



# TIMU ACADEMY TRUST

## **Policy Document for:** Creating a Positive and Supportive Learning Environment

**Approved:** November 2017

**Due for Review:** November 2020

Children arrive at school having had a variety of experiences first thing in the morning. These experiences may have a serious effect on their ability to concentrate and may impact on their ability to learn. Learning is an emotional activity, anxiety blocks learning.

Eighty per cent of learning difficulties are related to stress. Remove the stress and you remove the difficulties. Gordon Stokes (The Learning Revolution, page 368).

At the schools in the Timu Academy Trust we have endeavoured to develop an ethos which will create a stress free environment which will enable children to focus their brains on learning rather than produce stress induced responses.

Children are greeted by senior members of staff at the front door, and this gives an opportunity for both parents and children to express any concerns they may have at any level. Class teachers or teaching assistants greet their children into the classroom at the door/cloakroom using their name as well as saying hello.

Feelings charts are used as a check in. Children are encouraged to put their name against the word that best expresses their mood at that time and adults will make a point of making contact with any children who may be feeling upset, anxious, etc. Adults in the classroom are also encouraged to check in. Children may move their name around the feelings chart during the day as their emotional state changes. The feelings charts help the children to develop their understanding of their own feelings and can begin to empathise with others.

Both schools also operate a non shouting ethos where children are always spoken to calmly and quietly, even when the situation may be difficult.

It is also our policy to behave towards all our children and each other positively, avoiding negative comments at all times. If we feel there is a problem this must be discussed quietly and in confidence.