

## Reflections of Values Based INSET Day from staff and governors (26<sup>th</sup> October 2012)

*Neil was certainly an inspirational speaker and has given us much to contemplate. As he initially said very many of the values are already in place and practised on a daily basis at our school but following the talk, we questioned if the younger children really understand what they actually mean. No doubt we can cover this in PHSE when appropriate and enjoy the question and answer sessions. I also liked the idea of quiet reflection in the classroom (even only for a minute)...hopefully this could erase/ease the negative vibes so often experienced at playtime which are then brought into class which is time consuming to resolve before lessons begin.*

*Wow!! What a great day!*

*The day was truly a success - I think everybody really did feel valued and to this end you, and The Downley School as an organisation, definitely practised what they preached. Neil was an amazing speaker - so passionate about what he was speaking about.*

*Conversations during the day with govs, parent govs, LSA and teachers centred around the fact that we are doing a lot of this already and it does make a difference. Consequently, to up the ante and maybe focus further on values based education would be a way forward. Our work on Olympic values and the way in which we focussed on one value at a time means this idea would not be alien to the children - they really took the Olympic values on board and the parent govs said their children were so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about them. I think values based education also ties in so well with SMSC. In the car on the way home we all said what a very positive day it had been.*

*I wanted to give you my feedback on today, WOW, what an inspiration! I really enjoyed the whole day and I was impressed by Neil, his knowledge, experience, his ethos, professionalism and his people skills. I really believed that he was talking to us all as equals and I felt extremely valued. I am not a very confident person but I felt empowered to share my opinions. I agreed whole heartedly with a lot of what he said and felt excited by the potential we all have at TDS to become an ever more fantastic school for the children and wider community. I am speaking both as a mother and a member of staff, I actually sat there wishing my two children were younger so that they could experience this values based education themselves. I liked the emphasis on reflection (the children spend their day moving from one activity to the next, one room to another, one teacher to another, do they have a chance to think?), looking at outdated practices that no one can really say why we do (lining up), focusing on creativity.*

*I grew up the youngest in a family of six with unhappy parents who were often too caught up with their own emotional problems and feelings of failure and disappointment to be able to provide encouragement to me, my mother worked fifty hour weeks and my father often told us children we were never going to amount to anything. Although as an adult I can now see why he was that way (because of his own childhood), I have felt first hand how it has influenced my life, it has taken me a long time to believe in myself and my abilities, I was very unhappy for a time in my life and I want to be a part of an organisation that makes a difference, that will change children's lives for the better, that will give them the skills, knowledge and belief in themselves and the people around them to step out into this world and be happy and a success in some way that is important to them.*

*I hope other members have left Uplands today feeling as positive as I have and that we can all move forwards on this journey, count me in.*

*Thank you so much for including me in your values day. It was very enjoyable and inspiring. It gives me hope to hear people talk about the problems of our society together with solutions instead of just moaning all the time how bad we are. It was interesting to follow the thinking back to how we treat babies and young children and I didn't disagree*

*with very much he said at all (I strongly believe that children need rules, particularly boys, and I think he argued against that?). However, upon reflection I think that we do a huge amount of values based education already at Downley. The only thing we need to do, perhaps, is to spell it out and focus on the precise vocabulary. He had some good suggestions on how to do that and I look forward to seeing that focus over the next few years. I don't want to become a miserable, moaning old woman and it is a constant battle to stop that happening but I am very happy to play my part in changing society if I can learn how and what to do. I was a volunteer at the Paralympics this summer. When I first heard they wanted 70,000 volunteers I was very cynical they would find those numbers. 240,000 people came forward and I feel I was very lucky to be chosen. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I met so many wonderful people over the last 2 years and felt the gratitude of a nation wearing my uniform in and out of London. That also gave me hope for our society. I don't like to apportion blame but I think the media have a great deal to answer for. Thanks again and good luck!*

*I enjoyed the course on Friday and I think it helped to confirm that a lot of the things that we are already doing are great for the kids, but it just showed the need to make it even more explicit. I think it would be good if it could be a whole school push in a structured way in the hope that it would have more of an effect to the parents as well. I think to help ensure that we carried it out in the most effective way it would be good to share ideas prior to each new value, to help each other with new creative ways to teach the children.*

*I felt that we do some of this work anyway. I think our school prayer voices values such as respect and compassion and I feel that as soon as behaviour isn't what is expected, we all try to address it (eg not caring for school property like the toilets and playground equipment). However, I would be happy to progress on that work in whichever way we decide to do it - I think that it could only make our school even better and our lives happier and more peaceful. I have even been trying to "Stop for a minute" during the holidays (need to try harder!). I do think a lot of the values are things that would seem normal to most of us, but we are all guilty of letting standards drop when we get tired or stress gets in our way. Making the values high profile should help us all to embed them in our daily lives. What I am trying to say is: I'm happy to go with it!*

*Wow!! what a wonderful day. I was so inspired by the talk and work that other schools have done to make them a value based school. As an employee and a parent I would embrace fully the idea of opting to be a value based school with all the advantageous that it would bring to our already outstanding school.*

*What an inspirational day! I was inspired with Dr Neil Hawkes, the idea of helping to develop 'Active, peaceful and caring citizens' for the future is certainly a path to encourage, after all children of today are the future. To develop and instil positive values can only be a positive leap forward. Children will become aware of their behaviour in and out of school. I know it is something which will not happen overnight but every step forward is an improvement. I am a great believer in how we behave reflects on our children and it is a proven fact, children watch all the time and if it's acceptable to adults, children think it's acceptable for them too and will behave accordingly. Positive values improve self esteem and confidence in adults and children and create a much better environment/atmosphere for everyone to learn and work.*

*I found the inset day very interesting, definitely food for thought. I can see, providing everyone is willing to give it a go, how becoming a 'Values School' could suit the environment of TDS and hopefully, over the long term, benefit pupils, staff and the*

*community. The Values could be introduced in a similar way to last terms Olympic Values, which the children embraced and enjoyed.*

**WOW, WOW, WOW!!!!**

*What an inspirational day with so much to think about. In today's ever changing society, holding on to our values is SO important and I do feel they are getting lost in a competitive and technological world.*

*Thank you so much for last Friday. It was such a thought provoking, inspirational and positive day. I could have listened to Neil for many more hours!*

*I fully agree with Neil's methods and look forward to taking them on board at Downley. I really feel that society today lacks good 'old fashioned' values.*

*Neil is engaging and charismatic and I thought he spoke well about values. It was great to remind us all of the hugely influential role we have in our children's lives and inspire us to make sure we give them all the right messages and avoid any harmful ones. Examples of how comments and actions can be damaging were especially poignant, I found.*

*I wonder if it would be a good idea to follow up by going over some of the messages that were so inspiring. We are an outstanding school, already meeting and exceeding government targets and achieving excellent results for all our children. The icing on the cake would now be to go that extra mile and focus on giving our children an awareness of values that will help them succeed in all areas of their lives and to become socially and morally responsible young people. As you and Neil have both said, introducing values-based education shouldn't mean a lot of extra work for everyone - both teaching and non-teaching staff are already quick to praise politeness and good behaviour and to question unacceptable behaviour, it will just make a difference in terms of the language we use and an emphasis on particular values. The recent work on Olympic values seemed to go down so well with staff, children and parents and hopefully will encourage everyone to see the benefits of introducing values-based education.*

*My feedback from the inset day I could see Neil is very passionate about Values Based Education and I could see the difference it had made to the schools that have taken it on. We follow some of the values he talked about and if it could be fitted into our already tight timetable it would be good to see if it changed the thinking of our children and parents.*

*Despite my reservations - was really interesting and inspirational and I took a lot of new ideas and thoughts home because of it. Lots of things that were talked about rang true and made me smile because they were so familiar!*

*I think it was a very worthwhile and useful day and I really enjoyed it, so thank you for arranging it. I'm looking forward to trying out some of the new strategies I learnt and think the Value for the Month idea is a really good one.*

*I thought the inset day at the hotel last week was brilliant - Neil was such an engaging speaker and I thought his philosophy of a values based education was very easy to understand and easy to see how you could put it into practice in everyday school life. Actually, I think as a school we already implicitly have a values based approach, but it was interesting to see how this could be made explicit.*

*I studied valued-based education as part of a module for my undergraduate degree and the things that Neil was talking about really made sense to me.*

*Re the end of term INSET day - I found it really interesting and have taken away so much. I was originally sceptical that it would add anything to what we are already doing as a school - i.e. our Golden Rules, Olympic Values etc - but I was really impressed with what he*

*had to say. The third part of the day was brilliant - for me, he really brought all the ideas and philosophy together. I really was genuinely moved.*

*Neil was a very inspiring man and I believe Downley is well on the way to being a Values based school, I just think that all staff need to remember that every member of team is important. I am looking forward to this new phase for all of us at The Downley School, children, staff and parents.*

*I'm sure children at The Downley School are being exposed to 'Values' in their education intermittently already and I feel the team of TDS do respond to the children offering and expecting many qualities we discussed last Friday. It would be fantastic to see Values programmed into the curriculum formally rather than per chance. It would be nice to imagine Values spreading through TDS children into immediate families, extended families, greater community and beyond.*

*I believe the school would really benefit from becoming a Values School; and many of the values are already evident within the school. I think that the values should run through every aspect of school life rather than just being kept for assemblies and PHSE lessons. Maybe the school golden rules could be adapted to include the values.*

*I would like to say how much I enjoyed our inset day. I am also in favour of developing a values based education. I believe we do a lot of it already but it will mean making it a higher profile for all of us in the Downley school community. It makes me feel as though it will be more of a student led type initiative (with adults pulling a few strings) Looking forward to it especially as I am now keen to turn our Peace display into a values display!*

*The inset day was interesting and very thought provoking. After having listened to the idea of becoming a values school, I think it would be a good way forward.*

*I thought this day was a great chance for all members of staff and the governors to get together, chat and share ideas about the school. The values based education training was a good background about what it was and how it came about. I really like the idea of teaching through values and feel that it is an element that some of our children need enlightening on. I would be interested to see how we could implement it into TDS.*

*I think VBE is something that would really help to change the school for the better. Although all of our children are well behaved we do have lots of 'niggly' behaviour problems usually due to children being intolerant of others. I think the principles behind VBE would help children to really consider others and take responsibility for their own choices.*

*I enjoyed this day and like the idea of values based education. I felt that this would be good for our school and particularly like the idea of behaviour being governed by values rather than having 'rules'. I think that it would be easier for children to understand how they are expected to behave when there are a set of shared values. I also like the idea of having a value to focus on each month and liked the examples of how the values could be displayed in the classroom and incorporated into lessons.*

*To me the day with Neil Hawkes was incredible. . . . . Inspiring, motivating and extremely interesting. I personally would love to see The Downley School embracing his ethos.....all children deserve this is my mind.....*

*I really enjoyed the inset day and thought it was really valuable training. I have had concerns over the way our children treat adults and each other and the lack of manners in the school. I think becoming a value based school will be a big step in the right direction to leading our children down the right path. I think it will make for a really happy learning environment. I liked the idea of having a value of the month and embedding this into our lessons and environment. I also liked the idea of not having school 'rules'. I think having a values art piece e.g. display/sculpture/ mosaic etc outside the school would be a lovely way to show this.*

*The day was very inspiring and thought provoking. I could see that recognising and celebrating a different value each month/half term would focus attention on the value and improve understanding and reflection on our own recognition and use of each value. Values based learning makes sense. It would lead to our whole school community working together for the benefit of oneself, each other and our environment and I'm sure that it would give everyone a sense that their attitude and interaction can make a positive difference.*

*I enjoyed the inset day and thought that it provided a lot to reflect on. I liked the idea of a values based education that is not just reflected in the teaching of the pupils but the whole culture of the school. I also think that values rather than rules would be easier for younger children to understand and creates more self responsibility and confidence. A lot of things that were discussed, I think the school does already but just brings values and the way we treat others more to the forefront.*