



Early Years

PROSPECTUS



Our Mission Statement

Committed to providing an environment where pupils are happy, hardworking and healthy and through support and challenge, fulfil their true potential.

The stakeholders of Hopping Hill Primary School, including Parents, Governors, Pupils, all staff and representatives of the school's community, have agreed the core values of the school.

As part of our three year plan to realise the vision, we have taken these core values and will continually strive to ensure that these beliefs underpin everything we do.

The Shared Values:

- An environment that promotes communication, where everyone is heard and their opinions understood and valued
- A healthy school community where pupils feel secure and understand how to keep themselves safe
- A school where everyone has high expectations of each other and shared responsibility, in terms of their conduct, learning and attitude towards school
- A focus on pupils' learning and high standards at the core of all aspects of school life
- A rich and relevant curriculum that builds on the strengths of the individuals within the school and offers a wide range of sports, arts and strong links with the community

These values were agreed in February 2007 and will continue to be reflected in the school ethos in everyday life at Hopping Hill and be developed and improved as part of the annual School Development Plans for the next three academic years.

At Hopping Hill Primary school we believe that young children learn best through play so we aim to:

- Provide high quality care and education for all children
- Work in partnership with parents to help children learn and develop
- Provide a carefully planned curriculum reflecting the six areas of learning in the Foundation Stage
- Provide highly qualified, motivated and committed staff who understand how children learn and develop
- Provide a safe and stimulating environment where children feel happy, comfortable and secure
- Take forward your child's learning and development by being helped to build on what they already know and can already do
- Include all children in all learning opportunities regardless of ethnicity, gender, family background and ability.

OPENING TIMES

Nursery

Children attend 5 days a week either in the morning or the afternoon.

AM - between 8.50 and 11.50 PM - between 12.30 and 3.30

Reception & Year 1

Children attend 5 days each week between 8.45 am and 3.15 pm.

LUNCH CLUB

We now offer a lunch club as an extension to Nursery at £2 per day. Children bring a packed lunch to eat before or after their session to extend provision by an hour a day. There are also hot dinners available for a further £1.70 per day.

WRAPAROUND CARE

In order to help working parents we also extend Nursery hours to offer full day provision at a small cost. This provision is for parents who need high quality early years education for their child for longer than the 3 hour Nursery session. The cost is £8 per day or £40 for a full week. Most children will bring a packed lunch although hot meals can be provided at an extra cost of £1.70 per day.

THE CURRICULUM

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. We help children to continue to do this by providing them with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.



PE in Year One.



An 'Office' Work Station in year 1.



Using the computer in Reception.



Outdoor play in the Nursery.

For children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, we provide a curriculum for the Foundation Stage of Education. This curriculum is set out in a document, published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the Department for Education and Skills, and is called *Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage*. We follow this guidance which identifies principles which guide the work of our Early Years Practitioners that are grouped into 4 themes:

- **A unique child**
- **Positive relationships**
- **Enabling environments**
- **Learning and development**

These 4 guiding themes work together to underpin effective practice in the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The guidance also sets out *Early Learning Goals* which divide learning into 6 areas:

- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- **Communication, language and literacy development**
- **Mathematical development**
- **Knowledge and understanding of the world**
- **Physical development**
- **Creative development**

During Reception and year one, as children achieve the Early learning goals, they will begin to follow the National Curriculum. This is the Curriculum they will follow throughout the rest of the primary years.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

All staff:

- Understand how children learn and develop
- Give time and attention to each child
- Talk with the children about their interests and activities
- Ask questions to develop learning
- Help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide
- Allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.

How parents can take part

We recognise parents as the first and foremost educators of their children. All of the staff see themselves as partners with you in providing care and education for your child. There are many ways in which parents can take part in making school a welcoming and stimulating place such as:

- Exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests, achievements and progress with the staff through ' Well Done' boards and termly parents evenings.
- Helping in school.
- Sharing their own special interests with the children.
- Helping to provide, make and look after the equipment and materials used in the children's play activities.
- Being part of the management of the school by becoming a parent governor.
- Attending events like fun days, open days, concerts, assemblies, family reading, exhibitions and sports days and joining in any community activities in which the school takes part.
- Building friendships with other parents in the school through our 'Friends Association' who organise quiz nights, discos, pantomimes etc...
- Sharing books at home with your child and discussing homework as your child reaches Reception and year one.
- By reading newsletter, notice boards, and letters in the windows to find out what is going on.

PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT HOPPING HILL

The parents rota

We welcome help throughout the Early Years either occasionally or on a more regular basis and to ensure the safety of the children it is a national requirement to police check helpers.

Do feel free to arrange to drop into the school if you would like to see it at work or to speak to the staff.

ROUTINES

Records of Achievement

The school keeps a record of achievement for each child. This helps us to celebrate their achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for their future well-being and progress.

To do this, we will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements through observations, photographs and pieces of work. This informs us of your child's development and is recorded on the Foundation stage record sheet which identifies the goals the children have achieved. During Reception this information is used to identify achievement on the Foundation Stage Profile and in year one this continues to identify achievement towards National Curriculum levels. Individual targets are set for all children based on these assessments. Parents are informed of these targets at regular Parent Evenings.

Nursery Sessions

The Nursery organises its sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at a range of activities. These activities, whether inside or outside, are all based on the 6 areas of learning. In doing so, the children can build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor activities as well as those provided indoors. Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. During the week, Nursery children participate in PE and music sessions in the school hall.

Reception Day

The day is organised so that children can take part in a variety of child-chosen and adult-led activities. The children take part in a Literacy and a Numeracy session every day. They then have group activities which reflect the six areas of learning as well as their daily directed tasks. Children attend school assemblies daily except on Wednesday when we have family reading. Other timetables activities include PE twice a week, Key Stage one singing once a week and ICT suite sessions once a week.





Snacks and meals

The Nursery and Reception classes make snacks and meals a social time at which children eat together. Nursery plan the menus for snacks so that they provide the children with healthy and nutritious food. These menus are in line with the Healthy Schools Guidelines. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met. Reception and Year One children benefit from the free fruit for schools scheme. These children receive a piece of fruit as a snack daily.

Nursery

Children are encouraged to be independent in making their own snack and pouring their own drink and washing up. Snacks also try and reflect the learning where possible. We ask you to make a voluntary contribution of £1.50 per week towards the cost. This contribution is also used towards other consumables. Children are entitled to apply for free milk. Forms are available from the school office.

Reception & Year 1

Fresh fruit and water is offered daily. Children under 5 are entitled to free milk. Over 5's may purchase milk for 17p per day.

Lunch

Children can bring either a packed lunch or a hot meal service is provided at £1.70 per day. Meals are eaten in the hall and children are encouraged to be independent, although teachers and supervisors are there to help.



Policies

Copies of the school's policies are available for parents upon written request to the Head teacher. The policies reflect the practise of the school and help us to ensure that the service provided by the school is high quality. They also ensure an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and their parents. The staff and governors of the school work together to write the policies in line with County Council advice. These are reviewed regularly.

Special Needs

As part of the school's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs to the individual child, we take account of any special needs which a child may have. The school works to the requirements of the 1993 Education Act and the Special Needs Code of Practice. The school benefits from an Inclusion Manager who is available to meet with parents to discuss any additional needs. There is also a Learning Mentor who will work with any children who have emotional needs.

The First Days

We want your child to feel happy and safe at school. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into the school and Nursery. We also plan a careful induction programme.

Nursery

- An evening meeting for parents to meet staff and look around the Early Years provision.
- A number of play sessions for parents and children to attend.
- Planned Nursery visit for you and your child.
- Opportunity to attend Nursery fun day and sports day.
- Home visits.
- Staggered start in September to help your child settle.

Reception

- An evening meeting for parents to meet the staff and look around the school.
- A number of visits to meet their teacher and familiarise them with their new classroom during Nursery sessions.
- Throughout the Nursery year, your child has already become familiar with the school by participating in concerts and Key Stage one assemblies.
- Home visits.
- Starting half days to help children settle and staff to really get to know your child.

Clothing

Nursery

The school provides protective clothing for children when they play with messy activities but we ask Nursery children to wear clothes that can be easily removed by the child for toileting, washing hands and playing in the water. Clothes need to be easily washable so that the children can be involved in messy play. It is important that your child bring a named coat for outdoor play.

Reception and Year One

Children wear school uniform which consists of a Hopping Hill sweat shirt and either black or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore and a white polo shirt. Parents are requested to consider that clothes need to be easily removed for PE. Black or blue Shorts and white T-shirt in a named bag are required during the week. Indoor PE is done in bare feet in line with County policy. Children will also need plimsolls or trainers for outdoor PE and a tracksuit. **All clothes need to be named please!**



Toileting

Nursery

We understand that toilet training is developmental so please let us know if your child needs any help. We are happy to change wet pants and have spare clothes in the Nursery. We do also have the facilities to change soiled pants.

Reception and Year One

We encourage children to be independent in managing their own toileting. Just as at home, they can go to the toilet whenever they need to. We realise accidents happen and have spare clothes if needed. We inform parents of any accidents and ask that spare clothes are washed and returned to school.

We really look forward to working with you and your child. Please do not hesitate to talk to any member of staff if you have any queries or enquiries.



All areas of the school are fully wheel chair accessible. We pride ourselves on our inclusive nature and if you have any specific need, please let us know.

We are fully committed to preventing and addressing bullying.



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