

OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY

SKILLS BUILDER GOLD AWARD



We are a Skills Builder Award Gold School



Oakdene is a Skills Builder Award Gold school. This means that we have shown a consistent commitment to building essential skills for the children in our school. The essential skills are skills that the children need to be successful in their learning (today and in the future) and their careers.

What is it?

The Skills Builder Partnership allows us to refine a consistent, universal approach to essential skills. We define the essential skills as: Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork.



Skills Builder allows us to support the children to:

- Understand their existing skills: Reflecting on where their essential skills currently are, and being able to identify any gaps they might have.
- See what progress looks like: Being able to see what the next steps are to improve their essential skills further.

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- Join the dots: Using a consistent language and understanding of essential skills to understand how they are used and practiced in lots of different settings.
- Capturing success: Seeing progress and being able to better articulate their skills.

The skills are broken down into steps as below and each year group focus on a step, which increase in complexity as they progress through school.

GETTING STARTED		
Listening to others		
Step 0	I listen to others without interrupting	CLICK TO BUILD IT >
Step 1	I listen to others and can remember short instructions	CLICK TO BUILD IT >
Step 2	I listen to others and can ask questions if I don't understand	CLICK TO BUILD IT >
Step 3	I listen to others and can tell someone else what it was about	CLICK TO BUILD IT >
Step 4	I listen to others and can tell why they are communicating with me	CLICK TO BUILD IT >
Step 5	I listen to others and record important information as I do	CLICK TO BUILD IT >

INTERMEDIATE		
Demonstrating listening		
Step 6	I show I am listening by how I use eye contact and body language	CLICK TO BUILD IT >

We have achieved the highest-level Gold award, which is awarded to those schools modelling best practice in high-quality essential skills education. This means we have:

- Fully embedded the Skills Builder Principles
- All teachers are confident educators of essential skills
- Essential skills education is fully integrated into daily practice

Please click the link to view our Skills Builder Case study which identifies evidence as to why we achieved Gold standard.

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/case-study/oakdene-primary-school>

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Why bother?

At Oakdene, we believe it has never been more important to build a set of essential skills to succeed in life for our children: the ability to creatively solve problems, to self-manage, to communicate effectively, and to work well with others. These are skills that are needed to do almost anything well. The need for these skills is clear, but there is still a gap – too many children and young people do not build these skills to the level they need, and so miss out on opportunities to thrive in other parts of their lives.

Our School

The introduction of the Skills Builder programme has further strengthened our current provision. It has provided the children with the skills, language and experiences to broaden their horizons and further raise their aspirations. The explicit lessons have provided teachers with a basis to begin the discussions and learning around each skill, which have then been extended to lessons across all curriculum areas and provides a golden thread of skills throughout different subjects. Teachers now have a consistent vocabulary which enables them to provide opportunities for pupils to share, discuss and practise the essential skills across the curriculum. Parents have shared that their children enjoy learning about the skills and have enjoyed completing the challenges from the newsletter at home. Employers at events have commented how well the children related the skills to their work at careers events such as SPARK education.