

# KNOWLE PRIMARY ACADEMY SMILE AGENDA REVIEW



2024-2025



'Growing in God's Love;  
Flourishing Together'

The footer features a decorative banner with a light blue background. On the left is a small heart-shaped tree with red and orange leaves. On the right is a larger, colorful tree with many different fruits and flowers. The banner is decorated with small, colorful flowers along the bottom edge.

# Introduction

The **SMILE** agenda underpins the ethos of Knowle Primary Academy and it aligns beautifully with our school values. The SMILE agenda is based on the NHS *Five Ways to Wellbeing*. In our Academy, it helps us to focus on **living and breathing** the school values, which are the Fruit of the Spirit:

**Love** - **Joy** - **Peace** - **Patience** - **Kindness** - **Goodness**  
**Faithfulness** - **Gentleness** - **Self Control**

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Over the course of each academic year, our students plan, resource and deliver on a range of charitable events which raise money for (or raise the profile of) various charities both locally and globally. This is fundamental for developing the children's understanding of challenges that we face and, most importantly, finding solutions to help tackle global issues. This starts on our doorstep, right here in Knowle. As students progress through the school, they support charities and foundations such as Oxfam, Mchenga school in Malawi, Refugees from Africa, a local retirement home, the Foodbank in Sparkhill, the Royal British Legion and Knowle Parish Church to name a few.



**Socialise** (Connect) We connect with the people around us, our families, friends, neighbours and our community. We spend time developing these relationships. **KINDNESS PATIENCE LOVE**

**Move** (Be Active) We keep active at school and at home. We aim to pursue physical activity we enjoy. **GOODNESS JOY**

**Interest** (Take Notice) We develop our curiosity and ask questions. We aim to notice the beautiful or the unusual. We practice 'Mindfulness' – being 'in the moment', being aware and reflecting on our feelings and experiences. **JOY PEACE**

**Learn** (Keep Learning) Learning is good for us! We endeavour to try new things or take on new responsibilities. We set ourselves challenges that we will enjoy achieving. We aim to become more confident with each new success. **SELF-CONTROL**

**Engage** (Give to Others) We aim to do something nice for a friend or a stranger. We say 'Thank you' and SMILE! We aim to volunteer and give our time, looking out as well as in. We try to make a contribution to the wider life of our school, our family and our community. **LOVE KINDNESS GOODNESS**

## S.M.I.L.E in EYFS



As part of our SMILE agenda, children in Nursery gain a strong sense of self and belonging to our 'Nursery Family' throughout the academic year. Our children begin to understand the wider community to which they belong to and understand ways they can give to others. To support this, children in nursery were excited to participate and hold their very own **Bertie Bear's Fundraising Event** to help raise money for unwell children at Birmingham Children's Hospital.



Charitable donations play a vital role in shaping the future of paediatric care, helping to create state-of-the-art spaces that allow them to treat more children in better environments. Our support ensures that every child receives the best possible care in a setting that feels safe, comfortable and welcoming. Donations also enhance hospital facilities to provide cutting-edge treatment spaces. They support pioneering research, enabling clinical teams to develop new treatments and innovative approaches to care.

Our Bertie Bear's Fundraising Event took place on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July** and we were delighted to share this special event with parents/carers of our Nursery children.

During the event our nursery children and their families had the opportunity to listen to and join in with the retelling of '*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*,' and enjoy a teddy bear themed snack. To raise money, the children took part in the following activities at a small cost:

- Name and Win Bertie the Bear Competition
- Create a Teddy Bear Decoration
- Teddy Bear Tattoos
- Bertie Bear's Lucky Dip
- Pick a stick Lucky Dip

Our fundraising event was a huge success! Our target was to raise £100 for unwell children at Birmingham Children's Hospital but we exceeded this raising a whopping **£246.40!**





## S.M.I.L.E in Year 2

### African School Fundraiser

Year Two finished their Amazing Africa topic with a celebration of all they have learnt over the half term. They welcomed parents and family members to hear them sing favourite songs, share artwork and writing and taste the delicious smoothies that they had made in Design and Technology lessons. In total, Year Two raised an incredible **£174.23** and this money will go towards new desks for our partner school in Mchenga.

*"I enjoyed the African afternoon because I like raising money for Africa and people who are poor. I LOVED the smoothies!" Harisan*

*"I really liked singing the songs and speaking to the audience. I had a speaking part and felt really proud- I had to hold my art paintings of the sunset up which felt good. We raised lots of money too! Callie*



### Care home carol concert

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, Year Two went to spread some Christmas cheer with carol singing at Eleanor Lodge Retirement Living in Knowle. During the visit, the children delivered their bespoke Christmas cards to their selected resident. Children were tasked with following the design criteria which was specified by each resident, in order to make personalised moving cards- the children created some amazing designs and were very excited to meet their resident in person! Our key question for this unit of work was, 'Can we make a resident smile?' A resounding yes was the result!



*"I loved singing songs for the elderly and making them happy by making them a special Christmas card" Hugo*



## S.M.I.L.E in Year 3

As our students move up to Key Stage 2, the fundraising and SMILE agenda continues to underpin their learning. Fundraising for Oxfam towards the East Africa Hunger Crisis plays a major part of the curriculum for the Summer term. John McLaverty- the youth campaigner for Oxfam- speaks to the students about the importance of the work that Oxfam does. Our students then plan and deliver a range of charitable events which raise money for the charity. A cake sale in the spring term and enterprise fundraising in the Summer term allow the students to take ownership of their charitable work.



This year, the cake sale raised **£433** and the enterprise work raised **£148**- a grand total of **£581**. The work carried out across Year Three proves invaluable to the children's understanding of fundraising and the impact that they can have on the lives of others.

The children also had the opportunity to create a striking banner for Oxfam that will be displayed at school. The banner was made of hessian and measured a whopping 2.5mx 1.5m. The children created their own design ideas based on Oxfam's theme of 'Climate Justice'. We gathered their ideas and created one final design for the banner. They then went onto painting it and it truly was an awesome team effort to get it completed! We think you would agree the banner looks incredible and with its eye-catching design will help spread the message of looking after our environment and the impact it has on our climate.

*"I loved making the canapes for the picnic on the field- parents loved them and we raised lots of money! Seth*

*"We brought in cakes from home and sold them at the end of the day. We had a little stall and it was very busy! I got to help with the cake sale which I really enjoyed." George*

*"Everyone was involved with making the banner. Mrs McGonigle did a design and we got to paint it- it looks amazing and we feel really proud of it!" Scarlett*



## S.M.I.L.E in Year 4

### Harvest

In the Autumn term, our Year Four students put on a Harvest Festival performance at Knowle Parish Church. This event promotes the donation of food to those in need. Alongside the church, school donated an incredible **740kg** of food which translates to **1761** meals for those in need. Truly amazing work.

*“We felt so proud because we knew that we were helping people that didn’t have any food. We did a harvest service in church which went very well- lots of people came to watch and we collected lots of food donations.”*

*Orlaith Cronin*



### Foodbank

We were also delighted to continue our work supporting our local community this year as Year Four learn about the Sparkhill Foodbank in Tyseley. We learned all about the important work that the foodbank do and find out how the donations are distributed. Greg from Tesco came to speak to us at school. He helped us to understand the importance of the foodbank work and how much people in need rely on this essential charity. As a school, we take great pride in our charity work and believe that helping those in greater need than ourselves is an important part of our development.



### Chocolate evening

The children worked incredibly hard to prepare for a very special 'Chocolate Enterprise' evening, which parents, governors and special guests from Sparkhill Foodbank were invited to attend. This talented group of Year 4 children designed and made their own chocolate bars containing a variety of ingredients, packaged them using their very own designs, and wrote, directed and starred in their very own chocolate adverts which left our audience in stitches! Most importantly, we raised a significant amount of money for Sparkhill Foodbank to support those in need in our local community. Special recognition goes to 'Super Shot', who won 'Best Overall Campaign' and 'Singing Star Bar', whose table of supporters raised the most in donations on the evening. Thank you to all who attended and thank you to Mrs Eades for all of her hard work behind the scenes- for creating a magical 'Rainforest Cafe' as a backdrop for the event. We managed to raise a whopping **£808** for the foodbank which is the largest amount we have raised to date! Thank you for your generosity!



*“The chocolate evening was really fun because we got to taste chocolate that we had made. We got to present our adverts to the parents and raise lots of money for charity. My chocolate bar was called Jungle Crunch and it had digestive biscuits and rice crispies in it- it was delicious!” Emma Griffith*



## S.M.I.L.E in Year 5

### Refugee Links



Year 5 were fortunate enough to have visitors come from *Stories of Hope and Home* to share their stories. Fatmata and Virginia shared with us their harrowing tales of leaving their countries and coming to the UK. This opportunity allowed us to write with the purpose to help them have the life they hope for in the UK. We are so grateful to have had this experience and thankful for what we have. Hopefully, we can use their stories to help them and others who seek asylum in our country. We are delighted to report that Year Five raised **£536.53** in support of our charity work.

*“A lot of refugees had to go through a lot of stuff. They had to travel across a whole desert and she hasn’t even seen her son since leaving. She has only just been granted citizenship after 20 years.” Seb*

*“They both had successful businesses that they had to leave behind.” Freddie*

*“We wrote a letter to the MP asking him to let asylum seekers work in the UK and to speed up the process to get refugee status.” Grace*

*“We planned an exercise circuit to try and raise money through sponsorship. We raised over £500 for the charities.” Freddie*



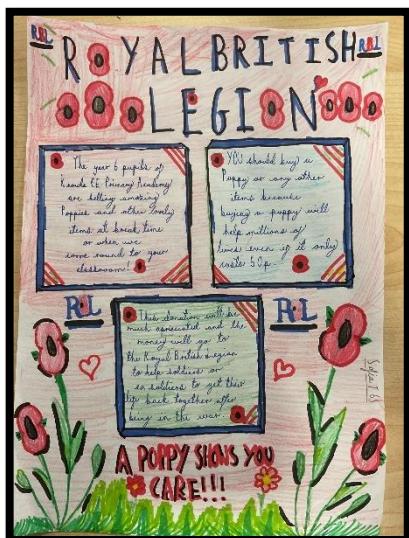
Year Five monitored food waste at lunchtime, raised awareness about the importance of not wasting food across school, supported younger children within the dining hall and managed to gradually reduce waste over the year. This initiative proved incredibly successful and we were able to reduce the amount of food thrown out each day. We also worked closely with the kitchen staff to ensure that they were making just the right amount of each dish so that

we weren’t throwing away more food than we needed to in the kitchen. They try to use un-eaten food at other opportunities, for example they will use leftover fruit or vegetables to make a dessert the next day.

*“Every day, we take it in turns to monitor the food waste from Y1 to Y6. We had to keep track and measure the weight each day. After encouraging the children to eat more, we managed to reduce the waste by half!” Seb*

## S.M.I.L.E in Year 6

### Royal British Legion



In year 6, as part of our SMILE agenda, we support the Royal British Legion.



All year 6 pupils were invited to the Royal British Legion, in Knowle, to find out more details about where the money that is raised by the charity goes, how much our school raised towards the Poppy Appeal, and to see who had won the competition set by the Legion. The competition was to write a letter from someone who had had to go away because of war, or from someone who had been left behind.

The children prepared questions beforehand and we were all very impressed with how sensible and incisive the questions were. We discovered how the RBL has supported people in both the local and national areas, supporting ex-servicemen and women (and their families) with injuries, mental health and housing problems. We also learned how the RBL was originally started and how it is active all over the world. As a school, helped by the persuasive adverts made by Year 6 children and those who sold the poppies around different year groups, we raised a fantastic **£617!** Thank you to everyone who donated.



All the entrants received a keyring and a slap-band, too. Well done to everyone who took part and to all the children - they were a credit to the school and the RBL is looking forward to welcoming them back next year. They were delighted to welcome us and to continue forging such positive community links.

*"I loved dressing up as an evacuee when we went to the Royal British Legion. Ex-military soldiers spoke to us about their experience of the war. There was a writing competition where you had to write a story about D-Day which was judged by the RBL." Aaran*

*"It felt heart-warming to see everyone stand in silence and remember all those who fell in the war. It was a privilege and an honour to lay the wreath." Sophia*

## Whole School Initiatives 2024-25

This year has been hugely successful, as you will appreciate from reading through the reports in this document. Whilst individual year groups have flourished through their SMILE programmes of study, whole school initiatives have had a significant impact. They are as follows:

### SEND Sports Coaching (Move)



Whilst we have still maintained our lunchtime sports coaching, we have specifically targeted our SEND PE sessions to help students develop both their gross motor skills alongside their social and teamwork skills. The sessions have been fantastic and have enabled students to flourish in a smaller, focussed group with well-planned and resourced lessons. Weekly lessons build on previous learning and enable children to grow in confidence as their abilities progress shine through. Last year, students were making little to no

progress in PE lessons however, due to their fantastic SEND sessions, the average depth of students has increased by +0.78! 100% of students have made positive progress compared to this point last year and we are delighted with their achievements. Our SEND PE coaching will continue into next academic year. Thanks to Chloe and the team at Adaptive Sports for their fundraising and hard work this year.

*“The children are always excited for the sessions and the parents often talk to me on the door saying how much their child is looking forward to PE that day.” Mrs Rai*

*“I like playing golf in the sessions and it makes me feel happy.” Alana*

*“I like to play tennis in our sessions.” Ellora*

*“I like dodgeball, cricket and tennis because in cricket you get to bat! I feel so, so, so very happy.” Jake*

*“It’s really enjoyable because you get to spend time with your friends” Rex*

### Forest School (Interest)



Our Forest School sessions have been highly successful this year. Every year group has benefitted from our bespoke outdoor provision which has inspired the children’s love of the great outdoors. From making fires to building dens, the children have explored the beautiful environment as well as honing skills such as teamwork and communication. They have taken measured risks to achieve significant successes. The children and staff love the outdoor sessions and take our learning at Knowle to a whole other level.



Mrs Harris, our qualified Forest School leader, plans and delivers the sessions alongside teaching staff. We feel very lucky indeed to have such a wonderful provision on site.



## Mental Health (Engage/ Interest/ Move)



Mental health and well-being has been a significant priority this year. Across the school, students have taken part in events and challenges which have been carefully designed to support their mental well-being. **World Mental Health Day** (10<sup>th</sup> October) proved an important launch for our campaign of better mental health for everyone- staff and students!

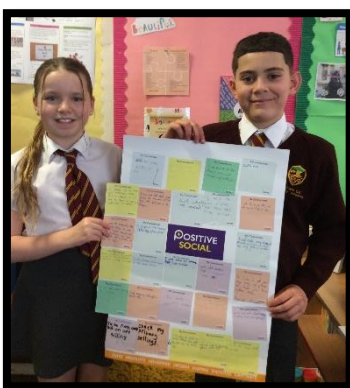
It fed beautifully into our **'Drop The Screen'** campaign which inspired students, teachers, parents, governors, the local community and other schools to drop their screens and spend time doing something more beneficial- learning a new skill, spending time outdoors, producing artwork or reading a book. The campaign drew significant interest from celebrities such as David Walliams, Joel Fearon and J.K Rowling. As a school community, we pledged to drop our screens for over 35,000 minutes per week! This had a valued impact on home life as parents reported that:

*'This has been absolutely fantastic for our family'*

*'We are so pleased that our daughter attends a school which takes mental well-being and the potential negative impacts of screens seriously, thank you!'*

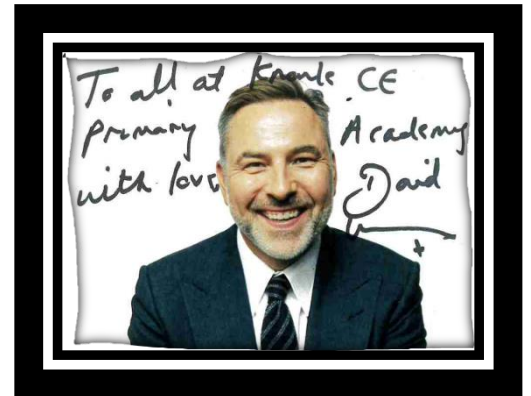
Children and staff have also taken part in 'no-tech Tuesdays' where lessons are carefully designed to ensure that screens are not being used at all. This includes assemblies where live piano accompaniment and memorable lyrics have been used to avoid the use of a screen. We are hugely impressed by our school councillors who have diligently designed and promoted this wonderful campaign.

**Please scan here to see the promotional video for our campaign:**



Positive social visited our Year Five and Year Six students to talk about safe and responsible use of technology. This fed beautifully into our campaign, equipping our older students with the knowledge and skills to ensure that they are positively supporting their mental well-being through the responsible use of technology and social media.

Joel Fearon, an Olympic sprinter and bobsledder visited Knowle in July to lead fitness circuits with the students. He also led an inspirational assembly which was very well received by all. The children were sponsored to complete the activities which was incredibly successful, raising **£5239**.



**The grand total raised for charities in the academic Year 2024-2025:**

**£8202.16**

### **Main Drivers for 2025-26**

Next academic year, we will be focussing on the following areas:

- 1- **Socialise-** our *Drop The Screen* initiative will reach new heights as we take our campaign to the next level. We will take our campaign and share it with all of the headteachers and school leaders across the diocese of Birmingham. In doing this, we hope to take our campaign to as many schools as possible in the diocese.
- 2- **Engage-** We endeavour to strengthen our links with local food banks in year four to give students hands-on experience of helping provide meals to those less fortunate.
- 3- **Learn-** Our bespoke RE curriculum is being rolled out across the school during the 2025-26 academic year. This will be delivered across school and transform students' understanding of the Bible, the stories held within it and the teachings of Jesus.  
Our PSHE Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will take their role to new levels as they take on further training and share their expertise with the school through assemblies. The role of peer listeners will continue to be utilised in supporting and engaging with students who have concerns, worries or just need a friendly ear to listen.