



Holme Valley Primary School



Commitment • Opportunity • Respect • Excellence





Welcome to **Holme Valley Primary School**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to tell you about our school and hope it will give you an insight into the wide range of experiences offered to every pupil and also support your child's transition into our school.

At Holme Valley, we believe that every child deserves a bright future. Together, we aim to teach our children that they can achieve their very best in everything they do, and that hard work, determination and resilience are the keys to success in life. In the classroom, our teachers have high expectations and provide the inspiration, opportunities and support that enables our pupils to flourish.

Holme Valley is an exciting place where the range of engaging opportunities on offer helps our pupils to experience a rich and balanced curriculum. As well as valuing academic achievement, we believe a school should take a broader view than that which is why we also have a strong focus on our pupil's spiritual, social and moral development alongside skills such as communication, teamwork and respect which are essential foundations for success in later life.



Rachel Stephenson - Headteacher

Excellence is something that we aspire to, but we cannot do this alone. We believe parents and carers have a very important role to play and we value the partnership which exists between school, parents and the wider community and the part it plays in realising our whole school vision. By working together we can make sure this happens.

Our Vision & Aims

Our vision and aims were created alongside our CORE values:

Commitment
Opportunity
Respect
Excellence

At Holme Valley, we aim:

- To provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum, where high-quality teaching results in acquisition of basic skills, knowledge and concepts which build upon children's prior knowledge.
- To provide a broad and balanced educational experience for all pupils.
- To reinforce positive behaviour, improve pupil motivation and achievement.
- To provide opportunities and support to maximise the effectiveness of all staff.
- To ensure that the physical environment is safe, tidy, attractive and stimulating.
- To monitor the efficient provision of high quality resources and enrichment opportunities for maximum benefit of all pupils.
- To encourage and promote an active partnership within the school, with parents and the wider community.
- To encourage and support parents to work in close partnership with the school for the benefit of their children.
- To provide a range of opportunities to develop the skills essential for children to become responsible, confident and caring citizens in a multicultural and diverse society.
- To encourage our pupils to explore and question the world around them and become more environmentally aware.





Our Curriculum

At Holme Valley we offer a stimulating and exciting curriculum which promotes high achievement for every child.

Our curriculum has been designed to follow the requirements of the National Curriculum and allow for a progression of knowledge and skills. Enhancement experiences such as trips, visitors and topic days help to enrich our curriculum.

We want the curriculum to be relevant and meaningful so where possible, subjects are taught through interesting, well planned topics. By linking subjects closely we are able to promote learning and understanding and maximise coverage.

Relationships and Sex Education

We teach SRE across all year groups following a scheme of learning which offers children a broad and balanced curriculum complemented by other subjects such as science and PSHE. Big Talk assist us with the delivery of lessons.

The aim of our high quality SRE lessons is not only to ensure children are well informed about the changes their bodies go through but to also keep them safe, healthy and happy.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

The school has no religious affiliation. Religious education is a statutory requirement and is taught according to the LA agreed syllabus.

Christianity is taught throughout the school alongside other major religions in order to help children understand and learn something of the varied cultures of people in our society.

The school provides a daily act of collective worship in the form of a class or school assembly. Our assemblies support the development of the children's personal, social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.

Behaviour

We encourage children to strive for excellent standards of behaviour at all times. One of our primary aims is to reinforce positive behaviour so that every member of the school community feels happy, safe and secure.

The best kind of discipline, we believe, is self-discipline and our aim is to encourage, foster and develop this. Children are expected to consider and respect the needs, desires and feelings of others, keep themselves and each other safe and be ready to listen and learn. We aim to achieve this by developing strong relationships with our pupils and being consistent in our expectations for behaviour.

We believe praise and encouragement of children's efforts and achievements are very important in maintaining good discipline. We are very proud of the behaviour of our children and this is constantly remarked upon by visitors to the school.

Parents, teachers and Governors have worked together to formulate our school Behaviour Policy. This includes a Policy for the Prevention of Bullying. The policy outlines rewards and sanctions to ensure a consistent approach.

Routine matters of misconduct are dealt with in school. On the rare occasion when more serious problems occur, e.g. bullying or repeated instances of misconduct, parents are asked to come into school to discuss the matter. We feel that by working together we can best overcome problems, and do therefore rely on your support.



Pastoral Care

As a school we believe first and foremost that your child must feel safe and be happy in order to succeed.

All staff take a personal interest in the pastoral care of the children. Everyone makes it their priority to get to know the children as quickly as possible so they are able to respond to their social and welfare needs. Any problems which cannot be resolved in the classroom are brought to the notice of the Inclusion Leader or Headteacher. Should there be any cause for concern we would contact you. We hope that these arrangements will work in reverse and you will come to us to discuss any problems or worries you may have, no matter how unimportant they may seem.

Parents are asked to ensure that we have up to date information of telephone numbers, emails and correct names. This information is very important in case pupils are taken ill or involved in an accident.

In cases of all emergency contacts being unobtainable the school will act sensibly and responsibly in loco parentis.

Mrs R Stephenson, Headteacher, is the designated child protection lead and Mrs A Dakin, Inclusion leader is the deputy. The law requires the school to report any obvious or suspected cases of child abuse. This includes non accidental injury, physical neglect, emotional abuse and sexual abuse. These procedures are all intended to protect children at risk.

The school has an agreed Policy for Child Protection which can be read on the school's website.





Health/ Medical Information

The school nursing team visit regularly to do routine medical checks and give general advice. Their support can be requested through school.

Cuts and grazes resulting from play are dealt with in school. In the case of illness or a major accident, the school will immediately contact the parents.

Medication that has been prescribed by a doctor will be administered if the required dose is four times a day. Other medication may be given in school if parents complete an administration of medication permission form. A fridge is located in the main office for storage of medication.

If your child needs the regular use of an inhaler, this must be labelled clearly with the child's name and instructions for dosage. All medication, including inhalers need to be handed in to the office staff.

If advance notice is given, children may be collected by an adult via the school office to attend a hospital/clinic appointment. The office staff will ask to see evidence of the appointment before leave is authorised.

If a child has a serious or recurring medical problem it is essential that parents notify school and complete a Healthcare Plan for their child.



Inclusion

Holme Valley Primary School is an inclusive school and pupils with special educational needs, including disabled pupils, are well catered for within our provision.

We make every effort to identify children who have special educational needs as early as possible. They will be given extra help and support on an individual basis or within a small group. This may be within the classroom setting or children may be withdrawn for a specific purpose. Equality of opportunity is built into the curriculum and steps are taken to take account of pupil's needs. Occasionally a child may be referred to the Schools Psychological Service for further assessment. We involve parents at all stages of this process.

We also recognise the special needs of very able children and aim to meet their needs by providing them with appropriately challenging work to ensure that they reach their potential.

A full copy of the school's policy on Special Educational Needs is available in school or on the school's website. If parents have any concerns they are requested to speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

Accessibility Strategy

The school has a duty to ensure that all our pupils have equal access to the curriculum based on their individual needs. This covers not only the content of lessons and teaching strategies but also the physical environment.

Where appropriate the school will liaise with outside agencies and the learning support network team to arrange additional support for individual pupils and take advice.

School Meals

An excellent, healthy and home-made meal is available for all children.

The school supports the nutritional guidelines set out by the School Food Trust which have been adopted by the Local Authority school meals service. The cost of the meal is fixed by the Local Authority and the present charge can be obtained from the school office. School meals may be taken as frequently or infrequently as required.

Universal free school meals were introduced by the Government in September 2014 for all KS1 children. If you receive benefits, it is important that you still apply for free school meals and a clothing grant as this triggers funding for your child called Pupil Premium.

Methods of payment:

The school has an electronic money system called Parent Pay. A registration form is given to you, to register online to pay for school meals. All meals must be paid for in advance.

Milk/Fruit

Milk is provided free for pupils until their fifth birthday and after the age of 5 pupils can purchase milk.

Fruit is free to children in KS1 (Reception to Y2)

Packed Lunches

Several children across the school choose not to take a school lunch and instead bring a packed lunch from home. It is important that if you do send your child to school with a packed lunch that it provides them with a healthy and balanced meal which contains the nutrients that the children need.

A balanced packed lunch should contain a mix of starchy foods, protein foods, a dairy item and vegetables, salad or fruit.

A packed lunch should not contain sweets, chocolate bars, cakes, crisps (limited to once per week) or nuts as several children in school have severe nut allergies.





School Uniform

Uniformity gives us identity as a school, reduces instances of bullying and has a significant impact on behaviour. We strive for all students to take pride in their appearance and prepare themselves for the transition to secondary school where strict uniform requirements also apply.

The standard of uniform at Holme Valley is high and in our opinion this plays a large part in helping to maintain other standards. The school is very appreciative of the support which parents give us in this area. Parents are requested to comply with the following regulations.

Hairstyles

Extreme styles or colours of hair are not allowed, this includes shaved patterns and lines. Long hair must be tied up.

Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn in school. If ears are pierced, only one set of plain gold or silver studs is acceptable. If your child has pierced ears they must remove their earrings for PE as they are dangerous. Parents must ensure that children can take out their earrings or they should not wear them to school. The children will be responsible for their safe keeping.

Appropriate School Shoes will:

- Be made of leather or leather effect (no suede or canvas material are permitted)
- Have a rigid sole or heel (no soft soles or high heels)
- Have no sporting logo or coloured stripes on them
- Not to be tennis shoes, plimsolls or trainers
- Be all black
- Extend no higher than the ankle (no boots)

In all matters, the Headteacher will make the final decision

Key Information

School day

8:45am to 3:15pm

Classrooms open at 8.30 am and registration starts at 8.45 am.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is a legal requirement and is of crucial importance. If an absence is unavoidable, please contact the school before 9.00 am. If the school is not notified the absence will be unauthorised. Lateness is carefully monitored and any instance requires an explanation.

Drop off and Pick up Arrangements


Please make sure the class teacher is kept fully aware of the drop off/collection arrangements for your child. In the event of an unavoidable delay, please contact us as soon as possible.

There is a crossing patrol in the immediate vicinity of the school and we request this is used at all times. Any scooters or bicycles brought to school must not be ridden on the premises or left during the day.

Parking is very restricted around school. In the interests of safety, parking is prohibited in front of the school, and parents should observe the school safety zone parking restrictions. Parents are requested not to use the school car park, this includes when collecting children from after school clubs and events.

Holidays

A list of school holiday dates will be provided at the beginning of every school year. We strongly discourage parents from taking children out of school, as the demands of the National Curriculum make it very difficult for teachers to go back over any work missed. Regular attendance is a legal requirement and a necessity for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.



More details and information can be viewed on our school website

www.holmevalley.n-lincs.sch.uk



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