Newsletter
May 2026

Foundations First

Laying the foundations for a lifetime of learning

> "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts"
>
> Winston Churchill

This month, in our newsletter of Foundations First – Character Education **for all**, we focus on a school where resilience is helping children thrive!

Castle View:

A school where resilience is helping children thrive

There is something special happening at Castle View Primary School. You can feel it in the hum of the classrooms, in the calm confidence of the corridors, and in the way children lift their heads a little higher when they talk about their learning. Resilience is becoming part of the school's DNA - not as a buzzword, but as a lived, breathed, everyday strength.

And that resilience is everywhere!



"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated." *Maya Angelou*



Pupils are beginning to understand that challenge is not something to fear, but something to lean into. They are discovering the thrill of trying again, the pride of sticking with something difficult, and the joy of realising, "I can do this." Staff are modelling that same spirit - refusing to give up on any child, celebrating every step forward, and showing pupils what perseverance looks like in action.

This is a school where belief is powerful. Adults know their pupils deeply - their strengths, their worries, their hopes. They see the potential in every child, even on the days when the child can't see it themselves. And that belief is transforming the atmosphere. Children feel safe enough to take risks, brave enough to make mistakes, and confident enough to grow.

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A recent review captured what staff, families and pupils already know: Castle View is becoming a place where nurture and ambition sit side by side. The school's inclusive culture is strengthening. Routines are clearer, expectations are higher, and classrooms feel calmer and more purposeful. Pupils are learning to regulate their emotions, stay with challenges for longer and take pride in their progress.

There is a renewed sense of momentum - a feeling that the school is moving forward together, with clarity and shared purpose. Staff are working with consistency and compassion. Leaders are building structures that help children thrive. And pupils are rising to meet those expectations with growing confidence.

But perhaps the most inspiring change is this: Children are beginning to believe in themselves.

They are learning that mistakes are not failures - they are stepping stones. They are discovering that improvement takes time, effort and courage. They are realising that resilience is not about being tough; it is about being brave enough to keep going.

"It always seems impossible until it's done." *Nelson Mandela*



And it's not just happening in lessons. Across the school, pupils are stepping into leadership roles, supporting their peers, contributing to school life and discovering the joy of making a difference. These moments - small, everyday, powerful - are shaping children who feel capable, valued and ready to take on the world.

Castle View is building something important: A culture where resilience is normal. A culture where kindness matters. A culture where every child is encouraged to believe that improvement is possible - not just today, but for the rest of their lives.

This is the kind of education that stays with children long after they leave the classroom. This is the kind of school that changes futures.

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Six foundational bricks

Understand Character

Translating research on **Character** Education into everyday practice

Experience Character

Developing environments, in and out of the classroom, that value **Character** Education

Think Character

Exploring multiple ways of thinking that develop **Character**

Teach Character

Weaving **Character** Education through Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Celebrate Character

Recognising and rewarding **Character** growth in children

Lead Character

Tools for leaders to review and embed **Character** Education in their School/Trust

If you want to find out more about the work of FoundationsFirst you can either:

Email us at
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www.foundationsfirst.org.uk

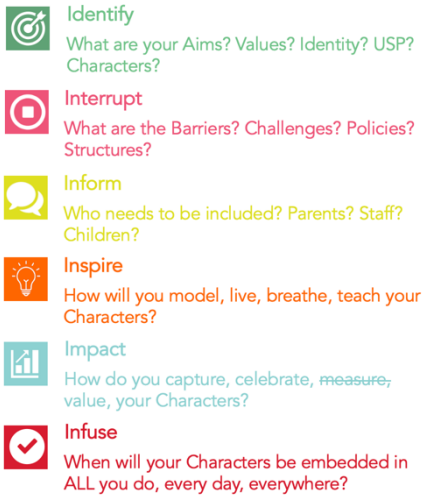
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We offer a complete range of learning resources, guidance and training that can be used flexibly across any school's setting to develop **Character Education**.

For example, in our Lead Character section we have the leadership framework to develop individual character across your school/trust.

For each of the steps shown on the right we also have a suite of tools to help you.

From audit and planning tools to find out where you are and how to make progress, to inspiring display quotes for you and your school community.



"Intelligence plus character - that is the true goal of education." *Martin Luther King Jr.*