

Welcome to Whitchurch Primary School!



Achieving Our Best
Together!



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'Children like to come to school' is one of the most important and pleasing statements I've heard in my time as Headteacher at Whitchurch Primary School. It encapsulates everything you could want from a school. Children like to come here because they learn, from the most able children who thrive from our challenging extension work and specialist days to the children who do not find learning easy, aided and assisted by our strong support systems and scaffolded lessons. Children like to come here because they are safe, made so on a whole school scale through our caring, well trained staff and training sessions, to the individual, nurtured by our kind and caring ethos and specialist support personnel. Most importantly, children have fun at our school, taking advantage of our extensive grounds, engaging lessons in school, superb resources and unending opportunities available every day.

Your child joins us at one of the most exciting periods in the school's history. Our current OFSTED inspection awarded us our best rating ever, and our last set of results saw us perform above national. We are now redeveloping our teaching pedagogy school wide, ensuring every child will thrive. Children will not only thrive in their writing, reading and maths but also in music, design, cooking, fencing, Spanish, skate boarding... the list is endless. It really is little wonder children like to come to school at Whitchurch Primary, and we are sure for these reasons your child will too!

Carl Hornsby,
Head Teacher.

Values and good behaviour.

At Whitchurch Primary School our values are simple, uncomplicated and clear. They are 6 words:

Respect Effort Determination Caring Awareness Friendship

To our children these values are core to everything that happens, not just a poster on a wall. Assemblies, both in class and whole school, explain to the children what these values mean, and what they look like on a school, local and worldly scale. Rewards aplenty are given for showing them! Children receive certificates, stickers, raffle tickets and 'digital tokens' for showing the values, and this not only makes children want to do their best, but also encourages others as the points contribute to 'House awards' meaning all children benefit from great behaviour!

In 2023 we completely redefined our behaviour rules to make them easy and clear to follow. They are simple: **Be ready, be kind, be safe.** All children understand, appreciate and follow these rules, making Whitchurch Primary a safe and happy place to be!



'Our son enjoys coming to Whitchurch Primary! He is an excited learner who tells us stories of what he has done throughout the day. We can't wait for his sister to join!' Parent comment.

Teaching and Learning.

Whitchurch Primary School was one of the first schools nationally to teach children using the 'Mastery system'. We thoroughly investigated and researched mastery, and through continuous professional development and training with our teachers and support staff it was quickly embedded throughout the school. Having been recognised as the best way to teach children across the country, we are proud to have led in this area.



Using our mastery system, we ensure each child's needs are at the centre of our teaching. Using the very latest national curriculum, we plan our lessons with every child in mind. Lessons have elements to scaffold those children who find the learning too challenging, and have elements to push those who do not find it challenging enough, ensuring every child has an opportunity to master their learning. At the end of the lesson children have an opportunity to assess themselves and their progress, before the teacher confirms this. This information sets up a number of 'next steps', including what happens in

the next lesson, who attends our afternoon intervention sessions, and who is given even more challenging work, resulting in an upward spiral in which each and every child keeps learning more!

This year our focus is on enhancing our pedagogy; the systems we use to actually teach in our classrooms. Using the work of leading professionals in this area, such as Tom Sherrington and Doug Lemov, we seek to hone our classroom delivery to make it the best it can possibly be, benefitting our adults professionally, and our children educationally.



'Teachers' use their accurate assessment of pupils' learning to plan well-crafted lessons that meet pupils' needs. As a result, pupils across the school, including those who are disadvantaged and the most able pupils, are making strong progress in English, mathematics and across the curriculum.'

OFSTED

Broad and balanced curriculum

By far the most exciting and inspiring drive at our school is our 'Broad curriculum, brought alive!' As a team we seek out the most inspiring and sensational opportunities and activities for our children to make their learning fun, engaging and above all educational!

From an 'alien egg' landing on the field in 2018, requiring a full police presence, we have built on this to this day, where we now welcome farms to our school, teach the children skills such as fencing and yoga, bring in specialist teachers and speakers, and go above and beyond. Last academic year the whole school took part in 'Ninja Warrior!'



'Really pleased with our daughter's progress...She has developed at an astounding rate...Great!'

Parent

School links.

Another source of immense pride amongst the children is the links we have beyond the school. On an annual basis, children take part in a series of community events in the local area where they see first-hand how they can help others through their actions, and really make an impact on society.

On a weekly basis, children take advantage of the community around us with visits to a prestigious, state-of-the-art swimming facility, as well as training from professional coaches at the nationally renowned gymnastics centre. These wonderful opportunities have seen two of our pupils compete on the national stage in gymnastics!

Children also welcome in representatives from outside the school to work with them. Again, each week children can access cricket lessons from a former Pakistan player, whilst we were particularly pleased to welcome the national children's laureate, Joseph Coelho, into our school for writing lessons!



Beyond the curriculum.

We aim to offer at least one extra curricula opportunity to the children every day, either at no cost or a very reasonable cost. Over time we have offered everything from 'Indo boarding', a circus style skill, to netball led by our school's own teachers, with professional dance teachers and artists visiting us in between.

If you require 'wrap around' care at our school please take advantage of our breakfast club that begins at 7:45am. Here children can take part in a number of games and activities, with a healthy breakfast or snack for a reasonable payment. We also work alongside PH Sports, our afterschool club provider, who offers childcare and activities until 5:30pm each day.

Our school meals are cooked on site, by our qualified team using locally sourced, fresh produce. All meals meet stringent healthy guidelines and are nutritious and delicious! Meals are free to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.



'This school is fun... the teachers really help you... if you're stuck, they help you, if you're finding it too easy they up the challenge!

Pupil Comment

Facilities and resources.

Investment in facilities and resources is key at Whitchurch Primary school! Our Victorian village school exterior contains the latest in touch screen LED interactive whiteboards, I-pads in every classroom (excluding a portable class set too) and a suite containing laptops, stop motion animation cameras and programmable Lego!

Since 2019 we have benefitted from our new school build, where children in Year 5 and 6 enjoy the transition from primary to secondary in 'state of the art' new classrooms, whilst 2020 saw the introduction of our new outside playground with swings and drums, alongside our forest school area to teach sustainability and an appreciation of the natural world. In 2021 we completed construction of our Reception area, a delightful outdoor play and learning space solely for the use of our youngest children, which commenced a constant cycle of improving our facilities. 2024 saw new toilets installed!



Left: Children use I-pads linked to the board in an interactive learning session!



Well being and Growth Mindset.

Child well being is never far from headlines today and this is an area Whitchurch has always taken extremely seriously. Confidence and resilience are two areas we strive to build in each and every one of our children through our 'Growth mindset' approach to learning. Adults and children alike at our school believe misconceptions are not to be dismissed or embarrassed about, but should be used as a learning experience, and a chance to achieve even more together!

Concerning personal development and welfare we believe Whitchurch truly stands out. We have a network of support systems and links to specialists to aid children when necessary in our school, and are always ready to listen to children's concerns and needs, ensuring everyone enjoys every minute of their schooling at Whitchurch!



'The praise system here is really good. It lets you know when you're doing well, and makes you want to do better... everyone tries really hard to win the tokens!'

Pupil comment.

Parental involvement.

At Whitchurch Primary school a parent's involvement is essential to ensuring their children get the very best from their education. We offer so many ways to get involved with your child's learning, from our wide and varied PTA events and opportunities to visit the school for class assemblies or 'curriculum shares', to our child centred parents' evenings and attendance at sporting events and fixtures.



Academically, our website holds a wealth of ideas such as recommended books to read at home and succinct information on what your child is learning at school. This complements our weekly newsletters and texts, where each week you will receive information on what your child has learnt, and is about to learn!

Follow your children's schooling!

To truly follow the great events that go on at Whitchurch, please log-on to our website: www.whitchurchprimary.co.uk, or 'friend' us on Facebook to again enjoy a daily update on the life of our school! Once your child joins the school you'll be enrolled into 'Class Dojo', a secure platform for communicating with our staff and witnessing the children's day-to-day activities!



'Pupils make good progress... behave well... feel safe and enjoy school. Teaching is highly effective...the curriculum is broad and wide-ranging...This is a good school!'

OFSTED

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