

ASSOCIATE

## JULIE REES

*“By having the strength to live and breathe your beliefs, you enable others to succeed”*



*“And remember, you are living each value throughout the year, NOT just during the month you are focusing on it!” - The Little Book of Values*

If, as the research suggests, learning is ‘state dependent’ - that the way we feel and the environment we are in will determine how well we learn more than anything else - what can we do to make sure that we have the best possible climate for learning in our schools? “The school is a microcosm of the world. What is created in our school today can provide a glimpse of how our world can be tomorrow”

The answer to this challenge is something that Julie Rees has been working on for many years with a particular emphasis on ‘Values Based Education’ to lead two schools as Head teacher over the last fourteen years.

It seems as though she has found what she has been looking for through using Vbe to drive her schools to be very successful. Julie, in her second headship, is at Ledbury Primary School, her first post leading a primary school facing all the challenges of a deprived rural area. The Values Based Education approach she has brought to both schools, something that originated in Oxfordshire, has radically transformed the quality of life for all

children and staff.

For a month at a time the school focuses on one of a range of 22 distinct values such as trust, responsibility, courage and, yes, even love, in a way that goes far beyond the normal lip service we give these important factors. Indeed, Julie is currently working with the councillors and traders in Ledbury to embed this philosophy across the town.

Through this approach, Julie’s school ensures that these values are embodied in word and deed by children and all staff – including lunchtime supervisors and the receptionists – and in a way that is real, tangible and transformational. In fact, three key elements of Values Education are modelling, leadership presence and what is called ‘The Art of Personal Consistency’, so these values are demonstrated daily, consistently and throughout the school.

The impact of this philosophy is reflected through high achievements and very good attendance figures (pupil attendance for year ending July 2014 was 97.7%).

### Books written by Julie Rees:

- *The Little Book of Values*

### Feedback from recent Events:

*“An excellent speaker. Passionate about what she does and believes in. An example to us all – she made me cry “*

*“Excellent. What brilliant ideas and leadership”*

*“An inspiration to us all. Made me remember about positivity and having fun – Learning should be fun”*

*“Excellent presentation. Felt empowered by her – so much so that I bought her book”*

Julie has been with Independent Thinking since 2005.

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