



EWELL CASTLE  
SCHOOL

Achieving Each Child's Potential

*"Becoming is better than being" Professor Carol S. Dweck*



# The Growth Mindset



# Introduction

At the Preparatory School we have introduced two new 'ideas' to the children

The Power  
of YET



The Gift of  
**Fail**ure



# The Power of Yet

- Children sometimes have fixed mindsets that tells them if they are not understanding something then they never will. They start to use phrases such as 'I won't do it' and 'I can't do it'.
- By introducing the idea of The Power of Yet, I can't do it.....YET they begin to move on to saying 'How can I do it', 'I'll try to do it', 'I can do it', 'I will do it' and eventually 'Yes I did it!'.



# The Power of Yet

By using the Power of Yet we are encouraging two really important qualities that will help them in adult life.

I don't get it + YET = optimism

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."  
*Helen Keller*



I can't do it + YET = perseverance

"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves."  
*Marie Curie*

**If at first you  
don't  
succeed, try,  
try and try  
again**

We ask them to tell us what they can do now and what they may be able to do in the future if they keep an open mind and growth mindset.

'I can ride a bike now. If I work hard enough I will ride in the Olympics.'

# The Gift of Failure

The idea of 'getting it right' has overtaken the spirit of having a go. We must encourage children to recognize mistakes as part of the learning process and to see what can be changed and what can't.

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."



*Albert Einstein*

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

*Theodore Roosevelt*

We need to create a place at school and at home where making a mistake is seen as a learning process.

# The Gift of Failure

We should not do it for them. We must put the control back into their hands. Making mistakes is a vital process to help children become independent, make the right choices and become independent learners who will be able to deal with any 'bumps in the road' that they come across.

Mistakes are the stepping stones that will take you from where you are to where you want to be.

*Anonymous*

It's ok to get something wrong. It's what to do afterwards that is the important message. What can I do to do this differently and get the right answer.

A growth mindset will encourage your child to not give up but to look for other strategies and ways around things.

# Daily Learning Discussion

We should think of how we talk to the children after school at home. The question ‘How was your day?’ will usually be answered with ‘OK’ or ‘Alright’.

Ask instead:

- What did you learn today?
- What did you try hard at today?
- Can you teach me something you learned today?
- Did you make a mistake that taught you something today?



If they are upset about something they couldn't understand we need to encourage them to keep trying

Everyone learns in a different way. Lets keep trying to find a way that works for you