



The Importance of **WELCOME**



PREPARATION BELONGING GENUINE SAFETY VALUED

When we are person centred the first thing we consider is
WELCOME.

“Never underestimate the importance of welcome.”



Welcome is the first key to inclusion. If the place that we start from makes us feel valued and safe, our relationships and experiences are far more likely to be successful and positive.



What helps us to feel welcome?

What does a good welcome look like to us?

Is it the same for everyone?



For more information and resources visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/pts



Things to consider when thinking about how our school welcomes back our returning pupils and welcomes in new pupils:

1. **Information in advance** – what would be helpful for us to be aware of before the young person comes to school? For example, levels of anxiety, family challenges, bereavements... How will we find this out? Could we use questionnaires or One Page Profiles?

2. **What can we share** – what is important to the individual? What do they need to know to feel prepared and comfortable? How can we share:



- ◆ What school will look like?
- ◆ What they need to bring?
- ◆ Where will they need to go?
- ◆ Who will be with them?



3. **On the first day** – how will we welcome the pupils? Is the entrance of our school welcoming? Is there someone there to welcome the pupils?

4. How can we as staff give a **5 Star Welcome**? Think about:

- Open body language and genuine smiles!
- Personalised welcomes
- Our language



5. **Whole School Community** - “our untapped resource”

- Welcome committees
- Welcome booklets and guides
- Buddy systems



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