

Spot on attitude at Bratton Primary School



Richard Mills Reporter

IF you do not fail, you cannot learn. If you do not learn, you will never change. From the moment a pupil begins their first day at Bratton Primary, that mindset is ingrained into them.

The Westbury school, which starts at reception up to Year 6, prides itself on its 'growth mindset', where children embrace and accept failure as a way to develop, learn, grow and develop confidence to embrace whatever challenge comes their way.

That is epitomised by the school's core learning values of resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity and reflection. These are attitudes that headteacher Ian Bolton sees every day, something he is very proud of.

"I like to think that we are preparing in a very good way for the future. There is such a positive outlook that failure is not always a negative as it can push you onto be the best person you can be," he said.

"Children come out of classrooms saying how they showed resilience or how they reflected on their work which I think is a rare quality. We like to say that we are in the learning pit and to get out of it you have to go through the challenges to succeed.

"We place huge emphasis on academic progress and also teaching them about community values such as honesty, tolerance, courtesy, respect, determination and enthusiasm too."

Last month the school, which has 144 pupils, six teachers and 27 staff overall, was given a Good Ofsted rating and now Mr Bolton has set his sights firmly on the ultimate target that is an Outstanding grade.

"Getting an Outstanding is a big challenge but we like a challenge at this school. We were very happy with our recent report as there was a lot of positives to take out of it," he said.

"Our number one goal is to improve their education and we are doing that by trying to widen the curriculum and also increase the number of extra-curricular things they do.

"For instance at present we are having our own school election to give pupils a chance to represent their class, we have had many general election candidates come in which was very interesting and we have started some new clubs too.

"We are also doing a great initiative about how other cultures have greatly enhanced Britain and we are holding cooking classes and lessons where the children can learn about this.

"I am proud of what the pupils are achieving and I think we are really on an upward trajectory."