read minutes of our School Council meetings. You will be impressed with the ways they raise money and connect with the local community e.g. visiting the local elderly care home.



# Diversity



At WEPA, we learn to understand different religions (we visit different places of worship) and we respect everyone regardless of ability.

# Learning Approaches

Which way is the best way? At WEPA, we plan, reflect, edit and refine to ensure we make the best end products we can.



# Reasoning

## REASONING



Reasoning is when we investigate and explain why something is correct.

It also involves testing and proving your reasons.



# Creativity



We want WEPA pupils to be creative. WEPA pupils get the chance to create projects for holiday homework to present their learning in the way they wish.

Do encourage this!

# Positive Motivation

Being positive and having a 'can do' mindset is important to doing well.

## 5 Daily Reminders

1. I am amazing.
2. I can do anything.
3. Positivity is a choice.
4. I celebrate my individuality.
5. I am prepared to succeed.

**A POSITIVE MIND  
FINDS A WAY IT  
CAN BE DONE; A  
NEGATIVE MIND  
LOOKS FOR ALL  
THE WAYS IT  
CAN'T BE DONE.**

NAPOLEON HILL

[WWW.POSITIVEMOTIVATION.NET](http://WWW.POSITIVEMOTIVATION.NET)

**SUCCESS  
ALL DEPENDS  
ON THE SECOND  
LETTER**

Jay Kubassek | @overallopall

JAY  
KUBA  
SSEK

LESSON #1  
**THOUGHTS  
HAVE ENERGY.  
MAKE SURE YOUR  
THOUGHTS ARE  
POSITIVE &  
POWERFUL**





## Key Skills

At WEPA, we work hard with the pupils to make sure they use the key skills in all of their work.

Each class has a 'every time we write' checklist that children must use in their writing. Do get a copy of this if you do not have one!

We teach children basic skills in maths and computing too.

# Entrepreneurship



Encourage your child to experiment and innovate. You never know what he / she may end up creating for the future.

# Emotional Intelligence



Those with emotional intelligence are aware of what is going on around them. They pick up on how others are feeling. They can make social connections. This is so important and helps people to feel listened to and understood.



# Leadership

**THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
LEADERSHIP  
TOOL YOU  
HAVE IS  
YOUR OWN  
PERSONAL  
EXAMPLE.**

PictureQuotes.com

**GREAT LEADERS DON'T  
SET OUT TO BE A  
LEADER...THEY SET OUT  
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.  
IT'S NEVER ABOUT THE  
ROLE-ALWAYS ABOUT  
THE GOAL.**

**“ A leader is one  
who knows the  
way, goes the way,  
and shows the  
way. ”**

John C. Maxwell

Leadership isn't about age  
but rather, leadership is  
about influence, impact and  
inspiration. - Onyi Anyado



**A LEADER**  
is someone who  
demonstrates  
**WHAT'S POSSIBLE.**  
purehappyllife.com

# Research



Get your child into the habit of researching. We always promote our termly topics and these are on the website too. We want our pupils to come into lessons asking questions from their research.

# Reflection

We do not learn from  
experience... we learn  
from reflecting on  
experience.

- John Dewey

We offer WEPA pupils lots of experiences, both in the classroom and out. However it is important that pupils take time to reflect on what has been learnt or seen. This truly embeds the learning. Do ensure your child has their own reflection journal to store their thoughts.





# Coaching



Coaching is when you encourage a person to realise how to achieve something rather than just telling them. When someone realises how to do something it empowers them to carry out the actions.

# Communication



At WEPA we do use more sophisticated ways for our children to communicate than see above! Pupils get to write, draw, use IT tools, give speeches etc to get their point of view across.



# Feelings and Reactions



We carry out a lot of work with our pupils on appropriate reactions in situations. Our PSHE work helps pupils to acknowledge their feelings and how to cope with these.

# Self Management



# Coping with Change

One of the opening minds competencies is instilling strategies into young people so they can cope with change. Sometimes a change can throw us of course but it does not need to.





# Risk Taking

**IN THE END, WHAT  
WE REGRET MOST  
ARE THE CHANCES  
WE NEVER TOOK**

- Frasier Crane

**HOW  
WILL YOU  
KNOW  
IF IT'S THE  
RIGHT  
DECISION  
IF YOU  
NEVER  
MAKE IT?**

KUSHIWAJUN

If You Don't  
Try, You'll  
Never Know

**Take Risks**  
IF YOU WIN,  
YOU WILL BE HAPPY;  
IF YOU LOSE,  
YOU WILL BE WISE.



**Great things  
never came  
from comfort  
zones.**

# Opening Minds

As you can see, there are many, many useful skills outlined in the Opening Minds Competencies.

At WEPA we do not teach these skills as separate lessons but will ensure we weave these into the work we offer the children.

You can easily practise the skills at home too.

A copy of this presentation will be on the website in: Curriculum Opening Minds.