



**WHIXALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
BROWNSBROOK
WHIXALL
Nr. WHITCHURCH
SHROPSHIRE
SY13 2SB
Tel. 01948 880330**

Head teacher: Miss Nicola Brayford
Chair of Governors: Mrs Claire Sadler

Dear Parents and Friends

Whixall Church of England Primary School is a rural co-educational school catering for children aged from 4 – 11 years. There is also a thriving nursery which caters for pre-school children throughout the week.

We deliver a well-researched curriculum by an experienced staff of highly committed teachers. In addition to gaining language, mathematical, scientific and technological skills, we aim that your child will build confidence, develop self-reliance, learn to make decisions and develop the ability to articulate feelings and ideas. We also attach great importance to the development of children's social skills and seek to enable them to build relationships with other children and adults and be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others.

One thing you can be sure of, your child's efforts will be valued. The staff are skilled in assessing each child's individual level of development and then supporting them in moving at their own pace, towards their full potential. We work hard to ensure that all children feel good about themselves and work towards a high level of self-esteem and pride in their achievements.

If children feel successful, they will be successful. We feel that your involvement in this process is crucial and that a strong relationship between school and home is essential to your child's progress. We will provide frequent opportunities to keep you informed about the ways in which we are working with your child. We operate an open door policy and are keen to have parental involvement at all levels.

Childhood is a very special time. You can count on us to do our very best to make it as happy and productive as possible.

Yours sincerely

Miss N. Brayford
Headteacher



Whixall School

Whixall School has an active group of governors providing support to the Head and staff.

The attraction and benefits of a small village school are numerous, this is clear in the demand we have for places from families outside as well as inside the village.

The School provides a broad and balanced curriculum and this, combined with the advantages of small size and a nurturing environment, ensures happy and well rounded children. The success in these areas is thanks to the skills, commitment and hard work of all the staff at school. You will be able to see this by visiting Whixall School and experiencing its excellent atmosphere.

From the Governors

Our School



Whixall Church of England School was established in 1967 and occupies the buildings of what was originally Whixall Council School. During the mid 1960s it was decided to close the Church of England Primary School at Edstaston and the Council School at Whixall and amalgamate these with the Whixall Church School into a larger unit based on the Council School site which is our present home.

The older part of the school was built in 1891 and remains largely unaltered except for the conversion of two classrooms into a hall and the provision of dining room accommodation. In addition to these facilities, this part of the school also houses the head teacher's and administrator's offices and a classroom.

To help cater for the increase in numbers, four large demountable classrooms were also provided and these house four of our present five classes and a staffroom.

We are extremely fortunate with the school grounds, in that we have a playground, and extensive school field, and a multi-sports hard play area which is marked for tennis, five-a-side football, hockey and netball.

The school grounds also contain a wild nature area, complete with pond. This area is used as an outdoor classroom.



In December 2016, Whixall School formed 'Fields Multi Academy Trust' with Prees School.



Our Role as a Church of England Controlled School

Whixall Church of England Primary School is a small village school which welcomes all children whatever their parents' beliefs. As a Church of England School, Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching, and we aim to maintain the strong links that have existed for many years between the school, home and the parish. We have a developed relationship with the Church, which is relevant to the children and encourages them to put into practice the Christian values and attitudes that underpin our school ethos. We look for the active involvement of parents, governors and the local clergy in the life of the school.



Through our daily collective worship we aim to develop a sense of belonging and community and to offer a foundation upon which children can build a faith or belief which will guide them in later life. The school has high expectations of its pupils and we encourage all children to develop to their full potential. We strive to ensure that pupils develop within a caring and disciplined environment in which they can feel secure and valued as individuals, and where attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility are promoted.

At Whixall, we aim to develop the children's knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and some other principal religions. This complies with the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, which we adhere to. We are a Church Controlled school and so Christianity is studied in greater depth, but we believe that we should also encourage respect for those holding different beliefs.

Whixall children are encouraged to lead some special services in both Whixall and Edstaston Churches. Harvest and the Easter Service are some examples of these.

Mission Statement

Whixall C.E. Primary School welcomes all children. The school is situated within a unique environment where all children are encouraged to appreciate the awe and wonder of their surroundings. Our distinctive Christian ethos facilitates the well being and best quality education for each child. Children achieve the fullness of life through discovering and developing their talents. Positive achievement for all pupils is promoted through Christian values, enabling each child to develop a healthy self esteem, and attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility. As a school, everyone works towards positive and realistic goals. High priority is given to strong links between the school, home, church and community.

Through all these we believe our school is distinguished by the quality of care for all our members.



Our Ethos

Our school philosophy begins with the needs of the child and reaches out towards the family and the future. It is essential that the school should be an island of stability where a child can be secure and happy whatever social pressures exist outside. The responsibility for creating that happy, welcoming, secure environment rests with those of us who work in the school supported by parents and others who work with us to achieve these ends.

Education is life itself. We believe that our School Curriculum should reflect the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical development of the whole child and provide the opportunity for growth. As a result of this feeling and sensitivity should develop alongside knowledge and skills and so enable every individual to become a success. We aim to achieve this by presenting appropriate learning opportunities for our children in a progressive and structured way through the school. We encourage children to analyse their work and reflect upon their achievements and value the opinion of others. Children are openly encouraged to develop growing responsibility for themselves, their work and their equipment.

We believe that this philosophy will only be realised if it is developed within a happy, secure environment and in an atmosphere of trust, consideration, tolerance and care.

Our Aims

- To ensure the entitlement of each child to a stimulating and well balanced Primary education, rich in experience and learning opportunities appropriate to his/her ability which will enable them to achieve their potential.
- To provide first hand experiences which enable children to acquire concepts and skills which will enable them to understand themselves, their culture and the world in which they live.
- To encourage the children to develop lively enquiring minds in order to understand and appreciate the world in which we live.
- To ensure a caring environment which seeks to foster every child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. An environment in which everyone's contribution is recognised and valued and where difference is acknowledged and appreciated.
- To nurture in the child, positive values, confidence, self-esteem and respect for others.
- To develop the children's imagination and creativity by offering a wide range of experiences.
- To promote a health conscious environment where children understand the importance of health, diet, hygiene and safety.
- To develop sensitivity and co-operation for and with others.
- To develop self-discipline and an understanding of acceptable behaviour.
- To involve parents in their child's learning by developing a partnership between home and school.



- To encourage a positive and lively interaction between school and the local community.
- To encourage children to develop individual talents and interests.
- To develop confidence to make and hold moral judgments.
- To create a school based on Christian principles, where children develop respect for the religious and moral values of other religions, races and ways of life.

In short our aim is to create a school where children are happy, have a good attitude to work and have the satisfaction of work well done.

We believe in high standards of behaviour, work and presentation. We hope that your child enjoys life at Primary School and that by working together at home and school, we can provide a firm foundation for your child's future.

The School Curriculum

The school provides a varied and stimulating curriculum, which embraces the core and foundation subjects required by the Education Reform Act. Staff engage in the continuous development of curricular work and this is supported by in service training. Our broad based curriculum provides first hand experiences for the children and allows each one to achieve his or her potential according to his/her ability and aptitude.

The National Curriculum divides the whole curriculum into subject areas as follows:

- **Core Subjects**
English, Mathematics, Science
- **Foundation Subjects**
Computing, History, Geography, Art, Music, Design Technology, P.E. and Foreign Languages

Religious Education is a statutory requirement but does not feature as part of the National Curriculum. Should parents wish to withdraw their child from religious education or collective worship, they are invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher.

Personal, Social and Health Education is also taught as part of the School curriculum.

Foreign Languages The children in key stage 2 have weekly French lessons.



Reception

When children enter School, reading and sharing books at home is most important. Children also read to and with adults in school both in guided reading and through individual reading.

Mathematics and understanding numbers is developed in a variety of practical ways; counting, sorting and using mathematical games and activities.

At the earliest stages children develop their own ideas and experiment through play. We encourage the Early Years to learn in this way alongside other children.

At the earliest stages the greatest emphasis is placed upon the child's happiness and confidence in the school environment.

Children are invited to attend two half day and two full day sessions prior to starting school full time. If the children attend our on-site Nursery, then the children integrate for reading sessions before their formal visits.



Nursery



We also have an on-site Nursery for two, three and four year olds. A separate Nursery prospectus is available.

We have strong links with our Nursery which ensures a smooth transition for the children when they start school.



The Delivery of the Curriculum

English

We teach language through all subjects and activities, recognising that its use is a principal means to personal maturity. We aim to provide the children with a systematic and progressive programme of activities designed to give the necessary breadth of experience in speaking, listening to, reading and writing the English language. Our children encounter a range of rich and stimulating texts, all designed to develop their competence, precision and confidence in speaking, listening, reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. We use the National Curriculum to guide our coverage of this area of the curriculum and each child will take part in a daily Literacy lesson.

We ensure that children also have frequent opportunities to write in different contexts and for a variety of purposes and audiences, including for themselves. We believe that they should be taught the conventional ways of forming letter shapes, lower case and capitals through guided practice in order to foster a comfortable and legible handwriting style. The foundations for joined script begin in Key Stage 1 and are taught progressively throughout the school.

Through skilful teaching we aim to develop in the children an understanding of the conventions of the English language whilst encouraging the use of creative, expressive and descriptive language.

Mathematics

Mathematics is one of the core subjects of the National Curriculum and therefore has appropriate emphasis.

We aim to give the children a broad base of relevant mathematical concepts related wherever possible to practical experience and language development. We endeavour to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding and apply it accurately in a variety of mathematical situations. We believe that children should aim for quick recall in mental arithmetic and in basic number bonds, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division tables. Wherever possible we extend contexts and apply knowledge across the curriculum. The school uses the National Curriculum as a guide to deliver the whole Mathematics curriculum. Each child takes part in a daily mathematics lesson.



Science

Science is the third core subject.

The National Curriculum states that 'Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity.' We believe that the scientific investigation process helps children to make sense of their world.

We aim to develop the following skills:

- observing
- recording
- communicating
- raising questions
- designing investigations
- making sense of results
- hypothesising
- conducting fair tests

I.C.T./Computing

We have a set of laptops in each classroom as well as i-pads, which help us to deliver the I.C.T. curriculum both in dedicated lessons, and as an integrated part of our work in other areas of the curriculum. We have one computer to every six children in school and our range of software enables the curriculum to be accessed by even the youngest of our children.

History

First hand experiences are paramount to our work in history as these provide children with concrete examples of life in the past. At Key Stage 1 topics include: Famous People and famous events and Vikings and Egyptians are covered at Key Stage 2. Wherever possible we visit places of local historical interest to make the children's work more meaningful to them and encourage visiting speakers and visitors to come into School to share their expertise and life experiences with the children.





Geography

Initially the school grounds and local community are ideal for direct observation of the environment, understanding of place and land use. The work covered involves visits to the village, a river area and places further afield, e.g. Llandudno in order to compare our locality with a contrasting place. Skills in using maps and atlases are developed so that children can plan routes and identify places. Studies of places enable children to develop their understanding of physical and human geography.

Art

Art is a major focus of our school environment and is brought into every aspect of the curriculum. The children explore a variety of media, sometimes imitating great artists, but also being encouraged to communicate their individual feelings. We place great importance on attractive displays of children's work which raises the children's self esteem.



Music

Our music programme for all children includes singing, creative music making and music appreciation.

Singing forms the basis of music in Key Stage 1, with the emphasis being on enjoyment. Within this, there is the development of percussion accompaniment including rhythm, pitch, dynamics (loud and soft, with the emphasis on their part, being on the loud!) The children also attempt simple compositions, writing their own picture notation and using these to play each other's compositions.



Singing still plays a large part in the curriculum for Key Stage 2. The children develop their composing skills using various stimuli and their knowledge of music terminology.

Both KS1 and KS2 children join together with other village schools for music making throughout the year.

Children in lower key stage 2 have access to weekly folk whistle and recorder lessons and upper key stage 2 children learn to play the violin. There is also private guitar lessons available to the children.



Design and Technology

Our scheme of work covers a wide range of skills, which are developmental in their approach. We combine a problem solving approach with a range of practical skills and pupils are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their designs and finished products. Across the key stages, children will experience making moving pictures, which enables them to find out about how levers work. Food technology features prominently in the curriculum.

Great emphasis is placed on the process of technology, including designing, making and evaluating products.

Physical Education

All children participate in our P.E. programme which involves time devoted to Dance, Gymnastics, Swimming and Games skills. Children participate in team games such as netball and football and we participate in friendly matches against neighbouring schools. Due to our excellent tennis facility, tennis features greatly in our P.E. curriculum.



Personal and Social Health Education

At Whixall there is no doubt we develop trust between children and between children and teachers. This creates a secure, supportive atmosphere in which pupils feel accepted and not threatened, ensuring honesty and openness.

Health education with all children is related to PSHE where we actively encourage debates on such issues as hygiene and family life. We place great importance on recognising and celebrating the uniqueness of each individual child.

As a school our PSHE policy supports equal opportunity issues, relating to stereotyping and gender issues.

A relationships and sex education programme is delivered through our PSHE curriculum. Parents are invited prior to this programme to see DVD material and books used. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their children from this element of the school curriculum.



Forest School

Forest School is an initiative from Denmark which encourages the use of the outdoors to encourage children's learning. Whixall School was one of the first twelve schools in Shropshire to become a Forest School. Regular Forest School workshops take place in the school Nature Area.

We have a thriving Nature Area, which contains a pond, native trees and plants and a traditional thatched Celtic hut.



Homework

At Whixall School, we have a policy of encouraging family involvement in children's learning. To this end, we send work home for the children to complete. From reception onwards, children will receive homework, which will include phonic work, reading, mathematics, spellings and tables.

A copy of the homework policy is available in school.

Assessment

Continuous assessment of the children is part of every teacher's work to ensure progression and to meet individual children's needs. The Foundation Stage Profile is carried out with children during Reception and there are formal assessments at the end of Years 2 and 6. The results of these, along with teacher assessments, are reported to parents. In the intervening years, the school continues to monitor children's progress through their everyday work and their achievement in relation to age related outcomes linked to the National Curriculum.



Special Needs

We consider each child as an individual with their own strengths and weaknesses and acknowledge that many children, including some of the most able, may need special help at some stage of their Primary School experience. The school is experienced in providing extra support for these children, including those with statements.

Each teacher follows closely the Code of Practice in providing for these children, from early intervention, individual programmes of work, through to obtaining advice from outside agencies. Parents will be informed at every stage and are encouraged to work in partnership with the teacher.

The School's aims for children with special needs are the same as those for any other child, including access to the National Curriculum. Children with special needs are integrated within the classes and they share in all experiences except where it is impossible e.g. physically unable to run an extended distance.

The building presents few difficulties regarding access. The School has a disabled toilet and three of our demountable classrooms have ramps.

The Special Educational Needs Local Offer and Policy is available for parental consultation.

Equal Opportunities

We wish to promote positive attitudes in children, staff, governors and parents so that children can fulfil their potential and make choices, unhampered by expectations on gender or role stereotyping. We seek to fulfil the aims of the school regardless of gender, age ability (both academic and physical) ethnic origin or background of the child. The school follows the Local Authority Admissions Policy. The school will liaise with the Local Authority when assessing the needs and providing for children with particular physical disabilities.

Disability Discrimination Act

At Whixall School we are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.



Extra Curricular Activities – After School Club

At Whixall CE Primary School we do provide 'After School Clubs' for all the children that wish to take part. The clubs take place from 3.00pm to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. Staff give generously of their time to extend the children's activities, interests and enthusiasms in a variety of out of school activities. These contribute greatly to the life of the school and include the following clubs and activities, which may run throughout the year or on a seasonal basis. Activities range from:-

cross country
cycling proficiency
art
choir

football
book quiz
book making
pottery

netball
gardening
tennis

School Visits

Many school visits support our school curriculum to add breadth and practical experience. Whixall School is committed to the value of educational visits, both day and residential.

Day or half day visits

Funding for these visits can only be collected from parents on a voluntary basis. Parents will be notified of the cost and asked for a voluntary contribution. No child will be excluded if families are unable to make a donation, but if insufficient contributions in total were received, the visit would not be viable and therefore may not proceed.

Residential Visits

We aim to provide our pupils with the opportunity to take part in residential visits during Key Stage 2. Participation is desirable but not compulsory. The law permits charges to be made subject to the required remission arrangements.

The Governors have a Charging and Remissions Policy, which parents and carers have access to via the school's website and office.





Additional Activities

We have enthusiastic football and netball teams who compete with other schools. All children receive tuition at Whitchurch swimming baths. Children often take part in Music Festivals along with our Cluster Schools.

Transport for visits will be by hired coach.

The children have the opportunity to participate in private music tuition provided by the Music Service.

The school provides violin tuition for the children in years 5 and 6, this includes access to a violin, that the children are able to take home. Children in year 3 learn to play the folk whistle and year 4 the recorder.

School Uniform

We encourage the children to wear school uniform.

The school colours are navy blue with white and grey.

Grey Trousers or skirts.

White Shirt or Blouse.

Navy Blue School Sweatshirt or Cardigan.

Black shoes

PE Kit

Navy shorts, navy round neck t-shirt (without buttons) and pumps or trainers should be kept in a named drawstring bag. In colder weather we encourage children to bring a track suit or similar into school. Please ensure that ALL clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with your child's name.

For swimming, children will need costume or trunks and towel.

For art activities, children need an adult shirt with shortened sleeves (or an old adult size 'T' shirt). Children in Class 1 and 2 are provided with these.

Sweatshirts, t-shirts, and waterproof coats with the school's logo can be bought from the school.



Children should not wear jewellery to school other than a watch and ear studs. They will be asked to take off their jewellery during PE and Games lessons. We encourage children to leave their jewellery at home on days when these activities take place. Many children now have their ears pierced, but in the interests of their safety and the safety of the other children we can only allow the children to wear studs at school. During PE lessons, children will be expected to take these out, or have micropore tape put around the studs.



School Organisation

The school is organised into four classes.

- Dragonfly Class Reception and Year 1
- Skylark Class Years 2 and 3
- Mayfly Class Years 4 and 5
- Peregrine Class Years 5 and 6

The School Day

8.45 am	School begins
10.15 am	Worship
10.30 am	Playtime
10.45 am	Lesson
12.00 noon	Lunchtime (Classes 1 and 2)
12.15 pm	Lunchtime (Classes 3, 4 and 5)
1.00 pm	Afternoon school
2.00 pm	Afternoon Break (Classes 1 and 2 only)
3.00 pm	End of school

Children should be on the premises five minutes before morning and afternoon sessions begin. Please note that the time before the official morning session begins is a vital time for staff to prepare themselves for the day and we therefore request that children do not arrive before 8.35 am.

Lunch Arrangements

School Meals

We operate a 'multi – choice' system and children are able to select from a wide range of items, which are prepared locally. The menu is varied, provides superb value and is bountiful. Sandwiches can be prepared by the school for educational visits - if required. Parents are invited to try the meals for themselves. All key stage 1 children have access to a free school meal.

Packed Lunches

Children bringing packed lunches are supervised in the same way as children taking school meals. Please ensure that children bringing drinks to school have unbreakable containers.



Children Going Home for Lunch

Children can go home for lunch, but are encouraged to stay in school as this helps their social development.

Fresh fruit is available free of charge for children in Key Stage 1 during morning playtimes. Children are also able to buy toast at playtimes.



Pastoral Care and Discipline

We believe that we share with parents the responsibility for the well – being of the children in our school.

The class teacher is concerned not only for the educational progress but also for the personal and social development of each child. We aim to combine high expectations with a systematic approach. Occasionally however, problems do occur and we involve parents at an early stage. We do hope that parents will do the same. A new baby in the family, a sudden death, or even a situation at home could cause your child to behave differently at school.

If parents notice a change in their child's attitude towards school, or any change in behaviour, which concerns them, they should contact the school at the earliest opportunity so that the cause can be identified and investigated. It is vitally important that each child is given an equal opportunity and a fair chance to be happy and achieve their potential. We must work together to achieve this.

Occasional misdemeanours or disappointing behaviour in children will usually mean a chat with the class teacher. However if children do regularly transgress the bounds of common sense, parents will be notified and children may have to stay in at playtimes, or visit the headteacher.

Absences

Children should only be absent from school as a result of illness or medical treatment. A phone call or message is appreciated, however written confirmation must be sent on return to school.

Holidays in term time are discouraged, a holiday form, available from school, must be completed and returned to the Head teacher before the holiday begins. The Head teacher then makes a decision based on previous attendance and the reasons given for the holiday before authorising the absence.

Please note that it is now a legal requirement that each school reports annually any absences that it considers unable to authorise. Authorised absences are those which are of a medical or serious nature. We are unable to authorise any additional absence for further holidays. With the introduction of Teacher Assessment and the administering of the Standard Attainment Tasks during the Spring and Summer Terms it is becoming increasingly important that the children maintain good attendance levels.



Health Matters

- Please keep us up to date with your address and telephone number, in case we need to contact you in an emergency.
- Should your child have an accident at school, first aid treatment will be given, and if possible you will be contacted if it is felt necessary that a hospital check-up or visit to the hospital should be made.
- Please inform us if your child is suffering from any infectious illness, head lice or special medical condition.
- In line with medical advice children with inhalers will keep them available in class at all times. Other prescribed medicines can be brought into school if it needs to be administered four times per day, but adults must give the medicine to their child's class teacher with written instructions for administration on the container. Adults must complete a form to give consent for a member of staff to administer the medicine.

Parents and School

We believe that home and school should form a partnership, in order to encourage the overall well being of all our pupils. We value our contacts with parents and believe that this partnership and understanding is vital if our pupils are to develop and progress in a happy and positive atmosphere of mutual respect.

Our doors are always open and parents are encouraged to contact school at the earliest opportunity should they have a concern.

Most of the contact between parents and the school is of an informal nature – a quiet word with the class teacher or head teacher is often appropriate. However there are some more formal means of communications:

- Newsletters
These will contain news of coming events, requests for help and other information of interest to you.
- Reports
These are issued yearly and will keep you informed of your child's progress.
- You will be given an appointment twice a year for a private discussion with your child's class teacher about achievement, behaviour and other matters.
- Appointments
If you have any worries about your child's ability or progress, please ask for an appointment to see the Class Teacher or Headteacher.
- Reading Diaries
A chance to keep in regular contact with your child's class teacher.



Complaints Procedure

If parents do feel they need to make a complaint regarding any aspect of school life we would ask that they consider the following points:

- We expect all our pupils, staff and parents to listen carefully to each other.
- Minor complaints should be dealt with by the class teacher. If you are not satisfied contact the Head teacher.
- Parents who are unhappy about something should contact us at once. The Head teacher will always meet concerned parents in order to resolve difficulties.
- A parent who is still not satisfied should contact the Chair of Governors. However we do encourage parents to seek an interview with class teachers at their earliest opportunity if problems of any sort arise. These informal contacts are fundamental in developing good communication channels and successful relationships based on trust and understanding between home and school.
- Parents receive a copy of our complaints form at the new intake meeting prior to their children starting school.

The Staff and Governors hope that this booklet has provided you with enough information to understand the main organisation and running of the school. If you require any further clarification please contact the Head teacher.

The information in the prospectus is correct at the time of printing, but it is possible there are some inaccuracies due to changes during the school year.