



# SILCHESTER

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### PROSPECTUS



Compassion



Courage



Respect



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[www.silchestercofeprimary.co.uk](http://www.silchestercofeprimary.co.uk)

# A Welcome from our Head of School



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to Silchester Church of England Primary School which is nestled in the heart of the beautiful Silchester woodland. As a small school with a big heart, we take great pride in our commitment to our core Christian values of Compassion, Courage, and Respect.

Our vision for Silchester is for everyone to flourish. Our school embodies love, it is a place of belonging and family. We have a heart for people, inspiring everyone to be the best version of themselves: for themselves, for others, for our community and for our world.

Our aim is that the children of Silchester are confident in their own self-worth and resilient overcoming the obstacles they face. Their skills, learning, memories of experiences, and positive relationships will empower them to contribute to the wider world and make a difference.

We aim for our children to be lifelong learners who are grounded in our values of compassion, courage and respect, and ready to embrace their next steps – whatever they may be.

Set amidst the tranquil Silchester woods, our school offers a truly unique and enriching educational experience. Pupils have the opportunity to explore the natural world through our forest school and inspiring curriculum, where they learn valuable outdoor skills and develop a deep appreciation for the environment. In the classroom, our dedicated teachers are committed to spark a love of learning in each child, tailoring their approach to meet the individual needs of our students. Whether it's through hands-on STEM projects, immersive literary studies, or creative arts and music, we strive to provide a well-rounded curriculum that prepares our students for future success.

Beyond the academic realm, Silchester is a caring, inclusive community where families, staff, our church and the wider community come together to celebrate our shared values. From lively PTA events to sports days and WOW Weeks, there is always something happening at our school that brings out the best in our children and strengthens the bonds between us all.

We invite you to explore Silchester Church of England Primary through this prospectus, through our website or by coming for a visit to see for yourselves how our commitment to compassion, courage and respect is shaping the next generation of confident, kind-hearted and socially conscious individuals. We hope you discover the unique qualities that makes our school a truly special place and we can't wait to welcome you!

Mrs Rachel Moir

# Prospectus contents

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*"A small school  
with a  
big heart"*



# Our Vision

Our **vision** for Silchester is for **everyone to flourish**.  
Our school is a place of love, of belonging and family.

We have a **heart for people**,  
inspiring everyone to be the best they can be:  
for themselves, for others, for our community and for our world.  
With our roots deeply embedded and nourished by our Christian  
values, we will **thrive together**.

We will reach out to each other, our community and the wider world  
with **compassion** in our hearts. We will live bravely, showing  
**courage** to keep going when facing challenge. We will **respect**  
ourselves and others, embracing everyone's unique gifts, and value  
the contribution that we can all bring to God's world.



# Our Values



## Compassion

We believe in the importance of compassion; for ourselves, for others and for the world. Self-compassion creates awareness and empowers self-belief. Compassion for other fuels empathy, understanding and a desire to extend love within our community. Compassion for our world inspires openness, courageous advocacy, positive change and a desire to make a difference.



## Courage

We believe that courage is required to enable us to stand up for what is right, to take risks in the pursuit of living and to value mistakes as tools for learning and growth. Stepping outside our comfort zones, taking leaps of faith and living out truth takes gumption and inspires us to succeed and achieve from both challenge and opportunity.



## Respect

We believe that respect should be awarded to everyone inclusively. Difference and disagreements are both welcome and respected. The way in which we communicate and uphold ourselves is a direct representation of our respect for ourselves, for others and for the world.



# Our Aim

Our aim is that the children of Silchester are confident in their own self-worth and resilient overcoming the obstacles they face.

Their skills, learning, memories of experiences and positive relationships will empower them to contribute to the wider world and make a difference.

We aim for our children to be lifelong learners who are grounded in our core Christian values of compassion, courage and respect, and ready to embrace their next step – whatever that may be.





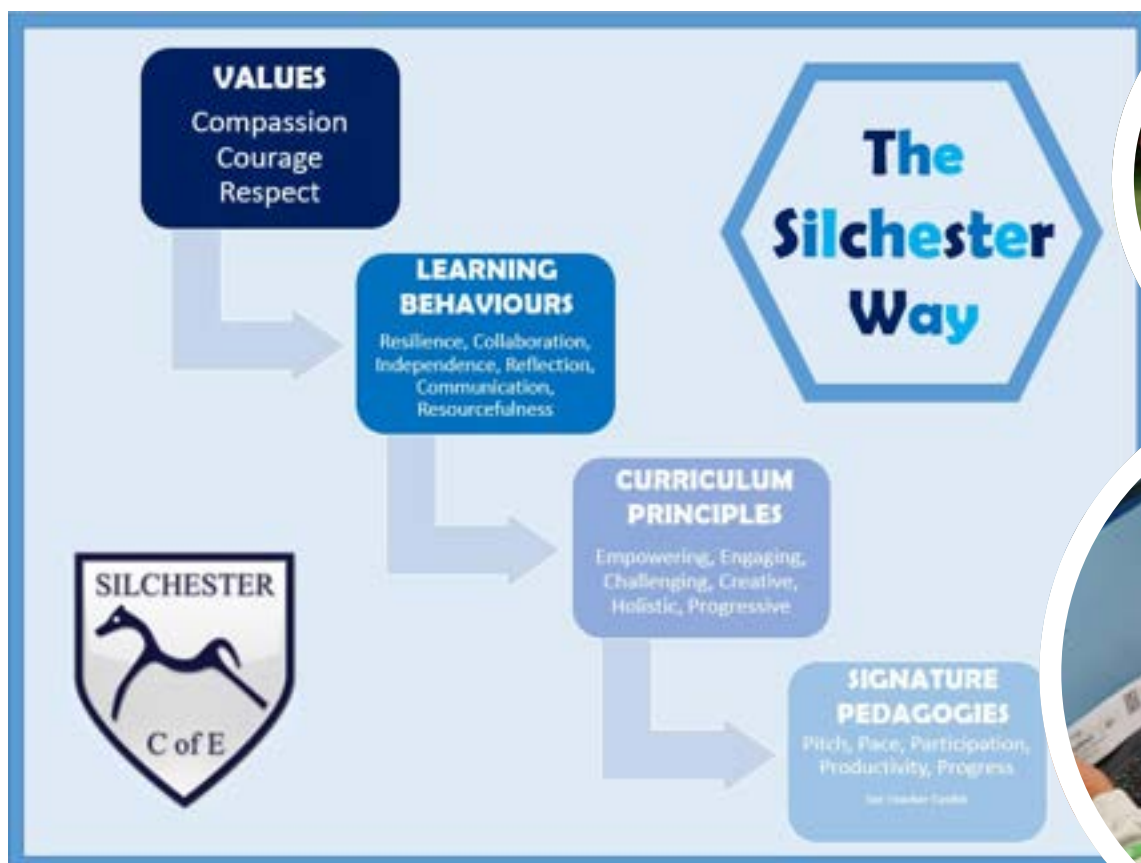
# The Silchester Way

At Silchester we aim to equip pupils to make a positive contribution to society in the future through a rich, broad and engaging curriculum which inspires all pupils to learn through the acquisition of knowledge & skills with the school values of **Compassion, Courage** and **Respect** at its core.

The school curriculum promotes children's personal development, growth and learning. We value and celebrate our enrichment programmes, community events and range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order for children to achieve well, develop character and be well prepared for the next stage in their education. These are exemplified in our regular 'WOW Weeks.'

Furthermore, it includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and taught to behave. The curriculum has been designed to support children to engage with their learning and remain committed to learning throughout their lives and grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others all while developing knowledge and skills.

Our approach to teaching and learning is defined as The Silchester Way. This brings together our values, learning behaviours, aspirations for our curriculum and our key pedagogical strategies. This approach enables us to strive for consistency across the school meaning a child joining us at 4 years old will progress throughout their time with us and be ready to move on and be successful at secondary school when the time arrives.



# Our Learning Behaviours

We actively encourage children to be reflective about their learning, behaviour, beliefs, and values, and to develop a sense of personal responsibility alongside the motivation and aspiration to learn. Through a combination of research and collaboration with stakeholders, we have identified six prominent learning behaviours which will effectively support our aims for our children. We teach these behaviours through our carefully thought-out curriculum and pedagogy which provides frequent and regular opportunities to learn and practise skills within knowledge.

## **The Animals of Silchester Forest**

In addition, our school promotes these behaviours through our Silchester Forest Animals Learning Behaviour Stories. Each learning behaviour has a social story built around a character that models learning that behaviour. Our learning behaviour stories, help to teach concepts in a more accessible, relatable, and child friendly way.



**Resilience:** We teach our children that resilience is the ability to bounce back after challenges and tough times. Resilient children can recover from setbacks and get back to living life. Resilience develops when children experience difficulties and learn to deal with them positively. Just outside our comfort zone is where we learn best. We have to be challenged to apply resilience and this perseverance is celebrated.



***Barnaby, the Resilient Badger***



**Communication:** We support our children to develop and use effective communication. The ability to both express our own thoughts and feelings, as well as being receptive to those of others, is the key to successful communication within relationship.

***Rosie, the Communicative Robin***

**Resourcefulness:** We teach our children to think about how they could tackle difficulties in their learning by using resources in the environment, applying their existing knowledge and building-up their initiative to become proactive learners.



***Sybil, the Resourceful Squirrel***



**Collaboration:** Working well with others and together as part of a team helps our children to learn co-operation and appreciate the 'power of us'.

***Buzz, the Collaborative Bee***

**Reflectiveness:** We want our children to be thoughtful, considerate learners who ask themselves questions to support their progress. Reflecting on their own success and identifying how they can improve is an important part of their learning.



***Oscar, the Reflective Owl***



**Independence:** We encourage children to think for themselves and to build confidence to share their thoughts and ideas, trusting in themselves.

***Felicity, the Independent Fox***



# Starting School

Children in Year R (Reception) at Silchester learn in Ladybirds Class. The teacher is Mrs Dowling and their learning support assistant is Mrs Heeks. Ladybirds has a large outside area and the children can discover and explore throughout their continuous provision. Our environment is set up following the natural curiosity approach philosophy, using natural items, real life resources, bringing natural beauty inside. We regularly change the environment and resources to suit the needs of each cohort and this evolves as the children transition through early years. Our provision is driven by the interests of the children. For example, if they are interested in dinosaurs, then we provide learning opportunities through the theme of dinosaurs and can rapidly move on to firefighters, Bluey or camping!

We also adapt our curriculum to suit the needs of the cohort, to support their needs and to enrich their experiences. To achieve this, the class teachers spend time in play with the children, learning their interests and their skills, following their lead and adding to their play. The teachers design three 'aspirations' (explorative questions linked to real-life) throughout which, all early learning goals are taught.

The 'Foundation Stage' is how the government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. We believe that from when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years foundation experiences should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure to support their development, care and learning needs.



# Early Years

The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Framework exists to support all professionals working in EYFS to help your child and was developed alongside a number of early years experts and parents. It explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

## How will your child be learning?

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 key areas of learning and development.

Children tend to develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.



As children grow, their prime areas of learning will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive arts and design

All 7 areas are used to plan your child's teaching and learning. At Silchester, we plan learning suited to your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

At the end of Reception (the Foundation Stage), each child will be assessed against a number of key areas called the Early Learning Goals (ELG).



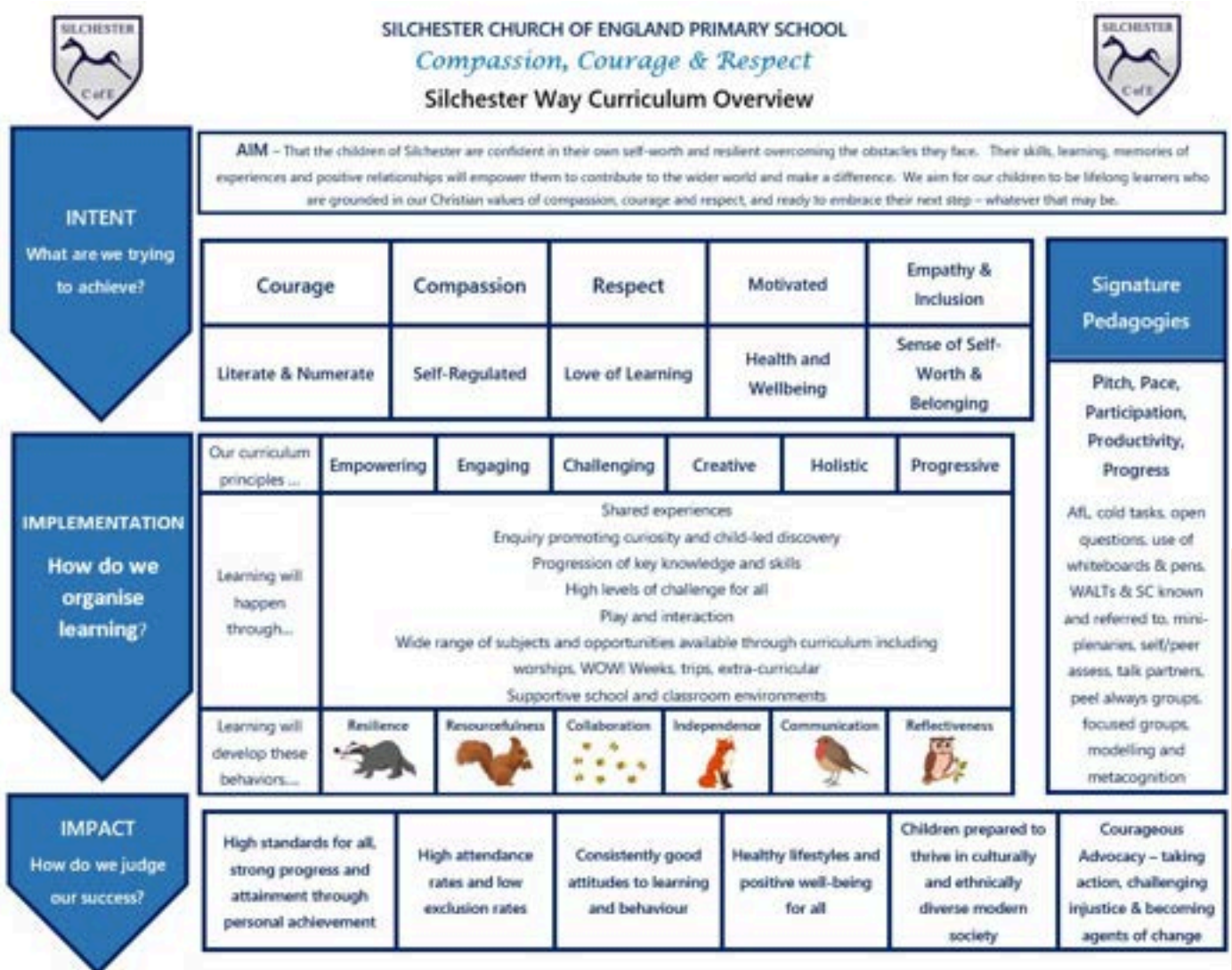
# Our Curriculum - Years 1-6

The curriculum is all the planned activities we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of learning experiences that facilitate a magical place of learning. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, to help pupils become the very best that they can be.

At Silchester, we aim to equip pupils to make a positive contribution to society in the future through a rich, broad and engaging curriculum which inspires all pupils to learn through the acquisition of knowledge & skills with the school values at its core.

We ensure that our curriculum retains the integrity of each individual subject throughout the school. Each subject is valued and has its own intent to ensure integrity, broad coverage and progression throughout the primary curriculum.

The infographic below details how our intent, implementation and impact is formed around our collective vision, values and aim.



# Our Curriculum Principles

## Empowering

We provide an inclusive education within a culture of support and high expectation. All staff work together to nurture and support children, ensuring they feel happy, safe and cared for in school. Through our curriculum we aim to empower all children to contribute to school life, the wider world and make a difference.



## Engaging

Ensuring that learning is vivid and real is paramount to us at Silchester because we want our children to develop understanding through enquiry, creativity, use of technologies and learning behaviours. Exciting memories often stick with us for longer. We foster thinking skills to make learning interesting, flexible and inventive. We create an effective environment to embed learning skills across a range of subjects, using a varied approach and a variety of learning techniques to create and maintain a 'love of learning'.



## Challenging

We plan and adapt our curriculum to ensure it provides children with challenge and the need to be bold and resilient. We foster a growth mindset, modelling and discussing perseverance which gives opportunities for all children to experience and feel challenge as well as success. We use open ended questioning and apply high order thinking tasks that allow children to solve problems both independently and collaboratively. We aim for every child to embrace challenge and recognise that this is a fundamental part of effective learning.



## Creative

Our curriculum supports children to develop an open mind. Through positive interaction and relationships, children think carefully, crafting their own opinions and examining their ideas. We support children to develop and use their imagination to explore new possibilities, and to make connection between existing thought and new learning. Creative expression and 'outside the box' thinking is encouraged and celebrated.



## Holistic

At Silchester, our curriculum is intended and implemented to develop the whole child. By embedding our core Christian values throughout our curriculum, we provide children with the opportunity to develop their sense of self and belonging, build their character and achieve a skillset for courageous advocacy. Opportunities for teaching and promoting wellbeing are important as we set out to support our children to have a strong sense of wellbeing, be self-aware and learn to self-regulate. We strive for children to desire and develop confidence to be themselves, supporting them to contribute to society and recognise the value of their unique self.

## Progressive

Our curriculum includes a set of knowledge, skills and experiences which build on one another, developing the children's learning sequentially and progressively. Each step in our curriculum takes into account the children's prior learning on which to build the new knowledge, skills and experiences. The curriculum promotes revisiting of previous learning and retrieval practice, to encourage children to make connections and links to their new learning.



# The Silchester Learner



## The Silchester Linguist will

- Learn about Spain and other Spanish speaking countries and their cultures.
- Know some Spanish words and phrases.
- Practice speaking Spanish.
- Listen and understand Spanish words.
- Begin to write in Spanish.



## The Silchester Historian will

- Understand how the past has influenced the present.
- Ask questions about what happened and why.
- Investigate sources to learn from the past.
- Build understanding of time and chronology.



## The Silchester Theologian will

- Explore a range of faiths and concepts.
- Ask questions and dig deeper.
- Reflect on and discuss their own ideas and beliefs.
- Build tolerance and understanding of difference.



## The Silchester Citizen will

- Know how to keep themselves safe.
- Recognise their feelings and know how to manage them.
- Develop positive relationships with others.
- Make independent and informed choices for the benefit of self, others and our world.



## The Silchester Mathematician will

- Explore and investigate using what they know
- Ask questions, create rules and gather proof
- Use resources and mathematical language
- Practise to be confident in recall and calculation



## The Silchester Athlete will

- Show good sportsmanship
- Play competitive games
- Know how to keep fit and healthy
- Develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance.
- Develop skills for team and individual sports



## The Silchester Geographer will

- Build knowledge of location and place
- Have an understanding of the physical features of our world.
- Explore the effect of humans on our planet
- Use experience of fieldwork studies to answer questions



## The Silchester Scientist will

- Ask questions, create hypotheses and make predictions
- Investigate and draw conclusions
- Develop scientific language
- Notice science in action in everyday life.



## The Silchester Reader will

- Read fluently and with understanding
- Find pleasure and emotional connection in stories
- Discuss the authors language and impact
- Read to learn and select key information
- Enjoy a wide range of books



## The Silchester Author will

- Be confident and creative in their writing
- Adapt their style for a range of reasons, contexts, and audiences
- Use ambitious language choices
- Use words to express ideas and emotions
- Write for purpose



## The Silchester Artist will

- Share knowledge of different artists
- Try out different techniques
- Feel inspired by art
- Reflect and comment on their own and others' creative work.
- Celebrate creativity



## The Silchester Designers and Inventors will

- Design and make products for a purpose
- Select and use tools safely and effectively
- Experiment with different resources
- Test out designs
- Reflect on and improve their product



## The Silchester Musician will

- Discover how music is developed and composed
- Explore a variety of instruments and use them to express themselves
- Work with others to perform
- Listen and respond to a range of music from different genres and cultures



## The Silchester Techie will

- Use technology safely
- Describe how computers work
- Programme, debug and write code
- Learn how to use technology confidently to create and share information



# General Information

## The School Day

Teachers welcome children into the classrooms at 8.40am ready for registration at 8.50am.

Playtime is 10:30am to 10:50am and lunchtime is 12:00pm to 1:00pm for EYFS and KS1 and 12:15pm to 1:00pm for KS2. The school day ends at 3:15pm.

Our school day is extended by a number of clubs throughout the year, run by both staff and outside agencies. These include: choir, arts and crafts, Lego, dance, running and various sports clubs.

## Lunchtime

The school kitchen cooks hot meals on site, these are free to all children throughout Year R, 1 and 2, and then paid for from year 3 upwards. Children may choose daily whether to have a school meal (meat, vegetarian or jacket potato with fillings. Picnic bags are also available in the summer). Children are also welcome to bring a packed lunch from home. We provide a range of equipment for the children to play with on the playground and offer a quieter alternative inside for those that prefer calmer play.

## Wrap Around Care - The Willows

We offer our own breakfast and after-school clubs from 7:30am before school until 6pm after school. Children are cared for, given breakfast or after school snacks and have the opportunity to play, create or just have a little down-time. All enquires and bookings are handled by Sandra Phillips via the school office or email: [s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk)

## Behaviour

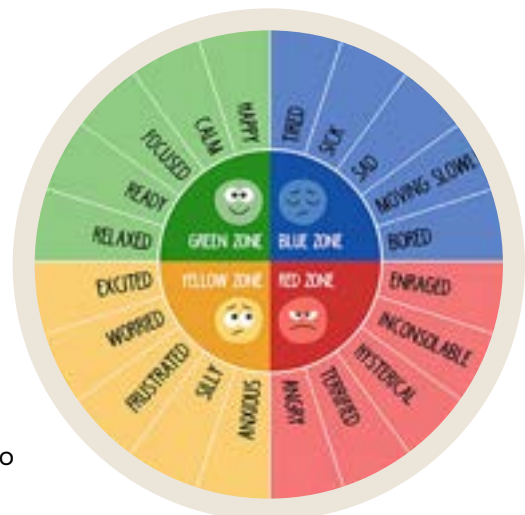
We believe that behaviour is a form of communication. All behaviours are linked to our social understanding and emotional development. Consistent boundaries help everyone to feel safe and encourage positive social interaction and relationship. At Silchester, our rules are simple:

- We are kind.
- We are safe.
- We are respectful.

Our children show kindness and respect daily. We want to reward and praise this effort and do so in a number of ways including house points, stickers, certificates, badges and even trips to the pop-up café for a hot chocolate with the head of school! Like so many other aspects of childhood, choosing how we behave is something to be learnt. At Silchester, we also use the Zones of Regulation as a tool to teach children about emotional literacy and self-regulation.

## PTA & Local Community

The saying goes that, 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and Silchester is blessed with a pretty good tribe! We are involved with numerous community events and our fantastic PTA fundraise to enhance the experiences that we can offer our children. Events include: after-school discos or movie nights; Christmas fairs and markets; break-the-rules day; a Rainbow Run and the Silchester's Got Talent show!



## Inclusive Culture

We value each child as a unique individual and believe that all should be supported to achieve. If children have additional needs, we learn what will help them to overcome any barriers. Being a small school is helpful in this way as we know our children really well and plan how to celebrate their strengths to foster their sense of belonging in our community. We have a dedicated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) who can support teachers with internal provision and reach out to external agencies as required. We care about our children and will do all we can to help them learn, embrace their strengths and identify which strategies will work for them.

