

A Return to Simple : Blueprint for Success

The endlessly justifiable drive to improve student performance (why would you want children to start adult life with fewer skills and abilities?) has increased expectations, increased stresses and decreased mental wellbeing both sides of the student staff divide. Time has been made for interventions and catch up sessions, for workshops and extension lessons. Only, there seems to be one thing that has been lost in the blur of performance enhancement. Amidst the roar of challenge and of stretch has been a quietly insistent call. As teachers have drawn frustrated battle lines and equally frustrated student rebellions have been launched, a system of consequence has been created to try contain it all. “You need to be here, and you haven’t gone there”; “you mustn’t do that and you really should care...” but that nagging call has questioned “does anyone care..?”

This last year has highlighted the fact that we need a way of reducing the lists of requirements and of removing those barriers to enjoyable engagement with learning. We needed a return to simple. Our community needs that intangible life-force that creates security and openness and collaboration and celebration, we needed core values that everyone can remember, to embody through our actions our language and our thoughts. Science suggests that although the human brain can remember up to 7 digits at a time, all good messages come in threes, 3 really **is** the magic number. So with much collaborative discussion our staff have created a Blueprint of magic 3s, the heart and soul of which are our **3 Rules**

Our Rules

1. Be Ready
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe

In addition to these core value rules we will be promoting **3 Adult Consistencies** that students and adults will be able to see in all walks of SDCC life. And in our work together we shall be on a constant watch for **3 Over and Above** behaviours that will be celebrated wherever seen.

Visible Adult Consistencies

1. Be Warm & Welcoming
2. Be a Positive Presence
3. Be Calm at All Times

Over & Above Recognition

1. Putting others first
2. Rising to a Challenge
3. Showing Resilience

Will we still have policies on, for example, uniform, safeguarding, discrimination and transport? Yes. Are we going to argue over the content? No. Our core values expect a respect for those policies as part of what we stand for at South Dartmoor. These policies assist us in creating that ready, respectful and safe environment we all want it to be.