



A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A FUTURE

WHITMINSTER ENDOWED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Ethos Statement

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Each child is recognised as an individual and encouraged to develop his or her varying talents, interests and potential. We aim to provide an ethos in which pupils can learn and be happy, providing them with a firm and lasting foundation of knowledge and values to serve them as they grow up and take their place in society.

Christian Vision:

A Family, A Foundation, A Future Our vision begins with Jesus' commandment 'to love one another, just as I have loved you'.

We are A FAMILY, loving and caring for each other; our own family, our friends, our neighbours, our school, our local and global communities. We all flourish because of these relationships.

We ensure children have A FIRM FOUNDATION. This is built on Christian values and enables all to develop an inner strength to live courageously, embrace their own and others uniqueness and love as Jesus did.

We aim to ensure that all have A FUTURE where they look outwards and become the very best they can be to live life to the full.

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of humanity
And love of God
Let us remember that as many hands build a house
so many hearts make a school.
Amen

WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Whitminster Endowed C of E Primary School. I am very proud to be the head teacher of this school, working with everyone that make this a special place - pupils, parents, staff, Governors and the wider community. We are one big family.

"The school has a warm and caring ethos." OFSTED 2022

"Leaders ensure that the school values permeate into all areas of school life" OFSTED 2022.

Aspire and be challenged all you do; Embrace, Enjoy, Enthuse; Celebrate and be proud; Give respect, Gain respect; Create, Learn and Achieve; New day, new start; Value yourself and others. These values are based on our strong Christian Ethos and help us to work together to ensure that the children will develop skills to support their academic and social development throughout their lives.

In the middle of our playground sits a beautiful apple tree. Just as the tree blossoms and produces fruit, the school helps your child blossom and grow: the individual is valued and their needs are met. We want all children to reach their full potential and develop a desire for lifelong learning. We celebrate successes and are proud of all that we achieve. This reflects our vision of 'A Family, A Foundation, A Future.

"They enjoy looking after, and learning from, each other" OFSTED 2022. The children learn to understand the needs of others in school and play an active part in the life of the school.

Our curriculum provides learning across a broad curriculum both in and out of the classroom. The children can use the village playing field, which adjoins the school grounds. We have a quiet Well - Being garden and some permanent outdoor play equipment.

Beginning life at a new school can, inevitably raise many questions. Often these concerns may relate to certain aspects of the school organisation; others may relate to the curriculum. Our prospectus has been prepared to give you not only information about the school and its aims, but it reflects the principles and values we believe allow us to provide your child with the very best education.

Prospective parents are very welcome to come and visit our school so that you can see day to day life at Whitminster School. Our best ambassadors are our children. To get a real feel for Whitminster School, come and visit us and talk to them.

We all look forward to welcoming you and hope that you will work with us to make this a happy and successful period in your child's life.

Yours sincerely

Miss Parry-Jones,
Headteacher

Welcome to our school! We have lots of clubs such as Football, Netball, Film club, Portable Playground and an Ethos Team. We are all a happy family and get along well. The teachers are always there when we need them. When you are in the juniors you go on a residential in class 3 and 4. Our school values are Give Respect and Gain Respect, New Day New start, Create Learn and Achieve, Embrace Enthusiasm, Enjoy, Value yourself and others, Aspire, Be Challenged and Confident in all you do and finally Celebrate and Be Proud. We love our school!

From
School Council

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the governing body of Whitminster Primary School I would like to welcome you to the school. The aim of this prospectus is to give you an insight to the school and provide you with information.

Whitminster School is a small village school that enables children to develop at an individual pace, allowing them to explore their environment and learn about the wider community and world. At Whitminster School we value an individualised approach to educating the child through a balanced understanding that education is a broad concept and we embrace traditional values; understanding of right from wrong, how to have empathy for each other and helping others in the wider community. This is complimented by developing the skills they will need in the twenty first century.

We hope that the prospectus will enable you to gain an understanding of the school; it's values, principles and overall aims.

We look forward to meeting you and your child(ren) in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Seth and Graham Braidford

Co-Chair of Governors



Hello and welcome to the Friends of Whitminster School!

If your child has recently joined the school, we hope your family have settled well and are enjoying being part of the extended Whitminster School community.

The Friends of Whitminster School (FOWS) are a voluntary group of parents who raise vital funds for the school through activities and events during the school year; we would LOVE you to come and join us!

We are passionate about creating a calendar of fun, interesting and varied events for the whole school community, enhancing our children's education whilst raising money for additional resources, projects and adventures!

We share all of the activities that we organise in the fortnightly school newsletter and on our 'Friends of Whitminster' Facebook page.

Through our fundraising efforts so far, we have provided:

Subsidised school trips

Music lessons

Leaver's hoodies

Money to buy books for class libraries

There are so many ways that you can get involved with FOWS. You really can choose something that suits you. We know moments are precious and days are busy so we really appreciate any time you can give.

The Friends of Whitminster School isn't just for parents. It is open to anyone to get involved in so, if you know a family member of one of our pupils that would love to help, please ask them to get in touch!

Contact the Friends of Whitminster Committee on friendsofwhitminster@outlook.com

To visit or follow the Friends of Whitminster on Facebook
visit: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofwhitminster>

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The Staff

Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher
Teaching staff

Miss A Parry-Jones
Miss Gardiner
Mrs Read
Mrs A Tidmarsh
Mrs Lanceley
Mr A Wright
Mrs S Howard
Mrs E Doyle

Years 1 and 2
Reception
Reception
Years 3 and 4
Years 5 and 6
SEND/CO/PPA cover
Spanish teacher

S.E.N.D Coordinator
Family Worker

Mrs S Howard
Mrs L Hills

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Z Bracken
Mrs H Jenkins
Mrs J Young
Mrs C Mitchell
Mrs C Ash

Piano/Woodwind/Violin tutor	Mr C Wiggins
Guitar tutor	Let's Play Music
Office Administrator	Ms S Francis
Dinner supervisors	Mrs C Mitchell Mrs C Crowe Mrs J Young Ms R Jones Mrs Z Bracken
Cleaner in charge	Mrs N Dulson

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Mrs K Seth	(Co Chair)
Mr Graham Braidford	(Co Chair)
Mr N Greenfield	Co-opted
Rev'd Alice Wood	Foundation Ex-officio
Mrs P Garven	Foundation
Mr R Thomas	Co-opted
Mr Noah Denman	Co-opted
Mr Roseblade - Bargh	Co-opted
Miss A Johns	Co-opted
Miss R Gardiner	Staff
Miss Parry-Jones	Headteacher

Parent governors: are elected by parents of the children at the school - or they may be appointed by the governing body if no-one stands for election.

Foundation governors: are appointed by the PCC of Whitminster and Moreton Valence Churches and/or diocese. One of the Foundation Governors is always identified as the **ex-officio** governor. It is an expectation that the parish priest should assume this role.

LA governors: are recommended by the local authority (LA) and appointed by the governors. Members of the public can apply to be considered for this role by contacting the LA directly.

Staff governors: are elected by staff at the school and may be either teaching or non-teaching staff.

Co-opted governors; are appointed by the governing body based on a skills audit.

The headteacher is a governor at their own school by right.

Staff governors serve for a two-year term; all other governors are appointed for a four-year term.

Controlled Schools own their origin to the Church. Under the terms of the 1944 Education Act, **“the Church conceded control”** to the LEA's which meet the full cost of future capital projects, upkeep, repairs and the conduct of the Schools.

GOVERNORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors are responsible for setting the ethos, vision and strategic direction of the school. It is their role to hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the pupils, as a critical friend, and to oversee the staffing structure and the financial performance of the school to ensure that its money is well spent.

The duties, powers and responsibilities of the Governing Body are set down by law and, except in very particular circumstances, governors can only act together and not individually.

Kim Seth – Parent Governor/ Co-Chair

As a parent governor, I have seen that every child matters. Each teacher, and assistant, supports each child to achieve an excellent academic foundation. I think the big advantage of Whitminster is the family atmosphere of a small school. Each member of the teaching staff knows each child and they really stretch them academically. I've also witnessed behaviour issues being 'nipped in the bud' and friendship groups given the tools to resolve squabbles. There is also a huge variety of educational classes outside of the three R's: class guitar & trumpet lessons, lots of PE (including the daily mile), four years of Spanish classes, an annual drama production - to name but a few.

Richard Thomas – Co-opted Governor

I am father of four and run my own Health and Safety business assisting other businesses, education and community organisations. I have previous experience as a governor and feel that I can contribute to the school.

Pat Garven– Foundation Governor

I am now in my second term of office as a Foundation Governor, elected and supported by St Andrew's Church Whitminster I am a member of both the curriculum and finance committee. My role as a Foundation Governor, is to ensure that everyone in the school is valued; that the school is reflecting God's love for each other and the whole world; and that the character and the ethos of a Christian School continues.

I am passionate about education and for 35 years I was a secondary school teacher having taught, food, textiles, wood, metal and plastic. Also, throughout that time, I have been a Careers Adviser, Head of Sixth Form, and a Deputy Head Teacher. I was also, for 8 years, a governor at a Church of England Infant School in Bath.

I am a regular communicant at the Stroudwater Team of Churches and support the work of the church in school through the 'Messy Church' programme.

Neil Greenfield – Parent Governor

As a parent governor, I would like to give something back to the school which is not only a part of my children's lives but a key part of the village. Having worked in financial services for 25 years, I can bring my experience of a thriving industry into the role and help others to continue the school's great work.

Amanda Johns – Co-opted Governor

My name is Amanda and am proud to be a Governor at Whitminster Primary School.

My children attended Whitminster Primary School a few years ago and both boys thrived at the school.

As a parent and with an interest in Education, I wanted to give back to the school community, to help somehow in the learning and development of children.

I play a part in planning the strategic direction of the school, working with and for the school.

There is the responsibility to set high expectations and ask challenging questions, to help the school be the best it can be.

Volunteering for this role gives me a chance to see the amazing support and opportunities that the dedicated teachers and assistants offer to the pupils here at Whitminster Primary School.

Reverend Alice Wood – Ex-officio

Education has been a passion of mine throughout my life. I became a Primary School teacher aged 22 years and went on to be the Headteacher of a Church of England Primary School in Hampshire for 15 years. I was Ordained Priest in 2012 and led a church in Hampshire for ten years. My husband and I relocated to Gloucestershire two years ago to help out with Grandchild care. I am still passionate about Education and believe that Whitminster School is a very special place- if children grow up believing in themselves and in God they start life equipped to face the world with self esteem and a moral compass. I look forward to serving as a Foundation Governor at this happy and thriving school.

The Vision and Values of the school

OUR ETHOS STATEMENT: Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Each child is recognised as an individual and encouraged to develop his or her varying talents, interests and potential. We aim to provide an ethos in which pupils can learn and be happy, providing them with a firm and lasting foundation of knowledge and values to serve them as they grow up and take their place in society.

A Family, A Foundation, A Future

Associated values:

TERM	CYCLE 1 2024-2025	CYCLE 2 2026- 2027
1	Wisdom (New Day, New Start) <i>The Two Houses</i>	Courage (Aspire, be challenged and confident in all you do) <i>David, the Shepherd Boy</i>
2	Peace and Joy (New day, new start) <i>Story of St Francis</i>	Compassion (Give Respect, gain respect) <i>Loaves and Fishes</i>
3	Dignity (and Respect) Give Respect, gain respect) <i>Moses and the Burning Bush</i>	Thankfulness (Embrace, Enthuse, Enjoy) <i>The man who came back</i>
4	Community (Value yourself and others)	Forgiveness (New Day, New Start) <i>The Lost Son</i>
5	Hope (Aspire, be challenged and confident in all you do) <i>The Rainbow (Noah's Ark)</i>	Perseverance (Create, Learn, Achieve) <i>The Lost Sheep</i>
6	Friendship (living well together) (Value yourself and others) <i>Through the Roof</i>	Trust (Embrace, Enthuse, Enjoy) <i>Storm on the Lake</i>

OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

Celebrate and be proud
Give respect, gain respect
Create, learn and achieve
Aspire, be challenged and confident in all you do
Value yourself and others
Embrace, enthuse, enjoy
New day, new start

Theological grounding firmly rooted in Christian narrative

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Wise and Foolish builders (Matthew 7 vs 24-27)

‘Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.’

(Colossians 2 vs 7)

WHAT WE OFFER YOUR CHILD

- A firm grounding in the basics of English and Maths, coupled with a broad balanced, creative curriculum that celebrates different ways of learning.
- A family atmosphere with the care of individual children that a small school can provide.
- To foster positive self-esteem, enabling children to develop confidence and act with initiative, and help to build positive relationships with other people.
- A positive behaviour policy which rewards good work and behaviour and encourages children to follow our school's values.
- A positive attitude to learning by recognising learning opportunities in every aspect of school life enabling children to become resourceful, enquiring and independent learners
- Each child is taught as an individual recognising and including the needs of all our pupils, developing children's self-respect and encouraging children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others
- An opportunity to develop spiritually and morally supported by the school's Christian ethos

Admission Statement

We are a small school with a wonderful family atmosphere built on our Christian values, valuing the individual and welcome all applications for places from parents of any children of primary school age 4-11. Families moving into the area or considering sending their child to the school are invited to contact the school to arrange a visit.

Whitminster is a state-funded Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore the Gloucestershire Local Authority acts as its Admissions authority. Children start school in September of the academic year (1st September - 31st August) in which they have their fifth birthday. Our standard admission number for each year group is 15.

Please see our current admission criteria document.

Starting school

"Parents are extremely pleased with the way the school cares for their children "
"We couldn't want for a better start. My child can't wait for the holidays to end!"

We feel that a successful home/school partnership will enhance the child's social and emotional learning development. We will foster this by:

- Inviting parents to visit the school with their child.
- Having a meeting with new parents prior to children entering school, to familiarise them with school life.
- A timetabled induction programme so that the children get used to coming to school for assemblies, story time and so they can begin to see where things are.
- Each child has a home/school agreement which parents and pupils are asked to complete before the child starts school.
- In September, we have an induction week where the Yr R children attend part time thus ensuring a stress free, happy, calm start to school life. This also helps each child to become familiar with the school environment and routine.



SCHOOL LIFE

The School Day

8.45am	Children come straight into school as they arrive
8.55am	The school day begins.
10.30am	Mid-morning break.
10.50am	Second morning session
12.00pm	Lunch break.
1.00pm	Afternoon session begins.
1.05pm or	
2:40	Act of worship (this time changes depending on the day)
3.15pm	School ends.

The doors to the lobby are opened at 8:45am where the children can enter for the beginning of the school day. Parents can wait with their children and collect them at the end of the day from the playground.

School Organisation

Whitminster C of E Primary School caters for boys and girls from four to eleven years of age. Children are grouped into classes of mixed ability. At present, there are five classes:

- Class One – Yr R (reception)
- Class Two – Years 1 and 2
- Class Three – Years 3 and 4
- Class Four - Years 5 and 6

School Office

The school administrator is readily available to assist in general administrative matters such as school payments, temporary absence, illness and in the making of appointments to see teachers and the headteacher.

For reasons of security, we ask that all visitors report to the school office and sign in.

All visitors must wear a visitor's lanyard and badge around the school.

If you wish to collect your child from or deliver your child to school once school has started, please report to the office.

It is extremely important that we have an emergency telephone number for all children and that we are notified of any changes in the home situation. Please help us to keep our records up to date.



School Closures

In the event that the school needs to close please listen to a local radio station for reports on all school closures or check the county website www.glosclosedschools.com for up to date information. We will alert parents via a text message, messages on the school website and social media.

School Meals

Packed lunches should be brought from home. Hot meals in thermos flasks, glass or tin containers are not permitted due to our health and safety policy. Knives are not to be brought into school for cutting fruit etc. Drinks should be in watertight containers. Drinking water is available throughout the school day.

A hot, cooked meal will be available at school during the midday break at a minimal cost or currently free to all infant pupils under the governments Universal Free School Meals initiative.

The County Contractor, Caterlink, bring in the meals which are prepared at a nearby school. Free school meals (both hot and packed lunches) are available for those who qualify and claim forms are available from the school office.

You can apply for free school meals for your KS2 child if you receive one of the following benefits. If you are not sure, please contact the school office. The Government does not allow us to recognise any other benefit other than those mentioned:

Parents/carers in receipt of:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Please come and see us if you meet these criteria even if you do not always intend to take up the entitlement.

Online Parent Pay is the only way available to make weekly/monthly or termly payments. No money should be sent into school.

Snacks

Whitminster is a Healthy School

We want to promote the message of healthy eating. For a morning snack children need to bring in a piece of fresh or dried fruit or vegetables only. Under the Government scheme all infant children receive a daily free piece of fruit or veg.

Packets of sweets, nuts or crisps are not permitted.

Please send your child in with a clean named water bottle and encourage them to drink water frequently during the day. There is a water cooler situated outside the toilets for the children to top up their bottles.

Why water?

It doesn't damage teeth,

It doesn't increase your sugar intake.

It hydrates your body quickly and easily.

School milk

Milk is completely free for all children aged under five and/or entitled to free school meals and is subsidised for children aged five or over. The way to register your child for schoolmilk is at www.coolmilk.com. Alternatively, please ask at the office for a registration form.

School Uniform

Parents are requested to follow the guidelines for school uniform. As a school, we believe that it helps create a sense of belonging, helps children to realise that certain clothes are appropriate to certain places and helps parents to reduce the fuss caused by rivalry over the latest fashion. Uniform is available to be ordered online from Price and Buckand.

All uniform must be clearly marked with your child's name.

Boys and Girls

- School sweatshirt or jumper, cardigan – Available to order online
- White shirt/polo shirt/ White blouse
- Grey trousers/ shorts/ grey skirt,
- Blue and white checked summer dress.
- Black or brown shoes
- Grey socks (boys); grey tights or grey or white socks (girls)



P.E.:

- School PE shirt
- Black shorts
- Daps and trainers

Children wear their P.E kit to school on their allocated day of the week.

Hair, Jewellery and Money

Hair, if shoulder length, should be tied back for safety reasons. Jewellery and nail varnish should not be worn at school. If earrings must be worn, only safety studs are acceptable. They must be removed for P.E. and swimming. Rings, bracelets and earrings are not appropriate and can be a safety risk. If a child does bring them into school, the school can accept no responsibility for them. The school can accept no responsibility for money, valuables or toys brought into school. We do allow a watch as this helps children to tell the time.

Information for Parents/Carers

Fortnightly newsletters are sent out to all families. These include imminent events and information along with dates for the terms/years events. Copies of all current newsletters are displayed on the outside and office notice board and also on the website. The school also communicates up to date information on social media sites:

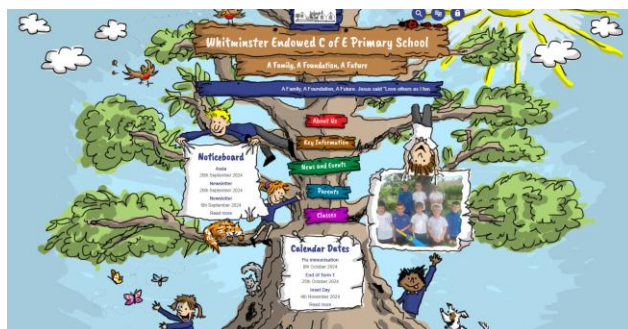
Twitter: @WhitminsterS

Facebook: If you search on Facebook for Whitminster Endowed C of E Primary School you will find our page.

Consultation evenings to discuss your child's progress are held in the autumn and spring terms. A full report in the summer term. ***If at any time you are concerned about any aspect of school life, please arrange to see the class teacher or headteacher.***

School Website

<https://www.whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk>



School Absences

If your child is absent, please let the school office know by 9.15am on the first morning as it helps us to keep a check on absence. If this is not possible, we must have a letter or verbal explanation of the absence once the pupil returns to school. If you don't let us know, you will get a phone call from our office manager. Any unexplained absences will be counted, as UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE and frequent/continuous unauthorised absences will be reported to the local authority.

Holidays in Term Time

From 17th August 2024, a new law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday in term time. Any application for leave must only be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. Headteachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional. Parents can be fined by the local authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

Exceptional circumstances may be:

- for service personnel and other employees who are prevented from taking holidays outside term-time if the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil's education; and
- when a family needs to spend time together to support each other.

The Local Authority recommends that holidays which are taken for the following reasons should never be authorised:

- availability of cheap holidays;
- availability of the desired accommodation;
- poor weather experienced in school holiday periods;
- overlap with beginning or end of term.

Sickness

If your child is ill during school time, every effort will be made to contact you or a nominated person so that your child can be collected. If your child is ill during the night, or in the morning, please keep them at home for the day. It is often very embarrassing and upsetting for the child if they are ill in school time.

If your child suffers a sickness bug, then the school follows the Health Authority recommendations that children should not return to school until 48 hours have passed from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea.

Please make sure that we have the correct emergency contact number, in case your child is ill in school time.

Should your child develop any serious illness, please let the school know as soon as possible.

Medicines in School

Children should not bring any medicines to school nor should parents ask staff to administer them or look after them. However, if there are any long-term medical conditions that require treatment, please contact the Headteacher who will discuss with you the best approach to take. If your child has a prescription which needs to be taken four times per day, then a medication form needs to be completed and be given to the office together with the medication in its original packaging with the prescription clearly stated on it. We will not give any paracetamol or aspirin type medications or prescriptions that need to be taken less than four times per day.

If your child needs to have an inhaler in school for asthma, please ensure that it is named and either given to the class teacher for safekeeping or the child may keep it in their pocket. Please ask the school office for an individual health care plan form that should be completed by yourself and the class teacher and returned to school. Children will always be allowed access to their inhaler if needed.

Health and Hygiene

Each school in Gloucestershire can refer to the school nurse. They can then work with parents/carers and education staff can discuss any concerns. They are able to liaise with other health professionals and refer on where necessary. The school nurse can advise, or will know, where help can be sought on many health matters including the following:

- Accident Prevention
- Adolescence
- Bed Wetting
- Behavioural Problems Bullying/Emotional Support/Domestic Violence
- Child Protection
- Healthy eating
- Eating Disorders
- Immunisations
- Sexual Health
- Visual & Hearing and Growing Problems
- Condition Management - anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, bereavement

Infectious Diseases

The following periods of school absence are a useful guide:

Chicken Pox – 5 days from the appearance of the rash

Measles - 5 days from the appearance of the rash

Mumps - 5 days from onset of swollen glands

Rubella - 6 days from the appearance of the rash

Diphtheria, scarlet fever, jaundice, polio, impetigo, tuberculosis, whooping cough – until the child is fully recovered and medical advisers and the headteacher agree on a return date

Head lice are a part of everyday life and can often be prevented by thorough combing of the hair night and morning. However, should head lice be detected, please let the school know so that parents can be advised.

Educational Visits



School visits are organised in relation to the children's work. A short overnight residential visit is organised for Year 3/4 every two years at PGL Liddington, Swindon as well as an extended visit for Year 5/ 6 children again every two years at Morfa Bay, Wales.

Swimming

Currently, Year 5 and 6 swim in the Summer Term for 6 weeks at The Pulse, Dursley.

Bikes/scooters at School

Bikes and scooters can be stored at school. Children are encouraged to take a cycling proficiency course (usually offered in Year 6). No riding of bikes or scooters is allowed on the school site.

Parking

We encourage our families to walk to school. Walking to school is one of the easiest ways to improve your and your children's health. It's also free and great for the environment. And it's social; 90% of parents who walk their children to school recognise that the journey is an important time for them to socialize with their children.

If you need to drive to school, please use the ample parking at the back of the school and not park in the front of the school especially in Holbury Crescent where it is easy to block the driveways or the entrance or exit.

Buddies

All children in school have a buddy. This allows the school community to get to know each other and learn to work and play together happily.

Every Friday, the whole school meet with their buddy and share lunch. The buddies are carefully chosen by staff to allow children to get to know different members of the school community.

School Council

Since September 1997, there has been a School council. Members are chosen by their peers for an academic year by elections amongst the children in Years 1– 6 in September. A year R pupil is elected to the council in February. There are fortnightly meetings and any pupil can bring an item for discussion at the school council.

Teams

There are three school teams –Bramley (Green), Pippin (Red) and Russet (Yellow). Children are allocated a team when they begin school. Each year, Year 6 children act as team captains. They arrange sports teams, give out team point results in assembly and act as leaders in our annual team point and sports day competition.

Transfer to Secondary School

We have excellent links with a number of secondary schools in the area. These are Severn Vale, Stroud High School, Rednock, Maidenhill and Marling.

Although our catchment area is Maidenhill, we are well placed to send children to other schools in the area. When your child is in their final years at primary school, you will receive up to date information from a variety of schools and will be invited to visit them.



Teaching and the Curriculum

"Leaders have designed a curriculum that sets out what pupils should know and be able to do. Teachers use this to plan learning that is challenging and interesting. Pupils enjoy their learning and develop a strong grasp of the basics"

OFSTED 2022



"She comes home singing and telling us things she has been doing"

"I learnt things I didn't know"

"They have shown me their work enthusiastically"

"He talked about the linked activities"

Feedback from our recent topics evaluations

At Whitminster Endowed C of E Primary School, we aim to foster a life-long love of learning, through adopting a highly practical and cross-curricular approach to learning. Our Creative Curriculum aims to deliver a twenty first century education that will equip our children with the skills required to be an independent and responsible citizen. We aim to deliver this through:

- Teaching the National Curriculum (NC) skills
- Developing a sense of community and belonging, contributing to our community through direct interaction – making links with local organisations.
- Equipping children with skills for life, through practical work
- Providing opportunities for children to broaden their outlook on life
- Making learning more meaningful, through putting it into context
- Holding a flexible timetabling approach to make space for true depth of study
- Establishing cross-curricular links to foster a broader understanding.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. In order to achieve this, we teach through themes. The learning in a subject is blocked into a half or whole term. This means that, for example, a child may in one term have a history led topic that is linked with other curriculum areas that enrich the theme, then switch to a greater emphasis on geography in the next term that is linked with other curriculum areas that enrich the theme. Over the three terms of the academic year, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects and/or EYFS curriculum allowing access to the learning objectives at their individual level.

Our teaching of English and Maths follows the National Curriculum for England 2014 and will usually be taught in year groups and whole class where appropriate. In other subjects, children may be taught as a class or in smaller groups. Sometimes they may work on individual projects when they are responsible for their own work.

Classes contain mixed year age groups and work is planned on a two-year cycle. We aim to provide a curriculum that is both stimulating and rich in experiences. All work is carefully planned to ensure that our children whatever their ability can access the curriculum and progress at a rate that is appropriate to their development and needs.



Despite our strong emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge and skills we also believe that the development of study skills, the fostering of a positive attitude to learning and a delight in learning are to be encouraged and are a feature both of what and how we teach.

Overview of topics 2024-2026

	<i>Autumn 1 and 2</i>	<i>Spring 1 and 2</i>	<i>Summer 1 and 2</i>
2024/25	Once Upon a Time	What a Wonderful World	Near and Far
2025/26	Movers and Shakers	Water, Water, Everywhere	Power and Glory

Foundation Stage

“The friendly staff and teachers who take time to get to know each individual child and support/guide them where needed.” Parent Questionnaire 2022

Within the first few weeks of starting school, each child will be assessed in the six areas of learning set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is known as ‘Baseline Assessment’. The children will be assessed by the Early Learning Goals within the seven areas of learning and appropriate support and teaching will be delivered to suit the individual needs of your child. The seven areas of learning are:

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Literacy
Maths
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Phonics

Differentiated daily Phonic teaching using the DFE validated scheme Twinkl Phonics in reception, KS1 and into KS2 if necessary.

Reception

Differentiated daily Phonic teaching is delivered through Letters and Sounds working through phase 2,3 and 4. Common exception words are woven into the phonics and other lessons. Constant daily assessment is made throughout all areas of learning. Assessment is also used termly and results are used to help move children through the phases.

Key Stage 1

Differentiated daily Phonic teaching continuing working through phase 4 and 5. Common exception words are woven into the daily phonics sessions. There is a 5-minute handwriting/spelling test each morning there is short session focussing on handwriting and spelling.

Homework is linked to the sessions taught that week.

Constant daily assessment is made throughout all areas of learning. Assessment is also used termly and results are used to help move children through the phases. Year One pupils take a phonics test in June.

Key Stage 2 - spelling

Children are taught following the Twinkl Spelling programme. This ensures continuity and progression through the year groups.

Religious Education

“Religious education (RE) is a significant strength of the school and is one of the principle vehicles for the shared commitment to the value of all, regardless of faith, culture or belief”.

SIAMS inspection 2017

As a Church school with strong links with the Church that go back over a hundred years, R.E. is an essential part of our curriculum. The staff follow the Gloucestershire agreed syllabus.



The R.E. curriculum is planned over a two-year cycle. In line with legal requirements for both infants and juniors, teachers will devote a majority of time to content relating to Christianity. Hinduism and Islam will be the comparative faith to be studied in the juniors with the infants studying Hinduism. In line with our equal opportunities we consider it important to provide children with a balanced and respectful attitude to other faiths.

Pupil Progress (see Assessment and Marking policies)

Children's progress is constantly monitored through the class teacher, marking, assessing and discussing work with your child. Teachers also formally assess the children during activities to enable them to monitor individual progress and help them plan future lessons.

At the end of Key Stage 2 the children are also assessed using nationally agreed Standard Assessment Tasks and Tests (SATs). The results of these assessments will be made available to parents.

School-based assessments will be taking place at regular intervals throughout your child's time at school.

The school has an open door policy and parents are regularly informed about their child's achievements. If parents have any concerns they are encouraged to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Parents are invited into school to review their child's progress each term. Appointments are made in the autumn and spring terms. In the summer term parents can discuss the annual report if they wish by making an appointment. At these meetings parents are informed about their child's progress, targets and how they can help them achieve these. They also have an opportunity to view their child's work and ask any questions they may have.

Each year parents receive one written report on their child's progress. A full report is then sent out towards the end of the summer term. The reports contain:

- Details of a child's achievements and progress in each subject and what they need to do to improve
- Relevant National Curriculum Test results for Year 6, Phonics assessments results for Y1, multiplication test results for Year 4 and end of EYFS results.
- A summary of the child's attendance
- How the child feels about their progress and what they feel they need to do to improve.
- Reports are positive in tone, cover the full range of each subject and are jargon free.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

As Whitminster is a small school, the child in need of extra help in a certain area can be spotted at an early stage and the appropriate help given. The school is able to provide for the needs of children who have a wide variety of learning difficulties. If you feel your child is in need of special help, physically, emotionally, socially or intellectually, the headteacher would be pleased to discuss what the school is able to offer in terms of facilities and special equipment, in the context of your child's particular needs.

Some children may be identified as more-able. The class teacher will set appropriate work or the children may receive additional teaching during the week from our intervention/SEN teacher. We believe in challenging all pupils and personalised learning is very much a priority.

Please see our local offer on our website or request a paper copy from the school office

Computing

All classrooms and the hall are equipped with interactive whiteboards. We have a bank of laptops and i-pads that ensure IT is used across the school to support learning in all subjects.



PE and Sport

We believe that PE is the aspect of the curriculum concerned with the development of physical skills: agility, balance and co-ordination through developing knowledge and understanding in physical, social, personal, creative, health and fitness and cognitive aspects through:

- Games
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Athletics
- Outdoor Activities
- Swimming

PE contributes to the overall education of young people by providing challenges and positive attitudes throughout life.



Swimming is taught to years 5 and 6 during the Summer Term at The Pulse, Dursley. These sessions include water competency and safety skills and are taught by qualified swimming instructors.

We have a school hall, a playground complete with a small netball court and an extensive playing field on which is marked a running track, rounders pitches and cricket pitches.



We regularly attend sporting tournaments provided by the Dursley and District Sports Association, including football, netball, rounders and athletics. We also attend the annual country dance festival.

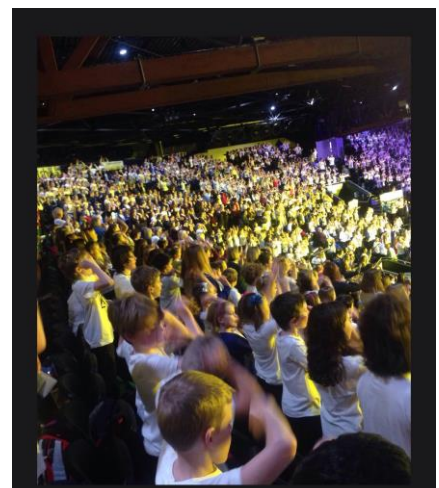
Our aim is for PE to be a positive experience, giving all children, irrespective of age or gender the opportunity to participate, enjoy and be successful in school and have a positive attitude to sport throughout life.

Music tuition

The school strongly encourages the children to be involved in music.

Specialist private music teachers are able to teach violin, guitar and piano.

Instruments may be hired from Colwell Centre for Arts.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The following activities take place during the school day or after school. Some take place throughout the year, others on a termly basis. Some take place as a specially arranged activity. The range of activities reflects the interests of the children and staff and their willingness to give up their own time to run activities:

Cross Country
Rounders
Knitting
Football

ICT
Cricket
Hockey
Rugby

Netball
Craft Club
Gardening

Cooking
Nature Club
Country Dancing



Policies

(These are overviews of some of our school policies – copies of all our policies are available in the school office or in the information section of the school website www.whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk)

Anti – Bullying

Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (e.g. being ignored or not spoken to). This will include cyber bullying and homophobic bullying.

Our policy includes all children and adults in school

We believe bullying is not a 'one off' push in the playground. All children fall out with their friends from time to time. The headteacher must be informed of any allegations made by a child or children of bullying. The incidents are investigated fully, reported to the Governors and dealt with according to the School's Policy. In extreme and severe cases of persistent bullying exclusion may be necessary.

Behaviour Policy

We set high standards for behaviour at Whitminster and we have a clear behaviour policy that we follow. The whole school, teaching staff, teaching assistants, midday supervisors and supply staff will use the 'Good to be Green' behaviour scheme. The School's behaviour policy is led by the School's Vision Statement and by these school values:

- Celebrate and be proud
- Give respect, gain respect
- Create, learn and achieve
- Aspire, be challenged and confident in all you do
- Value yourself and others
- Embrace, enthuse, enjoy
- New day, new start

These are displayed in every classroom and in key areas in the school. They are frequently discussed and used with the children to develop each class's own more specific set of rules, and rules for conduct around the school and the playground. These guidelines are also shared with parents. They are used to reward children and also to sanction them.

These values will also be linked to our assembly themes taken from the 'Values for Life' scheme. At the beginning of each year every teacher in the school with responsibility for a class teaches the children the school's behaviour system.

Class Rewards

These rewards are put in place to help to motivate the children to follow these rules. This is sincere and meaningful attention given to the children for behaving according to expectations - for choosing the responsible behaviour and attitudes that will lead to greater success in school and increased self-esteem.

They are;

- **Normal classroom praise.** Words of praise, saying something positive that will have an impact on the child/ren. If a child has a particular target they are trying to reach reward their efforts towards this.

When a child does something the teacher feels needs more than normal classroom praise they can receive a further reward from the list below. The more special the action the greater the reward. Each year group may have reward systems that are pertinent to their group of children.

- **Golden Time** In KS1 for a period of 30 minutes each week, in KS2 one afternoon per term children are rewarded for their good behaviour with Golden Time. The children in consultation with the teacher can choose activities to do.
- **Team points** We have three school teams (a cup is given to the winning team, for sports day and overall team points) Final tally is given in celebration assembly. Team points are awarded in class.
- **Values award** Each term children are awarded weekly for demonstrating the collective worship value and/or the school values. These award change to reflect the current whole school topic.
- **Visit other members of staff** Allow the children to get positive recognition from other teachers and staff and to show them that everyone is committed to the system.
- **Certificates and Awards** Each week in our Celebrate and be Proud Collective Worship the children are rewarded in front of the whole school for their efforts. It could be a piece of work, several pieces of work, good behaviour or a target they are working towards.
- **Termly Star Award** Staff nominate a pupil from their class to receive this award, pupils will be given a special gold star badge and their name written in the book to be displayed in the office and given a book token.
- **Termly Courageous Advocate** Staff nominate a pupil who has stood up for a cause, a subject or a person they believe in. They make a difference to the world we live in.

- **Termly Sports Award** Staff nominate a pupil who has 'shone' with their PE lessons. They could have developed their skill in the term or their confidence has grown or they have become a real team player.

Sanctions

After exhausting normal classroom practice, if the child still doesn't respond then the following sanctions can be used.

A yellow card is issued for inappropriate behaviour and displayed by the pupil's name. This is a visual warning that their behaviour is inappropriate and should be modified. The card can be removed if the behaviour improves.

A red card is issued, if after the yellow card there has been a further incident of the same inappropriate behaviour or behaviour that is so severe that it requires further action.

- **Loss of Golden Time** If a pupil receives a red card then they have lost some of their 'golden time': KS1 – 5 minutes, KS2 – 15 minutes
- If a pupil loses all their golden time this will result in the head teacher writing to the parents informing of their child's behaviour.
- A record of red cards will be kept in each class so that recurring patterns can be identified and if appropriate used as evidence to support further actions that may need to be taken e.g. A child being put on a pupil support programme, or involvement of outside agencies.

Charging Policy

The Governors have adopted and will operate the Local Authority's policy for charging for school activities. For activities in school time, parents are asked for a voluntary contribution of a particular amount. For visits outside school time, parents will be charged for allowable costs.

Voluntary contributions mean that no child will be prevented from going because the parent / carer has made no contribution. Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents/ carers make an application to the Headteacher. However, if too many people opt not to make a voluntary contribution then the activity may have to be cancelled.

Equal Opportunities (*See our Equality Scheme and our Inclusion Policy*)

All pupils whatever their gender, ability, ethnicity or social circumstances, have equal access to all areas of the curriculum.

Homework Policy

The aims of the homework policy are –

1. The policy involves all stakeholders in a partnership in order to be more effective.
2. Homework tasks are integrated within planned everyday school work.
3. Tasks are matched to pupil needs and on the basis of their prior attainment, providing challenges for all.
4. It compliments not just completes classroom learning.
5. Feedback to pupils tells them how well they have done and what they could do to improve.
6. We believe that it helps pupils to develop a good attitude to learning and develop their ability to work independently. We give positive reinforcement and reward to encourage children to complete it.

Religious Worship

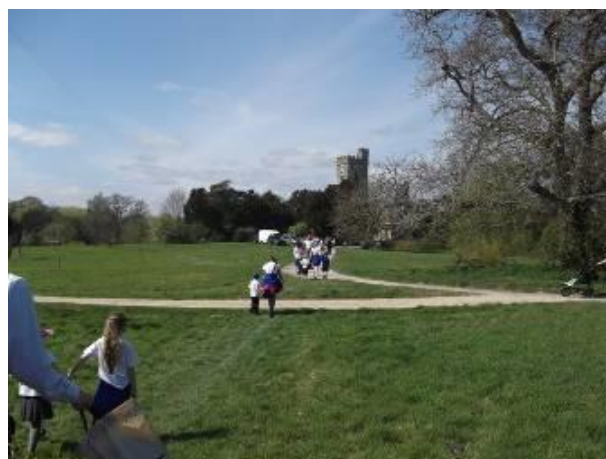
As a Church school we provide Christian based acts of worship.

Worship is held daily with the children taking an active part.

Special services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter can be held at the local Church.

St Andrews or Standish. Local church representatives come to school regularly to take services.

At Whitminster Endowed C of E Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but



recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

At Whitminster Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to protection from abuse and neglect. Abuse is defined as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

All staff and governors receive safeguarding training and updating regularly. Every adult must follow the safeguarding procedures at all times and be alert to the indicators of abuse.

Each adult has a responsibility to make themselves familiar with the 'Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with children and young people', the schools Safeguarding policy and Gloucestershire Safeguarding children handbook. All staff would promptly share relevant information with the designated Safeguarding Lead, Alison Parry-Jones – Headteacher.

School Complaints Procedure

The school aims to resolve any complaints at the earliest possible stage and is keen to speak to parents on any issues they may have. However, if a parent has a complaint they should in the first stage of the complaints procedure, speak to the class teacher, unless the complaint is about her/him, then they should see the Headteacher. If the complainant is still unhappy with the resolve at Stage Two they should see the Headteacher, unless the complaint is about her/him then they should write to the Chair of Governors giving clear details of the complaint.

If after Stage two, the complainant is still unhappy they should write to the Chair of Governors who will convene a Governing Body Complaints panel. The complaint will be dealt with by this panel and details of how the panel come to a decision are outlined more fully in the policy.

Sex & Relationship Education

In accordance with current legislation, the governing body holds a policy over the provision of SRE in Whitminster School. That entails the delivery of factually correct information, delivered in an objective way, in order to empower the pupils to make informed decisions.

SRE is delivered across the school at various different times, age appropriately to all year groups. The majority of this subject is based on being in relationships. The main sex elements are contained in puberty sessions delivered in Years 5 & 6. Whilst the remainder of sex education is statutory in Science (KS1- Naming of the external body parts, KS2-Life-cycle of the human) an attempt is made across the school to 'normalise' SRE questions.

To that end, the policy clearly states that any questions the pupils ask will be dealt with age appropriately, using anatomically, biologically correct language.

Social Media

We have a facebook account where we upload messages and photos of the children. We ask when your child starts school to give consent for your child to appear. We will never upload a photo of a child on their own or name them. We completely understand that some families do not wish their child to be on facebook so we will withdraw them from photos.

