



Berkswell Church of England Primary School

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...inspiring children

to shine.

TO

PARENTS

The information in this prospectus is intended for parents who may wish their child to attend Berkswell Church of England Primary School.

We hope the notes provide you with much of the information you require, but if at any time you wish to know more, please telephone or email the school.

Our overall aim is to create a lively, interesting and caring environment in which each child is stimulated to work at their full potential. We place importance on developing happy, confident, self-disciplined children and encourage courtesy and consideration for others.

Mrs. T Drew

Headteacher



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OUR --- MISSION AND AIMS

Our mission is to create a happy, caring, safe Christian community, where everyone is valued, listened to and respected. We work diligently together to empower all to achieve their best. We nurture individuals to be independent, confident and articulate people who understand their own needs and are supportive of others.

- At Berkswell we know that strong relationships, founded on Christian principles are the way to create a dynamic, successful and happy school community.
- As a visionary school, we have created an innovative and inclusive curriculum which excites and motivates all, promoting enthusiasm for learning. This inspires us to acquire a wide range of skills and knowledge, resulting in exceptional progress and achievement.
- In exploring and reflecting upon Christian, spiritual and moral values, we recognise the importance of co-operating with others. We encourage and develop in each other, a true sense of self-motivation and worth. We understand the need for mutual respect for all members of our school family and beyond.
- Together we appreciate and understand our local community and environment, as part of the wider world. We recognise the need to respect and work alongside others and are empathetic to their values and beliefs.
- We celebrate the individual and diverse contributions of all members of the school community, creating responsible citizens of the future.

PUPILS' MISSION STATEMENT

At our school we
are happy and
caring, it's a safe
place to work and
play. We realise and understand that the people
around us are just as important as ourselves.

We work to make
sure that everybody
achieves the best
they can. Everyone
feels welcome
at our school.

We are a
Christian family.



We want TEAMWORK

We want to live with strong friendships like Jesus taught us to. We work as a team and care for everyone around us, big or small.



We aim for HAPPINESS

Our school aims to be a safe and happy place. Using our curriculum, we try to make lessons that lead us to use a wide range of skills to help us in later life.



We are a FAMILY

As a Christian school, we understand how important it is to work as a team. We respect each other and work happily as one big family.



We try to HELP

We try to help each other enjoy our beautiful village and the world around us.

Everyone is different, but everybody has something good to add to our school.

HERE FOR OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS

For over 500 years children have attended a school in Berkswell. The first classes were held in the schoolroom situated in the Tudor porch of the Church.

The school moved to its present site in 1839 and this Victorian building is still in use today.

The school was originally designed to accommodate the younger children on one side and the older children on the other, with the headteacher having a house in the centre. Since that time however, there have been extensive changes and renovations. The headteacher's house is now a cloakroom and a small group area. A hall and kitchen were added in 1957 and administrative offices were added in the high roof space in 1979. 1993 and 1997 saw further extensions and all pupils are now housed in classrooms built and refurbished to exceptionally high standards.

We have had a nursery at Berkswell since 1998. Our fantastic Early Years Foundation Stage building was completed in July 2010, giving our youngest pupils the best of starts to their education.

The school is set at the heart of the village and is involved in many community activities.

Today, we continue a long-standing tradition of excellence and look forward to continuing this, in partnership with parents.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Berkswell is a Church of England School. Worship in school is based on our Christian foundation. Worship starts at 9.00 am. Parents have the right of withdrawal for their child

from collective worship and Religious Education, however, parents will be aware of our Christian foundation before admitting their child to the school. Any such representation for withdrawal should be made, in writing, to the headteacher.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Whole school worship - Headteacher
Whole school worship - Staff Led
Whole school worship - Rector
Celebrations worship
Class worship

THE SCHOOL DAY

FS1 (Nursery):

This session runs from 8:50am to 11:50am.
(FS1 wraparound runs from 11:50am to 3:20pm)

Main School:

Key Stage 1 and Yr3 - 8:45am - 3:15pm - children line-up on the playground.

Year 4, 5 and 6 - 8:50am - 3:20pm - children line-up and enter through the main entrance of the school.

Morning Session Key Stage 1

8:45am to 10:00am	Session 1
10:00am to 11:00pm	Session 2
11:00am to 11:15am	Break
11:15am to 12:00pm	Session 3
12.00pm to 1:00pm	Lunch break

Afternoon Session Key Stage 1

1:00pm to 2:15pm	Session 4
2:15pm to 2:30pm	Break
2:30pm to 3:15pm	Session 4

Morning Session Key Stage 2

8:50am to 10:15am	Session 1
10:15am to 11:15am	Session 2
11:15am to 11:30am	Break
11:30am to 12:30pm	Session 3
12:30pm to 1:30pm	Lunch break

Afternoon Session Key Stage 2

1:30pm to 2:30pm	Session 4
2:30pm to 3:20pm	Session 5

Children in FS1 are taken down to the door of the Early Years building where they are registered and greeted by the teacher. At the end of the day, parents collect their children from the same place.

Children in FS2 and Year 1, 2 and 3 arrive at 8:45am and line-up on the playground with their class teacher. At the end of the day, the children are brought out on to the playground before being handed over to their parents at 3:15pm.

Children in Year 4, 5 and 6 arrive at the school's main entrance at 8:50am, where they are met by their teacher. They are collected from here at 3:20pm.



SCHOOL ORGANISATION

ON ROLL

The number on roll is approximately 240 (210 main school plus 30 nursery pupils).

There are 8 year groups in school, including FS1 (Nursery). We have one class of pupils per year group. They are identified as follows:

Early Years	Key Stage One	Key Stage Two
FS1 (3 - 4 year olds)	Year 1 (5 - 6 year olds)	Year 3 (7 - 8 year olds)
FS2 (4 - 5 year olds)	Year 2 (6 - 7 year olds)	Year 4 (8 - 9 year olds)
		Year 5 (9 - 10 year olds)
		Year 6 (10 - 11 year olds)



SCHOOL UNIFORM

FS2, KS1 and KS2 School Uniform

Outer wear

Dark coloured (grey, black or bottle green) outdoor coat or Berkswell School Logo reversible coat.

Winter Uniform

Bottle green blazer with school badge (optional)

White shirt (not reverse or round collar)

Berkswell School green and yellow striped tie

Berkswell School bottle green V-necked jumper, sweatshirt or a green cardigan with school logo

Grey shorts

Long grey trousers

Grey skirt or pinafore

Berkswell School bottle green cardigan with school logo

Bottle green/grey or white socks or bottle green or grey

Black Shoes (Not trainers. We recommend velcro fastener for FS2)

Dark coloured hair accessories and head bands (if worn)

Dark coloured gloves and scarf

Summer Uniform - (after Easter till October half term)

Berkswell School logo green and white striped dress - (FS2 -Year 4 summer)

Berkswell striped summer shirts

Sandals or shoes in a dark colour (for safety reasons no open toed sandals please)

Grey shorts

Bottle green blazer with school badge (optional)

White shirt (not reverse or round collar)

Berkswell School green and yellow striped tie

Berkswell School bottle green V-necked jumper, sweatshirt or a green cardigan with school logo

Dark coloured hair accessories and head bands (if worn)

PE Kit (FS2 and KS1)

Berkswell school logo PE pump bag or bottle green or black plain pump bag

Berkswell school logo yellow polo shirt

Green/black shorts

Green jogging bottoms (winter)

Berkswell logo green hoodie

Black pumps

PE Kit - KS2

Black skirts or shorts

Berkswell logo polo shirt

Winter option dark coloured tracksuit bottoms

Winter option Berkswell logo green hoodie or plain dark coloured hoodie

Accessory items

Berkswell school logo book bag (KS1)

Berkswell School Baseball Caps

Berkswell school ruck sack or plain dark coloured school bag (KS2)

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception)

The EYFS building, which opened in July 2010, provides a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which your child can develop as an individual and learn to be part of a bigger social group. Through a carefully structured play-based curriculum, we aim to promote all aspects of development - social, emotional, creative, physical and intellectual.

The thoughtfully designed building includes a courtyard area for drawing, writing and literacy based play, and a larger outdoor area to engage children in learning outside the classroom, where the inside is mirrored outside. The building allows FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception) to work together for many parts of the day, as well as having separate classroom areas to allow for smaller class-based sessions.

FS1 (Nursery) is a part-time provision, morning sessions, Monday to Friday.

FS1 (NURSERY) WRAPAROUND

FS1 wraparound provision for Berkswell School children is taught by one of the FS1 teachers, making full use of the all facilities the school environment has to offer. Children are able to enjoy the close links with school, supporting whole school events, sports days, etc. They are also able to have a school lunch, taking advantage of the exceptional meals prepared on the school premises. Afternoon sessions offer an exciting and stimulating curriculum, catering for the individual needs of the children whether playing, learning, relaxing, or working alongside the FS2 children. Parents may be eligible for 30 hour free funding or if not parents can pay for these sessions, however, places are subject to availability. Full information will be available at the induction session in June. This will include registration and contract details.

FS1 UNIFORM

Winter

- Bottle green joggers (optional)
- Berkswell green jumper and sweatshirt
- Berkswell green cardigan
- White/grey socks or bottle green/grey tights
- Berkswell School book bag
- Berkswell School pump bag and black pumps
- Dark coloured (grey, black or bottle green) outdoor coat or Berkswell School rain jacket/fleece
- Grey school shorts
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Berkswell yellow polo shirt

Summer

- Berkswell green and white striped dress

Optional

- Berkswell School Blazer
- Berkswell baseball/legionnaire cap

All uniform is available through the school uniform shop or directly from the suppliers via the school website.

If you wish to apply for a FS1 (Nursery) place you should submit your application via the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council website www.solihull.gov.uk. Berkswell School is a Voluntary Aided School. We have our own Admissions Criteria and Solihull MBC offer places on behalf of our governors.

If parents wish church membership to be taken into consideration in the admissions process, they should also complete the Supplementary Information Form at the back of this brochure, and return it to school with an accompanying letter from their minister.

The admission criteria for FS1 (Nursery) is the same as those used for main school. Obtaining a place in FS1 (Nursery) does not guarantee place in the main school from FS2 onwards.

THE BERKSWELL CURRICULUM

21st century citizens

At Berkswell, we take great pride in delivering a rich and varied curriculum, delivered in a variety of styles, catering for the needs of every learner. Full details of the school curriculum can be seen on the school website.

In September 2014, the new National Curriculum was launched nationwide. We have renewed our themed units of work for a new generation of children. Our outlook, however, remains unchanged. Using the new objectives, we have designed a curriculum that makes the most of modern technology in education. ICT has now become 'Computing' and children will develop their skills as 21st century citizens by coding, animating and safely socialising online. Creative Arts will continue its rich history of excellence at Berkswell with a clear focus on artistic skills and expert guidance from highly-trained teachers. History and Geography will ensure children grow up with a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the world in which they live. Our new curriculum is better than any previous version at Berkswell School and places a higher expectation on everyone involved to ensure children enjoy and are inspired by their learning journey, engaging and excelling in all that they do.



English

The development of language and literacy skills is fundamental to gaining progress, satisfaction and self-esteem in every aspect of the curriculum. Through planned and self-initiated activities, the children practise and extend their communication skills within a widening range of situations.

Foundation Stage pupils learn to listen carefully, talk together and respond appropriately to the children and adults around them. They are introduced to rhymes and stories, use role-play and experience the rich variety and pleasure to be gained from books. In time, pupils build and extend their vocabulary and knowledge of language, showing curiosity and experimenting with sounds, letters and writing.

Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2, our English programme concentrates on the key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Teachers include opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills in meaningful contexts with role-play and drama linked to relevant themes. The units of work link with curriculum themes where appropriate.

Children learn to listen and discuss the ideas of others, and to clearly present their own. They read regularly and are introduced to a broad range of materials, both fiction and non-fiction. In groups and in class, they begin to express opinions and ideas about a text, supporting their views by referring back to it and ‘reading between the lines’.

Our English lessons aim to engage all pupils through the selection of relevant, appropriate and challenging materials and activities.

Pupils explore real and imagined situations, using their developing skills as writers to organise their own ideas, use words effectively and plan / draft their work.

Spelling rules and strategies are taught and pupils learn to write legibly, using an increasing range of punctuation to make their meaning clear.

Teachers and pupils make effective use of Information and Communications Technology to consolidate and extend teaching and learning opportunities. Our Creative Arts studio further enhances children’s experiences, using film, audio, lighting and the immersive area to capture their imagination, whilst developing skills.

Throughout the year, pupils engage in a range of activities designed to motivate, challenge and extend their development. These include: theatre visits, book fairs, festivals, writing competitions, drama/performances, workshops, and local, regional and national projects as available.

Maths

We aim to make Mathematics an exciting, challenging subject, giving children confidence and competence in their dealings with all aspects of Maths. We work towards drawing links across all curricular areas, encouraging the use and application of Mathematics in a range of situations including using the outdoor environment. Children decide how to tackle problems. They record what they do using mathematical language, symbols and diagrams, and they explain their reasoning.

A spiral development...

We see Maths as a spiral development, with concepts revisited continually throughout the year to ensure concrete understanding, in turn fostering children’s knowledge and confidence.

Consistent challenge...

Our planning ensures that all children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, with lessons differentiated accordingly. Children agree learning targets with guidance from their teacher. These targets are displayed in children’s books and regularly reviewed. More able children are encouraged to develop their logic and reasoning through extension activities as well as direct group teaching: this ensures the children are consistently challenged.

Parental encouragement...

Parents are encouraged to continue a close involvement in their child’s developing competency in Maths through their support of regular homework activities and encouraging participation in times tables, use of money and telling the time.

Science

Because children are naturally curious about the world, we teach science in order to show them how to find out information and answer questions. In the early years, children are encouraged to notice the things around them, for example, the changes in the weather/seasons. They observe first-hand the effects of floating and sinking or what happens to ice when the temperature rises.

Through scientific enquiry linked to a range of themes, pupils throughout Key Stage 1 and 2 explore and observe living things, life processes, materials and their properties, and a number of physical processes such as electricity, sound and forces.

Wherever possible, Science is taught as part of our curriculum themes. In this way, key skills can be consolidated and learning made secure. Pupils learn to plan and carry out an investigation scientifically, ensuring fair testing, taking accurate measurements and recording data. They begin to make comparisons and back up their ideas by referring to previous research (reference books and computer sources are incorporated).

By the time pupils are in upper Key Stage 2, they will know that scientific ideas are based on evidence. They will be able to make predictions based on previous experience, draw conclusions and make generalisations.

ART AND DESIGN

Within a visually stimulating environment, the children are encouraged to express their creativity and enjoy using a wide variety of materials and techniques. Art and Design enhances our lives and reaches across the entire school curriculum from Nursery to Year 6. Children are encouraged to experiment with colour, pattern, texture, line, tone, shape, form and space in order to explore and develop ideas. They learn to choose and mix different materials, tools and techniques, and to investigate the roles and purposes of artists, craftspeople and designers in different times and cultures. They look at a range of 2D and 3D work with each class being involved at some point in visiting a gallery, museum, sculpture trail or researching via the Internet.

The school has achieved 'Artsmark Gold', awarded by the Arts Council, on three consecutive occasions, earning the school a special award for outstanding contribution to The Arts.

We aim to bring pupils into direct contact with working artists / crafts people whenever possible, so that they can learn at first-hand about techniques, sources of ideas and working practices - but also to inspire them and encourage an appreciation of an artist's work. Our pupils' work is displayed with care and pride in classrooms, corridors and even outdoors!

Design and Technology

All children participate in Design and Technology activities. They learn to discuss and evaluate commercial products, considering their suitability for purpose and developing the ability to consider the views of others.

Pupils learn to design their own products, setting out step by step instructions, modifying them and listing resources needed. When their products are complete, they learn to assess their suitability against their design and suggest any modifications for improvement.

A variety of skills and materials are used within Design and Technology activities. Younger children use card, paper and textiles, which they learn to fold, cut and stick. Food activities are wide and varied, making good use of our children's kitchen. As the children progress, they use additional skills to join fabric, measure, cut and join wood and produce increasingly complex and original models. Computers may also be used to assist their designs and facilitate research.

History

Through History children have the opportunity to shed light on questions such as: How did we get here? Where do we come from? It introduces them to an unfamiliar but important world - the past.

Children learn to develop a sense of time, they place events in chronological order and find out about the lives of men, women and children from the history of Britain, Europe and the wider world. They use different types of information, including maps, videos, photographs and computer sources, to investigate and piece together evidence about the past, in order to reach conclusions about the impact of historical events and people.

Their experiences are often brought to life through the use of educational visits, living history days, experts or eyewitnesses invited into school to talk and work directly with the children.

Modern Foreign Languages

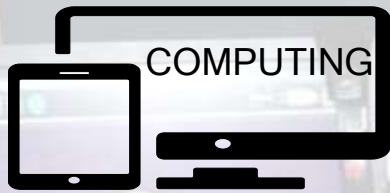
Young children are naturally receptive to learning languages and it provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for pupils.

Through MFL lessons, we hope to stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language; helping them to develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are built on throughout Key Stage 2, along with pupils' knowledge of how different languages work.

Learning another language also raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world we live in and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides an important medium for cross curricular links and for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

During their time at Berkswell School, the children begin to understand how they grow and change, both physically and emotionally. As they progress through the school, they gradually take more responsibility for their actions and their own good health. We have recently revised our RSE Curriculum, which has been very positively received by both parents and children.



The school has a well-equipped computer suite with 31 computers, 66 iPads and 9 visualisers accompanying our interactive whiteboards. All the computers are networked and the children have supervised access to them on a regular basis.

Children are taught discrete computing skills lessons each week as well as having the opportunity to use technology in other subjects to enhance learning.

The youngest children use simple programs and programmable toys to develop the basic skills needed later in school.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 follow the new national curriculum for computing. Pupils are taught about computer systems and how they work as well as programming and using software creatively.

There is a great emphasis on computer science and pupils from Year 1 onward will be taught to write simple computer programs.

Children are also taught about digital literacy and how to keep themselves safe on the internet. They will learn how to evaluate and interpret information on the internet. This is an increasingly important skill in our digital world.

At Berkswell we aim to develop confident, self-disciplined pupils who will grow up to lead independent, happy lives and make a valuable contribution to society. For this reason, PSHE is embedded and interwoven into all aspects of school life.



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Berkswell School has been awarded Healthy School Status. We believe in developing the whole child, valuing and responding appropriately to the views of our pupils. We have a flourishing school council, which is run by the pupils and addresses issues pertinent to them.

The Jigsaw approach is a PSHE programme followed by the whole school from FS1 through to Year 6. Jigsaw brings together PSHE Education, emotional literacy, mindfulness, social skills and spiritual development. A variety of teaching strategies are used which are mindful of each child's preferred learning style. 'Circle time' is used regularly within Jigsaw lessons, allowing every child the opportunity to express their opinions and feelings in a secure classroom environment. The Jigsaw approach is underpinned by mindfulness. Mindfulness is being able to observe your own thoughts and feelings as they happen, in the present moment, applying no judgement. Jigsaw teaches children to understand their thoughts and feelings and through both taught lessons and the Calm Me time exercises, helping to develop their awareness, and their capacity to be mindful human beings.

GEOGRAPHY

We all make our mark on where we live, and where we live leaves a mark on us. Learning about the link between our lives and the environment is essential and through the teaching and learning of Geography children have the opportunity to do this. Young children are developing a sense of place and are taught to observe carefully those things in the familiar and local setting. At Key Stage 1, the picture is broader and stories, maps and photographs, music or artefacts may be used to develop pupils' geographical knowledge and natural inquisitiveness.

As they progress, children learn to use and apply geographical skills to find out about different places on a local and world-scale; physical and human features in the environment; and the ways people and the environment affect each other. They do this through a variety of geographical topics which they study as they move through the school.

To help pupils make the most of their investigations both inside and outside the classroom; they learn how to use maps, atlases, photographs and computers - skills which are useful in other subjects as well as when they leave school.

The children carry out fieldwork investigations outside the classroom (for example, a survey of a small stream, or of different types of shops in a shopping centre). This first-hand experience helps to support their learning and understanding, developing pupils' ability to ask questions, gather and record geographical information and use relevant resources to draw conclusions.



MUSIC

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication and an integral part of culture, past and present. At Berkswell School we enjoy a strong musical tradition and a reputation for taking part, performing and enjoying music.

In addition to class based lessons, where pupils learn to listen and appraise, compose and perform, children are offered a range of diverse and exciting opportunities within school and as part of the wider community.

Key Stage 2 children can participate in combined Music and Drama productions. In the past, these have included "Joseph", "Starlight Express", "Oliver!", "Cats", "Journey to Broadway", "The Journey" and "Alice in Wonderland". Children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 perform regularly at special assemblies or in Church for festivals and end of term services.

Children in Key Stage 2 have joined with 3,000 other school children from the West Midlands region to perform in the record-breaking *Young Voices* concerts at the Birmingham LG Arena. This is always an exhilarating event and one which parents can share with us. Pupils have also taken part in Solihull massed choir performances such as the Junior Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and also in concerts at other prestigious venues such as Symphony Hall and Birmingham Town Hall.

Due to Berkswell's strong music tradition, our children are often asked to perform at a range of community events: at Church, in the Reading Rooms, Coventry Cathedral, local Christmas charity events and traditionally, Carols on the Green at Berkswell.

Tuition in brass, guitar, violin and woodwind is offered by the peripatetic staff of the Solihull Music Service. Each year, as vacancies arise, children who have expressed an interest in taking up instrumental tuition will be assessed for their suitability by their prospective teacher. (There is a charge for these lessons in line with the Governors charging policy). Parents are invited to attend assemblies where they will be able to see their children perform. This year the whole of Year 4 are learning to play the Ukulele - which is fantastic!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A vital foundation



In Physical Education, children learn that it is fun to be healthy and stay in shape. They learn how to prepare for and recover from exercise; a vital foundation to help them lead active and healthy lives as they grow up.

Young children are particularly active and the structure of the Foundation Stage Curriculum provides for physical skills and activity to be built in daily.

At Key Stage 1, children participate in a range of Games, Gymnastics and Dance activities, and at Key Stage 2 these are extended through Athletics and Swimming. Pupils learn and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, confidence, competence, co-ordination and co-operation, all of which are important in their everyday lives. Children are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of extra-curricular clubs such as: aerobics, athletics, basketball, cricket, dance, football, hockey, netball and tennis. They may participate in inter-house and inter-school competitions, both during and after school.

We have many links with local clubs, enhancing the children's experience of a range of sports. We encourage pupils to take part, have fun and improve their individual performance so that they can learn to enjoy physical activity in their own time.

All children take part in Active 30 which is 30 minutes each day outside of the timetabled PE curriculum.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Christian faith is central to daily life at Berkswell School and is fundamental to our school ethos. We witness the Christian faith openly within our daily worship times and through simple reflective prayers at the close of morning and afternoon sessions.

Our curriculum is based upon LA's local agreed core content and we use Understanding Christianity and The Emmanuel Project within our teaching. This intends to promote pupils' development as individuals and prepare them for life in a society characterised by diverse religious affiliation. Pupils learn about the major religions and are encouraged to learn from religion. This enables the children to reflect on their own lives, beliefs and values.

Collective worship, led by the Rector, headteacher, members of staff and children, takes place daily. We also celebrate the festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter with services in Church. At the end of the school year we hold a service in church where our Year 6 leavers are presented with bibles.



INCLUSION



POTENTIAL

At Berkswell School we believe that every pupil should have the right to reach their full potential.



HEART

At the heart of our school and in every class there is a rigorous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing. These general arrangements in school take account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests that children bring to school.



TAILORED

Our school recognises that within each year group we have children who have an all-round higher ability. There will also be children with more specific abilities that are greater than those of the majority of their age peers. Our more able, gifted and talented children's needs are met through pastoral and specifically tailored academic and curricular support.



MONITORING

There is a designated school governor for SEND. The governor meets with members staff throughout the year and reports to the full Governing Body on its work across these areas. The school's policy documentation for SEND is regularly revised. If you require any further information, please speak to any member of the teaching staff.



PROGRESS

The progress of all pupils is constantly monitored by the class teacher, and individual needs assessed and catered to within usual class grouping arrangements, as far as possible. Should pupils require additional support to assist their learning, the school's Learning Support Team is able to play its part.





EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

In a safe and nurturing environment, our children learn how to build relationships, understand their feelings, begin to self-regulate, develop physical strength and understand how to be healthy. They experience the awe and wonder of the world around them, develop a love of learning, the joy of storytelling and develop a rich vocabulary. They learn early Literacy skills, including systematic synthetic phonics, and Mathematical skills to be school ready.

Our EYFS consists of Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) and Foundation Stage 2 (Reception). Our environments are carefully planned for our young learners to be creative and engage in open ended experiences, building on prior knowledge, enabling them to know more, remember more and do more. Our children are at the centre of everything we do; their thoughts and opinions are listened to and valued, as we promote British Values through everything that we do.

Our curriculum is broken down into seven areas of learning and development, in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

These areas are:

Three Prime Areas -

Communication and Language
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development

Four Specific Areas -

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

We work in partnership with parents and other members of the community in supporting and celebrating the learning and strengths of each individual during their time in our Early Years Foundation Stage



New Beginnings

HOMework

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHILDREN, PARENTS AND TEACHERS

In setting homework, it is our aim to create a partnership between parents and teachers while encouraging and enhancing children's learning. It is our hope that parents will be encouraged to take time with their children as they consolidate skills such as reading, spelling and multiplication tables.

AIMS

- To give pupils a chance to consolidate, practise or extend classroom work.
- To encourage personal responsibility.
- To develop independent study skills.
- To learn, through personal study, the skills of independence and perseverance.
- To prepare gradually for transfer to secondary school.
- To provide an opportunity to reinforce or extend an individual pupil's learning, according to ability and at the teacher's discretion.
- These aims will be achieved through an active partnership with parents.

IN PRACTICE

- Homework should not be onerous or unnecessarily time consuming.
- Parents and class teachers will work together to ensure that the demands of work for pupils are manageable.
- It should be a gradual, steady progression throughout the school.
- It should have a purpose.
- It should be relevant and realistic for the child's needs.
- It will be monitored by the class teacher and appropriate feedback given to the child.
- Occasionally, it may be completing work set in class which, for various reasons, may be unfinished.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Enrichment opportunities

ART CLUB



DANCE CLUB



COOKERY



NETBALL



Extra-curricular opportunities are a very important part of the education we offer at Berkswell School. We offer a range of activities across the year

Pupils also experience a wide variety of educational visits arranged throughout the year. These have a specific curriculum area base and enhance the pupils understanding of the appropriate subject.

Pupils in the upper school have the opportunity to experience residential visits to Devon and Rock UK. These not only enrich and broaden the curriculum but also help to develop independence, character, personal and social skills.

“ Clubs are a safe place to learn and grow, all while having fun. They are the places where great futures are started each and every day.”

OTHER CLUBS

Art Club
Athletics Club
Basketball
Cheerleading
Chess Club
Computer Club
Cookery
Craft Club
Cricket
Cross Country
Dance
Eco Club
Football
Hockey
Junk Modelling
Mindful Colouring
Netball
Rugby
Sewing
Tennis
Rounders

PROGRESS, ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

CONSULTATION

There are two formal consultation evenings per year, one in the Autumn term - usually November and one in the Spring term - usually March. These are normally appointment interviews at which you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

In the first few weeks of term, parents are invited to a class meeting, with their child's teacher, and hear about the specific curricular areas to be studied that year. This is also an opportunity to share expectations of pupils with regard to behaviour and independence. Notes will be provided for parents.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

Pupils throughout the school are continually assessed by their class teachers. These assessments then inform curricular planning. Much of this assessment is informal in nature and a part of daily observation or teaching.

At certain points, however, teachers use more formal assessment tools to validate their judgements. Statutory tests are undertaken during the Summer term for Year 2 and Year 6. Statutory Phonics testing for Year 1 pupils also takes place during the Summer term. In June, Year 4 undertake a statutory Multiplication check. School and National SATs results are published annually.



REPORTS

Annual written reports are completed and sent home during the Summer term (June/July). These contain comments regarding academic progress, as well as personal and social development.

Parents are given the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their child's annual report (July), if they wish.

SCHOOL SERVICES

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked on site. Pupils have a choice of a hot meal (a vegetarian or a meat option) or a jacket potato with a filling.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

As from September 2014 all children in FS2 (Reception), Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Meals for children in FS1 (Nursery) and Key Stage 2 should be paid in advance using our secure online payment system, ParentPay. You will be given a login and username once your child has been admitted to school.

Free School Meals (for Key Stage 2)

Free school meals are supplied to children in Key Stage 2 whose parents are in receipt of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 and you are not in receipt of Working Tax Credit and you have a current TaxCredit Award Notice (TC602)
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance

Registering for free school meals is totally confidential. Forms are available from the school office.

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

At present the Local Education Authority provides some free transport for children living in the Borough of Solihull, who live more than two miles from school, or who have to travel along a hazardous route to school.

Parents who wish to use the school bus should contact Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, School Transport department directly on 0121 704 6000.



SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

The Area PCT provides a valuable service for the early discovery of any condition which, if neglected, might interfere with a child's progress during school life and after.

School Nurses do simple vision tests during the first year of school and inform parents of any abnormality. Children can then be seen at the eye clinic or by an optician, if necessary.

Hearing is tested by the Audiometrician during the first year in school, again parents will be informed of any problems.

The school nurse gives advice on health education and works in partnership with parents to provide care plans for children with special medical needs.

MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

In line with Government and Local Authority guidance and regulations, school staff will only administer medicines to pupils if they have been prescribed by a doctor and a Consent to Administer Medicines form is completed by parents or carers. The forms are available from the school office or to download from our website.

School staff are not able to give non-prescription medication to children. If parents or carers wish their child to have non-prescription medication during the school day, the parent or carer must come into school to administer it themselves.

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Under the terms of the Education Reform Act, it is the policy of the school's governing body to:

- Levy the appropriate charges to parents for all residential visits.
- Levy charges for activities wholly or mainly outside school hours - where appropriate.
- Levy charges for materials or ingredients where pupils take home the finished article.
- Levy charges to cover the financial commitment made by the school to support the provision of some activities e.g. peripatetic music lessons.
- Ensure that no child will be disadvantaged solely by an inability to pay any levied charge.
- Require parents to pay for damage to school property for which their child is responsible, where reimbursement is appropriate.
- Request voluntary contributions from parents for school activities in school time which can only be run if there is sufficient funding, whilst ensuring that no child is debarred solely by the inability or unwillingness of their parents to pay.



HOME TIME

The safety of all our pupils is of the greatest importance, it is therefore essential that all parents ensure that class teachers know who usually collects children from school at 3:15/3:20pm. Should there be any changes to your arrangements, please advise class teachers, preferably in writing. Staff will be unable to release children if they are not clear of arrangements.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

The school should be informed by letter or telephone of the reason for a child's absence. All absences will be followed up by a telephone call if we have not had notification by 10:00am. It is also very important that the school is notified if a child has to leave during school hours. Pupils are not permitted to leave unaccompanied.

It is vital that the school is able to contact parents during the school day. Parents should ensure that the school has their correct day-time telephone number and the correct number of another contact.

Regular attendance at school is essential if children are to make good progress. As per legislation, all holiday requests will be unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Request forms should be obtained from the school office.

BERKSWELL WINDMILLS WRAPAROUND

Berkswell Windmills Wraparound (Windmills) is a school-run childcare provision for pupils of Berkswell Church of England Primary School

Our aim is to provide wraparound provision to support families and their children. This will continue the high quality of provision the children experience throughout the day, under the umbrella of the school's Christian ethos and values system.

The term-time provision consists of:

Before-school Childcare - 7.30am - 8.50am
After-school Childcare - 3.20pm - 6.00pm



Contact details:

Provision Manager:

Leaders:

Miss Kate Tyler

Mrs. Raksha Chauhan (am)

Mrs. Julie Lake (pm)

Telephone:

01676 532141 (during school hours)

07767 647205 (during Windmills hours)





SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The full board meets three times a term.

The governing body is:

Mrs T Drew
Mrs S Forsythe
Mr K Millward
Rev Dr M Bratton
Mrs R Crow
Mrs C Farnell
Mr R Hollingdale
Mrs L Stuart-Smith
Rev J Braund
Mrs G Dye
Mrs L Brown
Mr C Henning
Mrs D Brooks

Headteacher
Co-Chair of Governors/Foundation Governor
Co-Chair of Governors/Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor (Diocese)
Foundation Governor
Co-opted Governor
Foundation Governor
Staff Governor
LA Governor
Trustee Governor
Parent Governor
Parent Governor
Clerk

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is the social and fundraising organisation within the school. All parents, guardians, teachers and governors are members of the PTA. Each year a committee of up to 15 of the members are elected to run and organise a wide range of social and other events to help raise funds for the benefit of the children. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact the Chairman or Secretary of the PTA via the school office.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

There is a statutory procedure to deal with complaints by parents who feel that, relating to the curriculum offered, the governing body is failing to discharge its duties. The full policy is on the school website.

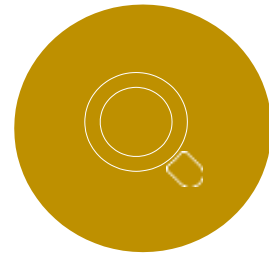
This procedure is to deal specifically with complaints about:

- Curriculum
- National Curriculum exemptions
- Provision of information
- Charges policy

It does not deal with complaints about the actions of the headteacher or individual members of staff.

Any other formal complaint should be addressed, in writing, to the Chairman of Governors, c/o the school. The Governors will follow S.M.B.C. Complaints Policy.

USEFUL CONTACTS



Berkswell School Office (open 8am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday)

Email: office@berkswell.solihull.sch.uk

Tel: 01676 532141

www.berkswellschool.org.uk

Berkswell Church of England Primary School

Church Lane

Berkswell

West Midlands

CV7 7BJ

Berkswell Windmills Wraparound

Provider of our before and after school care for pupils

Windmill is run by school, during school hours please contact the school office on 01676 532141 or during Windmills hours 07767 647205

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

0121 704 6000

Main Switchboard

Solihull Local Authority

Schools Admissions

0121 704 6693 (direct line)

Information regarding free school meals

0121 704 6611 (direct line)

Information regarding the school bus

0121 704 6610 (direct line)

Coventry Diocesan Board of Education

Coventry Diocesan Board of Education

The Benn Education Centre

Claremont Road

Rugby

CV21 3LU

Tel: 01788 422 800

Office hours: 9 am to 5 pm

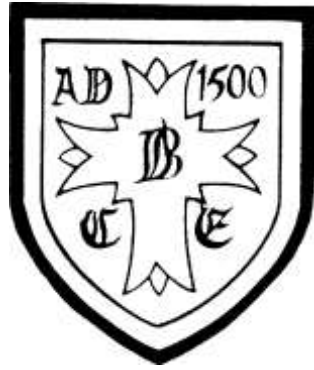
www.dioceseofcoventry.org/DBE

A Christian school is one in which the atmosphere has that kind of openness about it, that sense that people are worth spending time with, that people need time to grow, need loving attention.

The Christian Gospel says that every person has a unique task to do, with God, and for God, whether they know it or not.

It doesn't necessarily mean that everyone involved has to share the same theology or philosophy. It doesn't mean that everyone knows that they have this relationship with God, and is consciously working at it. But a Christian school is one in which the entire atmosphere is pervaded by the conviction that there is something mysterious, and potentially wonderful, in everybody.

Dr Rowan Williams



Berkswell Church of England Primary

‘Inspiring Children to Shine’