Explain how the ethos, mission, aims and values of a school may be reflected in working practices

Ethos, mission, aims, and values, are the underpinning principles by which the school operates with regards to pupils, achievement, outside community links, and strategies such as anti-bullying and peer support.

It is important that you understand the differences between these concepts, and how they link together to create a framework of culture, attitude, and attainment, within the school.

**Ethos**
The ethos consists of values and beliefs that contribute to the character of the school itself, and the atmosphere experienced by all those who go there. It is based on the philosophy of the school and is developed through discussions with staff, parents, and community representatives.

**Mission**
The overall intention of the school is the mission; it may be a short, easily recalled phrase or a single word. It usually overlaps with the vision or aims of the school.

**Aims (vision)**
Aims of the school may be short statements like 'instilling a thirst for life-long learning in children' or 'giving pupils the confidence to take up opportunities when they are offered'.

**Values**
The values of a school represent the moral code that links it with its local community, and informs expected behaviours and attitudes of pupils. Values are often tied in with school rules.
How the ethos, mission, aims, and values of a school link with working practices

What is written in the school's literature should be immediately apparent in the school itself, and any visitor should be able to observe the practice of the underpinning principles of ethos and values etc. for themselves, just by walking around.

Children-centered learning

How much the children are valued by the school, its staff, and by each other should be seen very clearly in the way that the learning and development culture is celebrated by the school, from posters and displays, to award-ceremonies and competitions, and genuine pride exhibited by pupils.

Collaborative working

In order to learn more effectively, children should be encouraged to learn together and to collaborate with each other and with staff members, so that their learning and learning styles become more entrenched in a positive and effective way.

Attitudes of staff and pupils

Atmosphere at a school is often based around the attitudes of those who go there; staff and pupils. How inclusive the school is, how its pupils and staff respect school property, the uniform if there is one, and how they treat each other.

Inclusive environment

It should be clear to all visitors that the school respects and values diversity and equal opportunities, and that these things are part of the commitment of the school to a learning environment that is safe and secure and accepting for all learners.

Community cohesion

Community cohesion is the bonding and 'togetherness' that is demonstrated by members of a community. In a practical sense, it is how a school forms links with members of the community, and partnerships that are made with people and organisations from that community in order to give children more opportunities and to advance their learning.

This is a great example of a school's very clear aims and ethos: Longleaze Primary School, Wiltshire