
Willoughby Primary School

Learning for Life



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Welcome to Willoughby Primary School



Foreword: Mrs Joanne Linnett Headteacher:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Willoughby Primary School. Set in the undulating hills of Nottinghamshire, in the village of Willoughby on the Wolds, Willoughby Primary is one of the smallest schools in the country.

The advantage of this is that children and staff get to know each other well. Older children naturally interact with the younger children in a nurturing and supportive way, which is very special.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to lead alongside committed staff and governors to ensure that the pupils at Willoughby receive a wonderful experience at primary school to provide them with life-long happy memories, enable them to reach their full potential and inspire them for life-long learning – ‘Learning for Life.’

As a staff we strongly believe that children only have ‘*one chance*’. We therefore ensure that the education they receive at Willoughby is one of the very highest standard in all aspects of their development.

About Willoughby Primary School

With a school roll of between 40-50 children we get to know each of our children really well. Our children genuinely care for one another and mix happily regardless of age. Our small class sizes for much of the day ensure that children’s individual needs are identified early and catered for.

I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher of Willoughby Primary School; as a team of staff we have lots to be justifiably proud of. This prospectus is designed to give you a glimpse of the range of opportunities available at the school, as well as an insight into the things we consider important in the education of our pupils. The aim of Willoughby Primary School is to provide a safe, stimulating and challenging learning environment, where everyone’s needs and contributions are recognised and valued.

Parent partnership

We are pleased to welcome you and your family to our school; by working together we can provide the quality of education that you expect and your child deserves.

We have an open door policy at Willoughby Primary School; we welcome parental involvement and value your input. We work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time at our school and we hope that your association with us will bring both happiness and success for your child.



Get in touch

We are always pleased to show prospective pupils, parents and staff around our school and welcome you to come and see for yourself what a wonderful school Willoughby is. You can hear directly from our children by reading their thoughts further in this prospectus.

We are confident you will find us a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please email: office@willoughby.sch.gov.uk or telephone 01509 880620.



School day

The school gates open for the start of the day at 8.50am. The school day starts at 9.00am and ends at 3.30pm with lunch between 12.00pm and 1.00pm.

Uniform

We expect to see all children in a school uniform. This ensures the children look smart, which in turn, encourages them to take pride in their school and approach learning in the right frame of mind. Wearing a school uniform actively promotes a sense of belonging and community. Our uniform consists of:

Girls

- Red fleece, sweatshirt or cardigan
- White or red polo shirt
- Grey dress, skirt or trousers
- Red tights or white socks
- Black shoes
- Red and white checked dress
- for summer

Boys

- Red fleece or sweatshirt
- White or red polo shirt
- Grey trousers or knee-length shorts in summer
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

School uniform, PE kit and book bags can be ordered through the school office.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious meal prepared by staff at Willow Brook Primary School or bringing a packed lunch into school.

Free school meals

For children in the Foundation Stage, and Years 1 and 2, the government provides free school meals. For older children, you need to be in receipt of certain benefits.

Break time and drinks

Under the Fruit in School scheme children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a piece of fruit each day free of charge. This is given as a playtime snack. Children in Key Stage 2 may bring in a healthy snack from home. We have a water cooler accessible to children so that water is available throughout the day.

Milk is provided free to pupils who are eligible to receive free school meals and children up to the age of 5 years are also entitled to milk free of charge. Milk is available to other pupils through Cool Milk for a small charge. Further information is available from the school office.

Behaviour and self-development

Rules at Willoughby Primary School are very clear. We expect children to behave well and work hard within a supportive framework, which will help them to develop skills at the right level and provide a foundation for their future lives. Our rules are grounded in common sense, courtesy, safety or security. We encourage our children to show respect and care for others and for the school and its equipment.

Children are expected to develop a sense of pride and responsibility towards their school and for their own and other people's property.

School rules and rewards

We believe that high standards of behaviour can be achieved if there is a clear, ordered routine to follow. We have a clear and consistent approach that rewards good behaviour, but discourages unacceptable behaviour. Staff use a variety of positive rewards for good behaviour and citizenship including praise, trust, encouragement, incentive, recognition, Celebration Assemblies and awards of certificates and stickers.

Equally, staff respond quickly, consistently and positively to unacceptable behaviour. This is done in a manner that ensures as little time as possible is wasted and that unacceptable behaviour is not seen to be rewarded with extra attention, fuss or raised voices.

We have the following rules aimed at maintaining good order within our community and ensuring the health and safety of everyone within the school:

Our Golden Rules

- Try our best at all times
- Be polite and well mannered
- Look after our school and each other
- Keep hands, feet, objects and unkind words to yourself
- When in school follow adults' instructions straight away
- Put up hand when asking or answering questions
- Walk in school and step aside for an adult
- School should be an enjoyable place for everyone!



Teaching

The school is organised into three teaching units, including a small group of Foundation (or Reception) children.

The children are taught in mixed ability groups and individually. The small number of pupils allows considerable flexibility in both curriculum and school organisation and the emphasis is on each child achieving excellence, whilst working at an appropriate level. The small number of children also allows close personal interaction and a family atmosphere prevails where children can develop their ideas and personalities in a caring community.

National Curriculum

At Willoughby Primary School we believe that children should receive a broad and balanced curriculum at a level appropriate to them. We follow the statutory National Curriculum at Key Stage 1 and 2 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework for our Reception children. As a staff we plan together, to ensure that we are offering an exciting and balanced curriculum, which goes beyond the statutory requirements.

Our first objective is to ensure that your child will be happy in coming to school in order to learn effectively. The teachers assess your child's needs and carefully match work to their stage of development. The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. **Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5
2. **Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7
3. **Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

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

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics• English• Science• Computing• Design and Technology• History• Geography• Languages - French | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art and Design• Music• Physical Education• Religious Education• Citizenship• Personal, Social Health and• Economic Education (PSHE)• Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) |
|--|--|



Religious Education

Willoughby Primary School has no religious affiliations. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus. When required, the school will make arrangements for parents to exercise their rights of withdrawal of their children from Religious Education or instruction.

We regularly use the local Church and visit places of worship of different faiths.



Music

We have a specialist music teacher and opportunities are available for the children to learn to play the drums.



Sport

We are fortunate to have full use of the village community sports field, only a few minutes walk from our school. When the weather is less favourable we use the indoor facilities at Willoughby Village Hall. Our aim with PE and sport is to provide opportunities for physical learning for all pupils.

We want all of our children to be happy and healthy and enjoy physical activity. We believe that PE and sport enhances academic learning, and leads to healthier, happier and more productive lives. Equal time is given to the development of gymnastics, games and dance skills and we involve our pupils in inter-schools sporting activities. Each year all children from Reception age upwards are provided with swimming lessons. This continues through to Year 6.



Enriched curriculum: trips and visits

Trips

To further enrich our curriculum, our children are offered a range of visits which are connected with work in the classroom. We make visits locally and further afield and invite visitors into school from the wider community. Parent helpers are invited to accompany us on these trips. Previous trips have included:

- Conkers
- Great Central Railway, Loughborough
- Rushcliffe Park
- Safety Zone at Holme Pierrepont
- Pantomime
- Twin Lakes



Residential Trip and Visitors

Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to go on a residential trip during the school year. Children learn independence and develop confidence and these experiences help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by professionals such as sporting professionals and animal welfare groups such as The Dogs Trust.



Your child's achievements

Ongoing assessments

Teachers make ongoing assessments of all children in order to help them better plan the next unit of work.

Children are assessed at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception class) against the Early Learning Goals. At the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, children are assessed in the core subjects by their teachers, and at the end of Key Stage 2, by Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) against the National Curriculum. At the end of the academic year, parents of these children will receive a record of their achievement.

School reports

All parents receive an annual written report from the class teacher at the end of the summer term which provides information about your child's academic achievement and summarises their personal and social development. There is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher each term to discuss their progress and achievement. Whilst these are formal arrangements for you to meet with your child's teacher, we have an open door policy at Willoughby Primary School and encourage parents to speak to teachers outside of these arrangements should any concerns arise.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all

We are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and racism. Our school roll includes children with Special Educational Needs. Willoughby Primary School is dedicated to providing a high quality education for all of the children in our school. We believe that all children are entitled to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to be fully included in all aspects of school life. We are committed to maximum inclusion corresponding with meeting individual needs.



Special Educational Needs

We try to ensure that any special physical, emotional or intellectual needs of the child are identified as early as possible. Children are assessed in a variety of ways when they join the school and can be supported individually or in small groups by support staff. If necessary, professional guidance is sought from other agencies such as Speech Therapy, School Health or an Educational Psychologist. Parents are involved at every stage. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

Access

We have an Equal Opportunities Policy and do not discriminate against any individuals. We actively promote a caring ethos within our school. The school accessibility plan covering future policies for increasing access to the school by pupils with disabilities is available by request from the office.

Collective worship

Daily acts of worship are broadly Christian in nature, but are relevant to all pupils. Assemblies encourage the values and attitudes that the school is seeking to promote, and allow children to celebrate their own and other people's work and achievements.

Clubs

Throughout the year we offer the opportunity for children to enjoy after school clubs. Recent examples include:

- Movie club
- Christmas craft club
- Spring term crafts
- Summer club
- Cricket club
- Construction club
- Sports club



Volunteers

We have an active group of local residents who regularly come into school to volunteer to join in with the children on a variety of activities. These include listening to readers, participating in different crafts and gardening.

Facilities

We belong to a supportive community who embrace our school as part of Willoughby village. Our children are fortunate to be able to use the excellent play facilities available at the village community field for both sporting activities and recreational play in the warmer months.

One of the classrooms is a well resourced ICT area for the pupils. We have 10 new iPads (funded by FOWS) and a range of laptops. All classes also have use of interactive boards.



Moving on to Secondary Education

When our pupils move to local secondary schools we make the process as smooth as possible. We work closely with local schools and support families through the application process. Children make visits to their new schools during the summer term. In addition to this the staff are always available to listen to any concerns.

The majority of our pupils transfer to The South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, which provides a first class education.

Some of our parents choose to move into the independent sector, where Willoughby pupils have enjoyed a high success rate in entrance tests.

Independent schools our pupils have recently transferred to include Loughborough Grammar, Loughborough High School, Trent College and Ratcliffe College.



Willoughby Primary School

Learning for Life

Vision 2022: 'Learning for Life'

Willoughby Primary School provides an outstanding all-round education in a caring 'family' environment. Our priorities are to deliver the highest standards of teaching that engages and challenges children to enjoy learning. Our aims are:

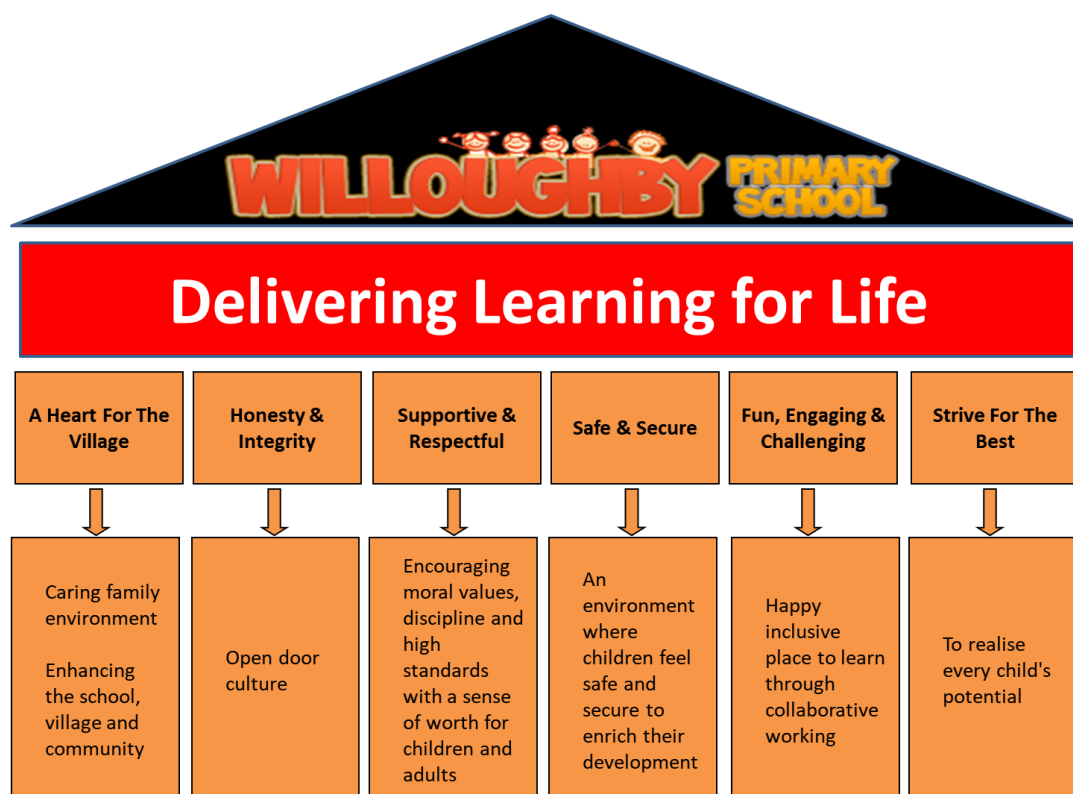
- to open minds through the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging independent, self-motivated and active learners,
- to encourage and inspire all pupils to achieve and exceed their true potential, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically through effective inclusive practice.

Our vision for the school is that it should be the preferred option for children of all local families because it best meets their needs and expectations. We will continue with these priorities and aims whilst adapting our curriculum and teaching to what our children need to thrive and be resilient in their rapidly evolving world. To achieve this the school must be vibrant with an exciting curriculum and its resourcing must be sustainable for the future in its village setting. Governors will keep in view all viable models of funding, collaboration, and governance to assure that the school will continue to thrive.

Our Ethos and Values

The culture and character of our school are rooted in, but not limited by, the school being small and in a relatively rural community. Our ambitions are broader and deeper. Delivering 'learning for life' whilst also promoting the family ethos calls for a diversity of values at the heart of the school community. These ideas and ambitions have been developed by pupils, staff, parents and governors:

- A heart for the village: caring family environment, enhancing the school, village and community,
 - Honesty and integrity: an open-door culture,
 - Supportive and respectful: encouraging moral values, discipline and high standards with a sense of worth for children and adults,
 - Safe and secure: an environment where children feel safe and secure to enrich their development,
 - Fun, engaging and challenging: a happy inclusive place to learn through collaborative working,
 - Strive for the best: to realise every child's potential.
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Getting involved

Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement including setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school's finances, making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

If you wish to discuss anything with the Governing Body, our Parent Governor Representatives, details of which can be found on our website, will be pleased to hear from you.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office.

Friends of Willoughby School

Every parent is automatically a member of Friends of Willoughby School (FOWS), the function of which is to develop closer links between the parents, teachers and local community and to provide financial support towards educational resources and equipment.

Do you want to join the Friends of Willoughby School committee?

We welcome any ideas for fundraising from parents and carers and offers of support at events are always appreciated. Information about meetings can be found on the school website. All parents and carers are invited to attend. Please come and share your talents with our school!

Voluntary helpers

As well as local volunteers we also value the contribution of parents and family members and we actively encourage your help during the school day. We value help with a variety of activities which include reading with our children, swimming observing, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pairs of hands on educational visits. We take safeguarding matters extremely seriously and therefore all volunteers must have a DBS check before they commence work in school.

What Our Children Say About Willoughby Primary School

"This school is amazing. The teachers are really kind, you can make friends easily and have fun while learning. The emotional support is great and all of the children are really kind"

Sam

"The teachers are really nice at Willoughby School"

Erin

"I really like school because it is so fun and the teachers are lovely"

Evelyn

"It's great, I like everything about it"

Henry L

"I love Willoughby because everybody is so friendly. It is like a big friendly family"

Isla

"It's fun to do activities"

Jacob

"There are lovely teachers"

Imogen

Admissions

Admission into Reception

Children are admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday. You will need to register and apply for a place for your child.

Please note that a place in Willoughby Playgroup does not automatically entitle you to a place in our Reception class. You must make an application for a place via Nottinghamshire County Council.

Admission into other year groups

If you are considering Willoughby Primary School for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show around our school.

Applications

Please ask about applications at the school office or telephone Nottinghamshire County Council: 0300 500 8080 Forms can be downloaded via the County Council website.

Web address: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/>





In Loving Memory

**Paintings of Willoughby School
by
Dr Basil Haynes
Parent, Governor & Grandad**
