

Together building A 'Belonging Culture' At Riverside School



Why are we here?

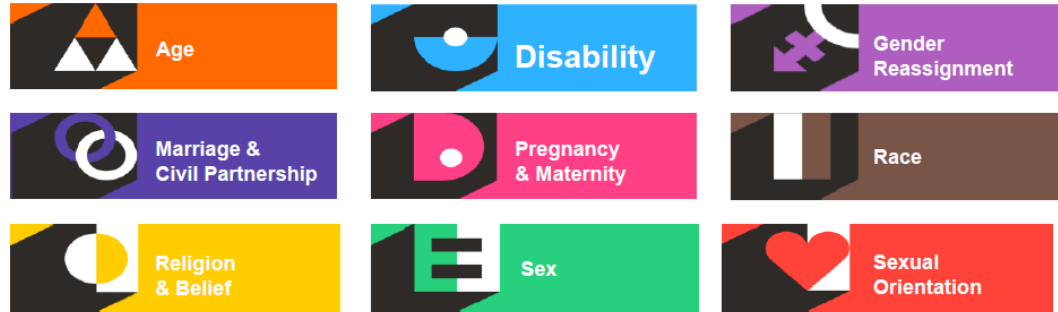
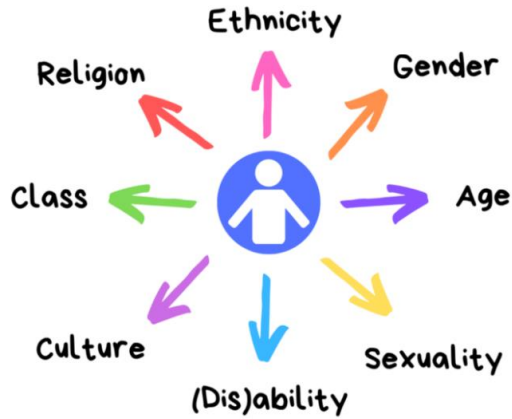
(Our Mission) To transform our children's lives and the lives of their families

(Our Vision) To inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment

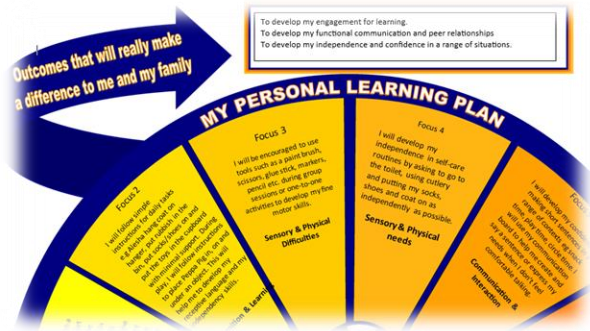
(Our Motto) To give our pupils every opportunity to Be All That You Can Be

Why is Belonging so important for us?

350 pupils



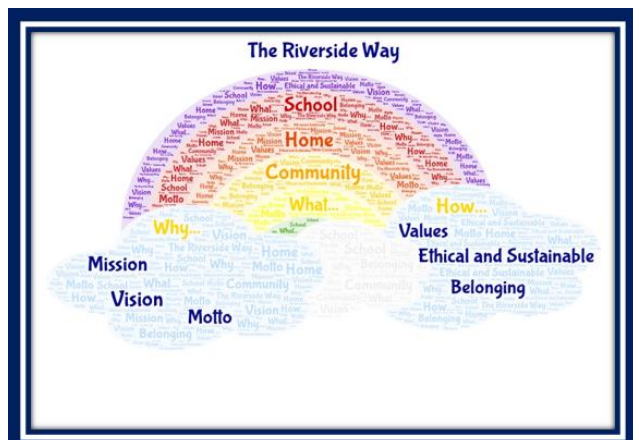
Without psychological safety no amount of diversity matters



13% of our pupils have English as an additional language
(26 different home languages spoken)

What have we done, what are we doing?

Pledge 10 We will promote inclusion and celebrate diversity in all its forms to ensure that everyone in our school community feels a true sense of belonging.



Belonging leads



My Personal and Professional Development Plan

Specialist Teaching Assistant

My contribution to Building a Brighter Future

"I will fulfil my role at Riverside school incorporating and evidencing the Riverside Teaching Assistant Standards, our school values and our Belonging agenda in everything I do"

Signed

Be Here. Be You. Belong.



At Riverside School, we are wholly committed to celebrating diversity and challenging racism and discrimination in all its forms. We believe that we have a duty to play our part in building a fairer and more inclusive society, a society in which fear and prejudice have no place.

Following the tragic death of George Floyd in May 2020, millions of people across the world have stood united. They have marched together against injustice and communities have come together to grieve, to reflect, and to learn. We hope that the events you have seen unfold across the world have not only made you think about injustice in society but more importantly, made you want to do something about it.

At Riverside School, we believe we have a responsibility to shape and help create the kind of society we all want to be part of. In many ways, the events we have all witnessed have highlighted just how fractured our society can be. At Riverside School, we believe there is no place for racism, discrimination, injustice or inequality and this must cut across everything we do.

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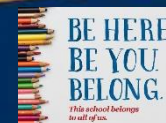
[Inspirational People](#)

[Pupil Resources](#)

[Suggested Reference Materials](#)

[Flyers](#)

[Whole School Project](#)





My Life, Culture & Community



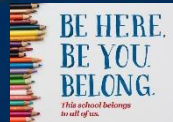
People who are important to me:
(Please send in photos or email them to your class teacher if you are happy for them to be included)

My World at home: (Please include any religions/faiths, languages spoken/heard at home; are there any key words they you would like us to use/refer to throughout their day? Any important rituals that take place, anywhere important that you visit or attend, anything else that is important to your family)

Dates, celebrations, occasions and events that are important to me and my family:

Areas in my Community that my family would like me to be able to access meaningfully: (This could be your dentist, a local shop, a particular park, a hairdressers/barbers, a religious setting, crossing roads, walking past dogs etc. Please give us much detail as you can)

Placing Belonging at the Heart



Belonging Family and Community Engagement:

Learning from each other; celebrating everyone's uniqueness
(Cultural Calendar/HP/Pupil Starter Packs)

Bring Yourself Day - Understanding, incorporating and celebrating our differences and similarities

Inviting and involving people from a range of communities to talk and share experiences

Ensuring we have an inclusive, relevant and representative Curriculum offer

Belonging Checklist; ensuring resources, books, display boards reflect/represent us all

Supporting our pupils understanding of themselves

Incorporating culturally diverse foods, smells, tastes within lessons

Offering a diverse role play, real world, library offer, that reflects us all

Expressive Arts Sessions and LOTC – Reflective of everyone's backgrounds and lived experiences

Ensuring we reach all families; providing a personalised approach; emails, contact books, phone calls

Making our voices heard; Website/Social Media Presence, Policies, Pledges

Providing different opportunities for families to meet and connect and share with each other; dads, siblings, Grandparents etc.

My Life, Culture & Community	
People who are important to me: (Please include photos)	Please chose one of the below titles, and ask your pupil for contributions if appropriate 'My Hopes and Dreams'/'Things that people admire about me'/'My Strengths':
My World at home:	

Are there aspects of your child's background, family life, language or culture that we can learn about or celebrate in class? How can we use and celebrate your first language?



*Let's Share Our Similarities,
Celebrate Our Differences*



A sense of Belonging is essential for our wellbeing. It refers to the experience of feeling welcome, respected, affirmed, valued and important.

5 Pillars of Belonging..



Feeling Welcomed - Making new families feel welcome - **Buddy System?**

Feeling Known - Recognising and celebrating individual backgrounds & experiences

Feeling Included - Inviting suggestions and ideas from everyone; regular check-ins to provide opportunities for feedback and discussion, helping to identify and address issues hindering a sense of belonging - **More face to face opportunities?**

Feeling Supported - Listening to what you have to say, gaining your feedback? Offering training - linked to Pathways? Supporting your wellbeing?

Feeling Connected – How can we build collaboration, and creating communities in your class/Phase/Site/whole school? Creating a culture of open and honest communication where concerns can be listened to & addressed, where everyone feels their perspectives are valued. **More social events?**

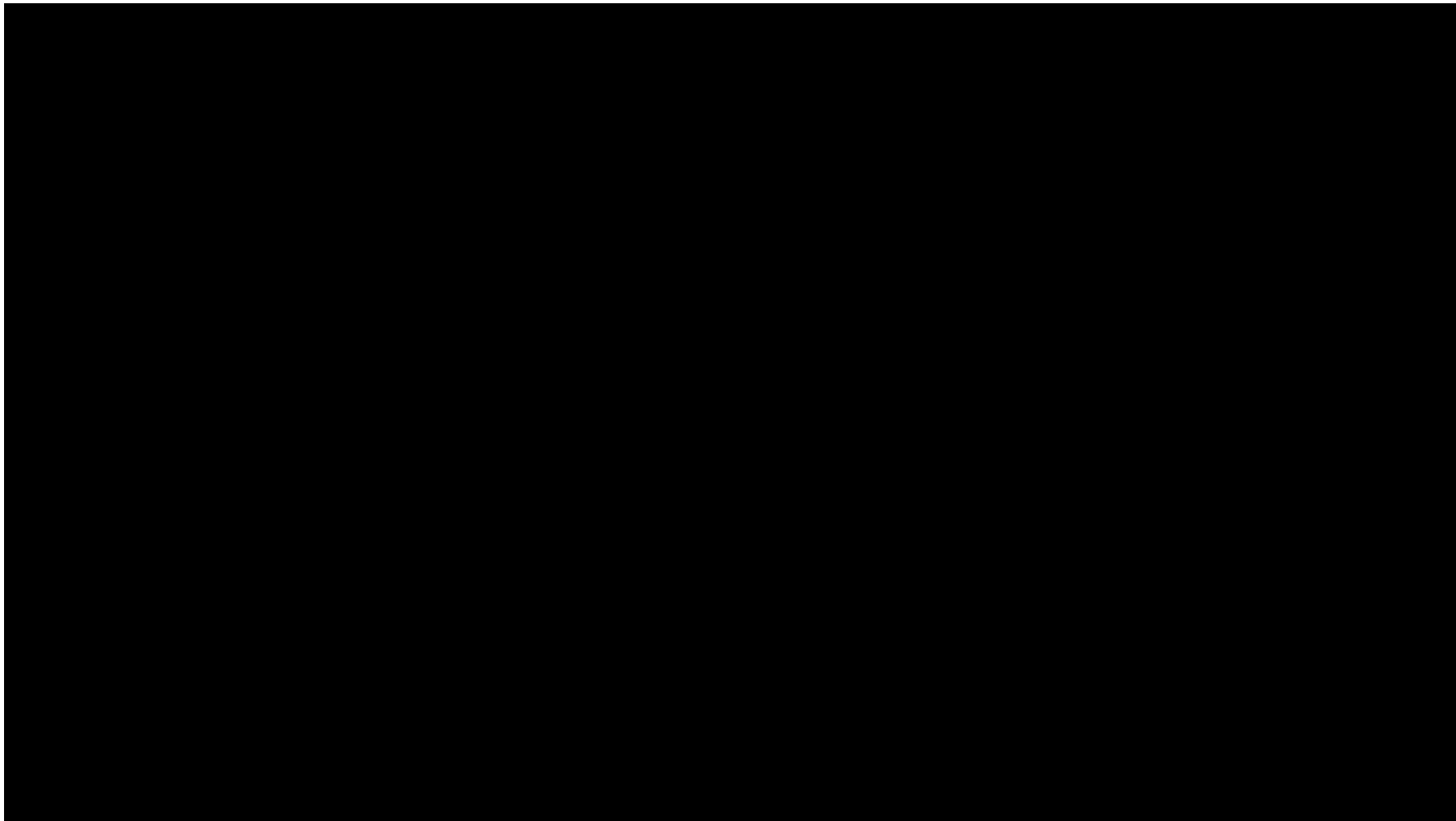
"I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, NOR DO I PRETEND TO. I ONLY HAVE MY EXPERIENCES."



True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are.

Brené Brown





**BE HERE.
BE YOU.
BELONG.**
This school belongs
to all of us.



IF YOU'RE OUT THERE

Whole School Project

What - We would like to represent and include every pupil and staff member in the school through a series of portrait photos captured in a film.

Why - Riverside would like to share our call to action and Be Here, Be You, Belong initiative in a creative, meaningful and engaging way - the Riverside Way.

How - The Expressive Arts Department will lead a choir on each site with the aim to remake the John Legend song *If you're out there*, as we do with everything, in our own truly personalised way.



When John Legend was interviewed about his song he said: *'Sometimes you wonder if anybody's listening, or if they care enough about the issues to make a difference. The song is a call to action for anyone who has a mind to contribute and the motivation to actually do it.'*

What we're trying to say is that the time is now, to start working on the issues that need addressing in this country and around the world.

Involvement - We need singers, signers and musicians to join together for this project to work. We have the expertise to record and we need the enthusiasm and talent of staff to get involved.

Choir will run:
Wednesdays - West Wickham 8.30am
Thursdays - St Paul's Cray 8.30am
Fridays - Beckenham 8.30am
(Starting date TBC)

In addition, arrangements will be made for each staff member and pupil (with photo consent) to have their portrait taken.

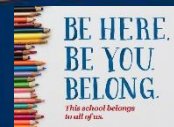
The result will be a powerful film of woven voices, instruments and photos to represent our sense of Riverside belonging and also send a message to the wider community and world that *the time is always right to do the right thing.*



Be Here. Be You. Belong.



Be All That You Can Be





Be where you are celebrated,
not tolerated.



Only when everyone can bring their true selves
to Riverside School will we benefit from the
best that everyone can be.



Be All That You Can Be

