

Golden Choices at Stanford Infant School **Information Sheet for Families**



Our Values:

At Stanford School, we have a set of Golden Values, which are based on fundamental principles that everybody who works and learns in the school can understand and uphold. These values are part of everyday life, so it is good to reinforce them at home too!

These are our Golden Values in school:

- ✓ We are *friendly*
- ✓ We are *respectful*
- ✓ We are *excellent*
- ✓ We are *courageous*

When these are upheld, we are proud!

Our ethos is shared through a safe and happy learning environment that promotes a culture of creativity, mutual respect, improvement, diversity and equality. If children are finding elements of school tricky and are in danger of not upholding one or more of the Golden Values in class or elsewhere in the school or playground our Behaviour Consequences Pathway is activated:

Stage 1 – non-verbal communication, e.g. eye contact (the look!)

Stage 2 – verbal warnings (usually 3 maximum)

Stage 3 – discussion time with a grown-up

Stage 4 - initials written discretely on a small whiteboard

Stage 5 - if the child continues to ignore the warnings they will lose an allotted period of their Golden Choice – usually a 5-minute block (you will always be informed if this is the case).

We believe that children should be rewarded for upholding the Golden Values and our Golden Choices Time provides exciting and enriching activities for the children that they hopefully won't want to miss! Ideally, those children who have a tendency towards disruptive behaviour will be less inclined to continue if they are risking the loss of a privilege and something they are looking forward to! Therefore, encouraging all children to make wise choices everyday and ensure a safe and happy learning environment for all.

Golden Choices – When and How?

Golden Choices takes place on a Friday morning for approximately 45 minutes, straight after our celebration assembly – there are more grown-ups in school in the morning who are able to offer a 'Golden Choice' and it is seen as an important part of the school week, rather than just a rusty old time at the end of Friday afternoon. It is a real community event, with children across the school celebrating our positive ethos.

P.T.O

Each grown-up in the school offers an activity – these are very wide-ranging!

In the Autumn Term Reception design their own version of Golden Choices to get the children used to mixing between their classes before they are part of the whole school celebration from the Spring Term onwards.

As you can see, there is a wide range of exciting and enriching activities for the children to select from and look forward to. Obviously, each club has a different limit on numbers according to the support each child may need to access the club, for example, more adult support will be required with children learning to sew or cook than those playing games. We are sure you can appreciate that it is no easy task co-ordinating 270 children's wishes; however, we do try our best and if they don't receive their first choice during a half-term, they are top priority for the next. This also reinforces resilience; with children managing their feelings and being pleased with the activity offered to them. All of the activities on offer develop independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection. It is lovely to see the children mixing with other children across different year groups and the Year 2 children being positive role models and helping the younger children. The Golden Choices will change each half-term, constantly shining it up to make it a truly sparkly time! Updates on the choices on offer each half-term will be communicated through our fortnightly Newsletter.

Time to Reflect?

Children may from time to time lose some of their Golden Choice as a result of making inappropriate choices. The amount lost will depend on the type and seriousness of the incident. This is a consequence for their actions but hopefully they will love the new activities so much it should not happen very often! During their loss of Golden Choice, they will reflect on the choices made and think about how they are going to improve the following week.

Outcome:

Golden Values have a very high profile and we will be celebrating the school's positive behaviour every Friday morning. Please talk to your child about their 'Golden Choice'; we are sure they will be excited to tell you about it!

A copy of our Behaviour Policy can be found on our website: www.stanfordinfants.co.uk under the Schools Info, Policies.