



Human Scale Education: principles that inform our policy and practice

The principles of Human Scale Education are based in Humanity of Scale, Relationships, Social Justice, Democratic Voice, and Community.

Humanity of Scale

This value of the humanity of scale informs a commitment to exploring the benefits of smaller learning communities to academic learning and pedagogy. It understands that smaller learning communities of themselves are not sufficient. It is what being small enables schools and the professional community of teachers to do in terms of new approaches to learning, pedagogy, and assessment that will re-engage young people with their education that is central.

Primacy of Relationships

This value informs a commitment to putting relationships at the heart of the design and organisation and practice of schools and understanding the reciprocal relationship between the emotional wellbeing of pupils and their academic attainment. Children learn in and through relationships and building social and emotional capital in children is an everyday part of a teacher's role. This commitment includes support for the development of 'professional communities of staff' with training in child development, attachment theory, as well as learning theory, as the theoretical underpinning of policy and practice.

Social Justice

This value informs the commitment to narrow the gap between those who achieve in our schools and those do not – the significant numbers of young people in disadvantaged schools and communities who make little or no progress through the education system. The way we respond to the disaffected and difficult to engage young is critical for the young people themselves, for the success of our school system and for the health and wealth of our society.

Democratic Voice

This value informs the commitment that staff, pupils and parent voice should not only be heard but also acted upon. The argument is that through the eyes and voices of the child, the teacher and the parent we should ensure views are listened to, participation supported.

Community

This value informs a commitment to offering young people a positive experience living in community that they can take into their adult lives, looking back on their schooling with pride and affection, and an understanding that to make any significant change to the life chances of young people at risk of disengagement we need to connect school based education with families and communities.