



*Highnam C of E Primary  
Academy*

**PROSPECTUS**



# Welcome

## *to Highnam C of E Primary Academy*

Highnam Church of England Primary Academy is a co-educational day school for children aged between 4 and 11 years.

Ours is a happy school where pupils enjoy their education and find pleasure both in learning and in working together. Working together is important to us; we work together as a staff, with our Governors and with our parents and the community.

Our learning motto 'Children with Confidence' was chosen because we see confidence as being a vital ingredient for living – the confidence not to be anxious; the confidence that makes aggression unnecessary; the confidence to reach out to others.

We strive to provide every opportunity for all children to develop their abilities to the fullest extent.

Our school aims are to enable children to:  
use language and number effectively; develop and apply

Christian values in their day to day lives; acquire a full and useful knowledge relevant to our changing world; appreciate human achievements and aspirations; understand their world and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations; develop appropriate relationships with other children and adults; question and debate rationally, applying themselves positively to tasks and skills.

We have some excellent facilities which are stimulating and purposeful, providing a safe, happy, caring and well ordered environment in which your child can learn and thrive.

I very much hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of our Academy and I would warmly encourage you to find out more by coming to see the school in action, either by visiting an open day or by making an appointment with me.

Mr Stephen Dean, Headteacher



## OUR ETHOS

At Highnam Academy children learn within a safe, caring and disciplined environment. Staff focus upon providing the highest possible standards of education and upon enthusing pupils with a love of learning. Through creative, broad and balanced experiences we inspire confidence and celebrate the uniqueness and successes of all. Christian values underpin our community, and we utilise these alongside a culture of mutual respect, to ensure the happiness and personal growth of each individual. By working in partnership with families we nurture the whole child and provide a firm basis for our pupils to develop into responsible and fulfilled members of society.



*Relationships are first class,  
expectations are high and  
activities challenge and excite  
pupils to learn”*

OFSTED







# ORGANISATION

Children join our Reception class in the September of the Academic Year in which they become 5 years old. For their first few weeks, pupils attend either mornings or afternoons only whilst getting used to school routines. This period also allows the Reception teacher and teaching assistant to get to know the children individually.

School starts each day at 8.55am and ends for Key Stage 1 children (Reception to Year 2) at 3.15pm and for Key Stage 2 at 3.20pm.

All children share lunch and break times. We offer hot school dinners at lunchtime, or parents can provide sandwiches if they prefer.

# CURRICULUM

We ensure that pupils learn by engaging in imaginative, interesting and varied experiences as part of a Creative Curriculum. In combination with this approach there is a solid emphasis throughout the Academy upon children learning the appropriate basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics for their age. Pupils then apply and use this knowledge in a range of other lessons.

When possible we use pupils' interest in their termly topics to stimulate their desire to learn across a range of subject areas such as Art & Design, Music, History and Geography. Current topics range from 'Remarkable Romans'; 'Passport to Europe' to 'Wish you were here'. Teachers vary their topics according to the particular interests of the children, who are involved in deciding what they would like to learn about.

The curriculum has been designed with Highnam pupils in mind and therefore offers a wide range of exciting and engaging opportunities to learn.

Physical Education is an important area, as is the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages which is run by a specialist MFL teacher.







## COMMUNICATION

We place a great value on close communication between home and school on both a formal and informal basis.

We hold two parents evenings each year, once in the autumn and once in the spring where you will have a chance to look at your child's work and discuss their progress with the class teacher. These are operated on an appointment system to enable all parents to have a dedicated chance for discussion.

We also hold "open classrooms" at the end of every term to give pupils the opportunity to share their learning with you. We would warmly encourage you to come to these.

Written reports are sent home at the end of the summer term.

## R.E.

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Academy, the diocesan guidelines for Religious Education are followed with the Christian religion forming the main part of our studies. Time is also allocated to the study of other religions.

The children and staff participate in a daily act of worship, most often as a whole school, but occasionally as individual classes. At times during the term our vicar or one of our other regular visitors leads our worship and we celebrate special festivals such as Christmas and Harvest at Holy Innocents Church.

Parents who wish their children to be exempt from Worship or RE are entitled to do so and should apply to the Head Teacher.



*Our daughter has settled in so quickly. She comes home every day enthusing about what she's learnt."*

PARENT

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities to broaden children's interests and help them develop into well rounded, confident individuals. Some of the opportunities currently on offer are:

Art  
Brass  
Choir  
Cookery  
Cricket  
Cross Country  
Dance  
Drama  
Drums  
Football  
Gymnastics  
Hockey  
Netball  
Recorders  
Tag-Rugby  
Tennis  
Woodwind

Children also play team games against other schools and take part in league and cup arrangements, particularly in football, netball and tag rugby.



*“I love coming to school. The  
Lights, Camera, Action topic  
was so much fun!”*

HARRY, YEAR 3







## OPPORTUNITIES

Highnam Academy is a proud member of Primary Quest alongside Redmarley and Staunton & Corse academies to deliver sustainable, outstanding educational learning opportunities for all within the three academy communities. Recently, we enabled the pupils from the three academies to visit the Science Museum in London, Eastnor Castle and held a PE day at Hartpury College. Not only does this give the children some unforgettable experiences but it also allows them to mix with children from the other academies, increasing their confidence and social skills.

Within the Academy we have a very enthusiastic Academy Council made up of pupils from each class. They discuss the concerns of their fellow pupils and make suggestions to the staff and Governors. Recently they have been involved in deciding to support 'Children in Need' and designing the spirituality garden. Academy council representatives are also strategically involved in school development planning such as our new house system and the development of play areas.

We are also pleased to offer Cycling Proficiency Training to children periodically, run by our Road Safety Officer.

## HOME LEARNING

Learning at home helps children to develop important skills, in particular those of independent learning. Home learning is set by the class teacher and carries on learning from the classroom, or prepares children for the next steps of learning within their class.

Home learning involves weekly Maths, English and topic activities as well as spellings and is generally recorded in a child's individual home learning log. We encourage parents and children of all ages to read together and to record these activities as part of a reading record log.

If you choose Highnam Academy for your child's education we will send a Welcome Pack to you in advance of their start here, which includes some advice and guidance on ways you can help your child to learn at home as part of your everyday activities as well as tips for helping them develop and practice their core skills such as reading and writing.

Within the Welcome Pack we also provide guidance which will enable you to help your child prepare for starting school with us, as well as some useful information about the Academy.







## SPORTS

An essential feature of the school's approach to sport is to promote the concept of personal best performance and the improvement of an individual's skills. We offer the children a variety of sporting activities which include football, rugby, netball, hockey, rounders, tennis and swimming, as well as a variety of athletics. Along with the extra-curricular sports options children also participate in a Sports Day each Summer Term, which parents are encouraged to attend.



*Art is my favourite subject. I love painting. Sometimes my pictures go on the classroom wall.”*

CHLOE, YEAR 3



# FACILITIES

At Highnam Academy we pride ourselves on the facilities available to our pupils. We have a large playing field and in recent years we have improved the outdoor space, creating a very popular play area for our Reception pupils; a trim trail for all pupils and climbing apparatus specifically designed for each Key Stage.

The Year 1 play area has also been updated to enable pupil-led and teacher-led learning experiences.

We have a Spirituality Garden which the children helped to design which is a quiet place to sit and reflect.

Last year we built a Multi-Use Games Area on the playground which can be used for a variety of sporting activities, i.e. netball, basketball, football and tennis.

Inside the Academy there have been updates to the hall with two new interactive panels to aid Collective Worship and to be used as breakout learning areas.

There is a new kitchen room being created to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn the skills to be able to prepare and cook a variety of food.



*School dinners are really nice.  
I look forward to them every  
day”*

THOMAS, YEAR 2





FIRE EXIT





## SAFEGUARDING & S.E.N.

The school takes its duty for safeguarding our pupils very seriously. We comply with all government policies in this respect. We have a designated governor with responsibility for safeguarding. The Headteacher is the designated child protection officer and all staff report any concerns directly to him.

Our school policy adheres to the SEN Code of Practice so that we effectively identify, assess and provide for those children with Special Educational Needs. As well as offering carefully differentiated work to these children - within the classroom, teaching staff take small groups of children with particular learning difficulties for specific tuition at certain times during the week.

In a relatively small school such as ours, there is close communication between all members of staff, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the Head Teacher. The School Offer for SEN provision can be viewed on our website: [www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk)

## ADMISSIONS

Children may start school at the beginning of the school year in which they will be five, which begins on September 1st.

We hope that this prospectus has encouraged you to consider our school for your child and we would warmly welcome you to make an appointment with the Head Teacher, who will be pleased to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

All children who intend to start school in September will be invited to attend school for an afternoon per week in the half term before they officially start, to give them chance to settle in.

We do have an admissions policy which outlines the way in which places at the school will be allocated. This can be viewed on our website, or please contact the school if you would like to receive a printed copy.



Highnam C of E Primary Academy  
Wetherleigh Drive  
Highnam, Gloucester  
GL2 8LW  
admin@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk  
01452 525872

Headteacher: Mr S Dean  
Chair of Governors: Dr I Marshall