Belonging Matters Charter Mark

12/6/25

THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL

SERVE · PRAY · ACHIEVE · RESPECT

Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.

What is the Charter Mark?

The aim of the Charter Mark is to recognise a school's commitment towards supporting international new arrivals and their families. It is comprised of an audit of the provisions that are already in place within the school and an action plan to help address any gaps/incorporate new learning. The information from the focus group and survey questions have been organised into these four key areas below:

- Providing a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Assessing new arrivals holistically - considering both academic and mental health needs
- Providing ongoing learning and pastoral support
- Supporting parents/carers (including hosts and sponsors)

Objectives at the start of the process

At the initial meeting on 09/10/2024 The Barlow RC High School senior leaders identified the following hopes for taking part in the Belonging Matters Chartermark:

- To better understand the cohort of the school and to gain an insight into the views of pupils.
- To gather information and tips from other schools around supporting INA and EAL pupils.
- To ensure there is a whole school approach to welcoming INA pupils.
- To make sure school doesn't have isolated pockets of knowledge and that all staff are confident in supporting with the welcome and belonging of INA pupils.
- To be able to disseminate knowledge gained.

Work we have completed

- A Senior Educational Psychologist and an Assistant Psychologist from Catalyst Psychology visited the school to undertake the required data collection for the audit, consisting of two focus groups and hard data collection.
- A survey was completed by pupils/staff/parents and carers.
- Following the data collection, a follow-up meeting was arranged to discuss the audit data and to plan the bespoke actions and next steps that were required to work towards achieving the Charter Mark.

Work we have completed

- The Charter Mark ‘Belonging Matters’ was achieved which helped us to audit our practice around EAL and INA pupils and to put a plan in place to develop our provision.
- Developing our admissions process for INA pupils so they feel more welcome.
- Developing a peer mentoring system for INA pupils and a stronger pastoral offer.
- English staff have begun assessing pupils’ language proficiency using The Bell Foundation framework.
- Strategies have been placed on Class Charts where staff can implement these into their day-to-day practice.
- Improving parental engagement (questionnaires and coffee morning).

The Barlow's EAL demographic

Total number of EAL pupils per year group

- ✓ Year 7 – 36 pupils (19.7%)
- ✓ Year 8 – 27 pupils (14.8%)
- ✓ Year 9 – 37 pupils (20.1%)
- ✓ Year 10 – 37 pupils (20.8%)

- This is growing for many factors, including our proximity to the Britannia Hotel, where pupils may join us in really challenging circumstances.
- Increased staff training in this area will continue into next academic year.

Why we have done this piece of work

- It is part of a wider initiative to enhance educational outcomes and wellbeing support for young people who have recently arrived in the region.
- Achieving this recognition highlights The Barlow's dedication to ensuring all pupils, regardless of background, feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

The Feedback

- Parents feel welcomed to attend parental sessions (e.g. coffee mornings, support sessions) at their child's school.
- Parents feel included in the school community.
- Parents feel their culture is celebrated at their child/children's school.
- Pupils feel included in their class.
- Pupils feel safe when they are at school.
- Pupils feel happy when they are at school
- Staff reported increased confidence around supporting pupil learning and communicating with a INA pupil in their class.
- Staff reported increased confidence using strategies, including translation apps, to support INA pupils.

Keeping Your Child Safe Online – Join Us

We're inviting all parents and carers to a vital **in-person session** on **online safety**, hosted at **The Barlow**.

Date: 10th July 2025
Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Location: The Barlow RC High School

Featuring:
- **Experts from Manchester Healthy Schools**
- **Feedback from Mrs Staniforth, Designated Safeguarding Lead, on this year's Online Safety Survey (pupils & parents/carers)**

What You'll Learn:

1. Practical tips on how to protect your child online.
2. Trends in apps and social media every parent/carer should know.
3. The positives and challenges of online use.
4. Risks your child may face online.
5. The impact on mental well-being.



Empower yourself with the knowledge and tools to support your child in the digital world.

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