

A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and Life for our Children and Schools Post Pandemic

Introduction

The Gateway have put the child's well-being at the centre of our thinking. We acknowledge that the children will have had different experiences during this time. However, the common thread running through all is the loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These losses can trigger anxiety in any child. Some of you may have experienced this with your own children.

We know that an anxious child is not in a place to learn effectively. So with this in mind, the school community has thought about the most effective way to support your child's ability to learn. This approach will encompass and support the academic expectations for your child.

What is it?

Professor Barry Carpenter has developed the Recovery Curriculum, as a response to the losses described above. It is a way for schools to help children come back into school life, acknowledging the experiences the children have had. We want children to be happy, feel safe and able to be engaged in their learning. We have decided that a way to achieve this for the children is to acknowledge the importance of helping them lever back into school life using the following **5 Levers**.

The 5 Levers of Recovery

THE 5 LEVERS OF RECOVERY

LEVER 1: RELATIONSHIPS

We will not necessarily expect our children to return joyfully. Many of the relationships that were thriving, such as with friends, teachers, supporting adults may need to be invested in and restored. We will plan for this to happen, not assume that it will.

LEVER 2: COMMUNITY

We will recognise that your child's curriculum will have been based at home for a long time. We will listen to what has happened in this time, understand the needs of our community and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.

LEVER 3: TRANSPARENT CURRICULUM

Our children may well feel they have lost time with their learning at school and we want to show them that we understand this and that we will help them to become confident learners at school.

LEVER 4: METACOGNITION

In different environments, children will have been learning in different ways and may have developed different styles of learning. It is vital that we acknowledge this.

LEVER 5: SPACE - TO BE, TO REDISCOVER SELF, AND TO FIND THEIR VOICE ON LEARNING IN THIS ISSUE

It is only natural that we all work at an incredible pace to make sure this group of learners are not disadvantaged against their peers, providing opportunity and exploration alongside the intensity of our expectations.

Professor Barry Carpenter, CBE is Professor of Mental Health in Education at Oxford Brookes University. He has visited Whitfield Aspen School twice and on both occasions delivered inspiring CPD to our staff.

Below is a link to his podcast on the Recovery Curriculum.

<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/#mentalhealth>