



Character Education, Eleven by Eleven and Enrichment at ESW

*'Belonging to and actively participating in a school community is a deeply formative experience that helps pupils develop, amongst other things, their character. **In a broad sense, character education permeates all subjects, wider school activities, and a general school ethos.**'*

'Successful schools are committed and determined to develop the character of their pupils through the articulation, demonstration of and commitment to core ethical virtues, and to the cultivation of meaningful personal relationships.'

(The Jubilee Centre Framework for Character Education in Schools, 2022)

Character Education is ***the wider personal development of a child beyond the academic education they receive in school***. It aims to instil in pupils a number of key characteristics and values such as resilience, honesty, motivation and humility, all of which will help them in their adult lives.

Character can be caught

....through a positive school community, formational relationships, and a clear ethos.

Character can be taught

...through the curriculum using teaching and learning strategies, activities, and resources.

Character can be sought

...through chosen experiences that occur within and outside of the formal curriculum.

At **Education South West**, character education and enrichment are central to our mission to ensure that all pupils can *live great lives*.

We inspire children to develop the knowledge and character that enable them to leave school ready to lead rewarding lives in a rapidly changing world. Cultural, sporting and artistic experiences help them discover their full potential. They further develop character through a resilient, determined and positive response to challenge. We want students to leave with the academic qualifications, skills and personal attributes that open doors to a fulfilling future. The programme supports pupils to become responsible, active citizens by promoting respect, democratic participation, equality, and understanding of life in modern Britain and beyond.

We deliver this through a **strategically aligned enrichment offer**, fully integrated with:

- curriculum intent
- personal development

- behaviour and attendance
- inclusion and wellbeing
- preparation for next steps

This ensures that enrichment is not an “add-on”, but a **coherent, planned entitlement for all pupils**, in line with the DfE Enrichment Framework.

Across our schools, we deliver Character Education through our ***Eleven by Eleven*** programme of opportunities and experiences. Opportunities are planned progressively so that pupils revisit and deepen leadership, responsibility, independence and cultural understanding as they move through each phase of their education.

We make sure that these opportunities and experiences are open to all pupils/students across our schools. When planning our character education programmes we ensure that no pupils are excluded from these experiences on account of their physical or emotional needs or for financial reasons. We work with local organisations and our school parent associations to ensure that costs are subsidised where necessary.

Leaders evaluate the impact of the Eleven by Eleven programme on pupils’ confidence, resilience, sense of belonging and readiness for next steps. Evidence is drawn from pupil voice, participation data, behaviour and attendance trends, and feedback from families and community partners. We work to support pupils being able to talk confidently about their Eleven by Eleven experiences, what they have learned about themselves and others, and how these experiences are preparing them for future learning, work and participation in society.

Research shows how these enriching opportunities can help to build positive relationships between pupils and teachers, and can be associated with a wealth of positive outcomes, including lower exclusions and improved school behaviour. [Beyond-the-classroom-enrichment-report-1.pdf](#)

Staff are supported to deliver high-quality enrichment and character education through shared principles, professional development, and trust-wide collaboration.

What you see at ESW schools is:

- pupils participating widely across enrichment activities
- equitable access across groups
- pupils articulating character growth and aspirations
- clear progression and coherence across phases.

Overview

Eleven by (age) Eleven – all pupils in ESW primary schools will have opportunities and experiences across the following areas by the time they move onto secondary school at the age of eleven.

Eleven by (year) Eleven – all students in ESW secondary schools will have opportunities and experiences across the following eleven areas by the time they end year eleven.

The Eleven areas are...

Leadership - Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and we create rich opportunities for pupils to work in teams and learn by leading both in their schools and across the trust. Leadership conferences are organised each year for both primary and secondary pupils.



Performing Arts - The performing arts encourage children to explore their emotions, expand their imagination and helps them develop their own, unique voice. Children experience a wide range of performing arts opportunities throughout their time in our school, both as a performer and as a member of an audience.

Wellbeing/Mental Health/First Aid

– We give pupils the skills to look after themselves and their friends

and families so they can stay mentally and physically fit and strong. Both through curriculum content and a programme of events and visitors we focus on developing children's awareness and skills in these crucial areas.

Cultural Visits - We organise a range of visits and trips to cities, museums and galleries to help children to understand and appreciate the rich heritage and cultural diversity both locally and beyond our immediate community.



Local Community Involvement - As schools we value our position in our local communities. Through our strong links and programmes we promote connection, belonging and responsibility to our local communities. Children have the opportunities to volunteer and make a real difference in their community.

Sports – We give pupils the opportunities to take part in a range of sports, represent their school in tournaments and matches and make links with local sports clubs in the community. We take part in local sports events and join in with sports tournaments with children in other Education South West schools.





Environmental Activities/Awareness –Through discussion, debate and direct action, we help our children to understand how to look after and improve the natural environment and how they can improve the world in which we live.

Careers/Preparation for the world of work – We help our children to gain the basic knowledge and skills they need to begin navigating their way successfully through career choices and changes. Through our strong links with local and national businesses, careers fairs and visiting speakers, we make clear links between classroom learning and future career opportunities.

Outdoor Education – Through our work in our forest school and

through our trips and residentials, we give children regular opportunities to experience outdoor activities and explore the natural world in an exciting and inspiring way.

Wider World Culture – Through meaningful links with organisations, schools and charities we help our children to develop an understanding of and respect for the ways that people live across the world.



Learning a New Skill/After

School Clubs – Through our extra-curricular activities we give our children the opportunity to develop their skills and learn new ones. From learning to knit to developing gymnastic or gardening skills both at lunchtime and after school, a huge range of opportunities are on offer. Details of clubs can be found on the school websites.

Alignment to DfE Enrichment Categories

Our Eleven areas map directly to the five DfE enrichment categories, ensuring a broad and well-rounded offer:

Enrichment Categories	11 by 11 areas
Civic Engagement	Local Community Involvement – Volunteering , working with local groups (eg.Rotary), charity work, litter picks, visits to local nurseries and care homes. Duke of Edinburgh, In school programmes like <i>Pride of Rydon</i>, taking part in community events Leadership – leadership opportunities in school, leadership conferences
Arts & Culture	Performing Arts – Performing in or watching plays/live links to performances (music/dance etc) Cultural Visits – Visits and residentials, virtual visits Wider World Culture – Visits, visitors and speakers. Assemblies

Nature & the Outdoors	Environmental Activities/Awareness – Visits and visitors, gardening, forest school activities, membership of eco-groups or leadership roles.
Sport & Physical Activities	Sport – school sports (in school and intra school), links with local clubs (coaching), after school clubs Outdoor Education – Residential, cycling, activities week, Ten Tors, sailing, surfing
Life Skills	Wellbeing/Mental Health/ First Aid – National theme weeks, assemblies, taking on leadership roles as ambassadors, PSHE curriculum Careers/Preparation for the world of work – Work experience, assemblies, visits, visitors, Primary Futures (primary) Learning a new skill - After School Clubs, signposting to local organisations and opportunities

Inclusion and Access

We are committed to an accessible and equitable enrichment offer:

- All activities are open to every pupil, regardless of need or background
- Financial barriers are addressed through subsidy and partnership working
- Provision is adapted to ensure inclusion for pupils with SEND and additional needs
- Participation is monitored to ensure equity across groups

Partnership and Community Engagement

Our enrichment offer is strengthened through collaboration with partners, including: local organisations, cultural institutions, employers and businesses and community groups. These partnerships extend opportunities beyond the classroom, support real-world application of learning and strengthen pupils' sense of belonging and contribution.

Communication and Participation

We ensure that enrichment is clearly communicated to pupils and families, regularly promoted and celebrated and supported by high expectations for participation. We actively celebrate pupil participation, achievement and representation and contributions to school and community.

Impact and Evaluation

Leaders evaluate the effectiveness of enrichment through:

- participation data (including disadvantaged groups)
- pupil voice and articulation of learning
- behaviour and attendance indicators
- feedback from families and partners
- and how pupils can articulate their experiences, explain what they have learned and connect enrichment with future aspirations

What You See in ESW Schools

- High levels of participation across enrichment

- Equitable access for all groups
- Pupils confidently articulating character development
- Clear progression across phases
- A coherent and strategically aligned model

Professional Development and Delivery

Staff are supported through shared trust-wide principles, professional development in enrichment and character education and collaboration across schools. This ensures consistent, high-quality delivery across all settings.