

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	08 October 2025
Title of Report:	A Belonging Framework for Plymouth
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Rob Williams (Tedd Wragg Trust)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the Belonging Framework is to support school improvement in Plymouth by placing belonging at the centre of how children engage, attend, and achieve. In the wake of the pandemic and ongoing cost of living pressures, many pupils feel disconnected from school life. This framework helps schools create inclusive cultures where every child feels safe, recognised, and valued, because when pupils feel they belong, they are more likely to attend, participate, and succeed. Grounded in research and shaped by local voices, the framework offers practical strategies across eight key areas, from leadership and curriculum to transitions and community engagement, while allowing each school to tailor its approach to fit its unique context and values.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. For the Panel to note the report and endorse the approach being taken.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. None.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

- Making Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old
- Keeping children, adults and communities safe
- Providing quality public services
- Focusing on prevention and early intervention

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Not addressing the challenges set out in the report will continue to put pressure on schools and local authority Children's Services

Financial Risks

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

None.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

[illegible]

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills)</p> <p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 30/09/2025</p>											

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Cresswell approved via email

Date approved: 29/09/2025