

Letter from the Head Teacher
'Keys to Faith and Knowledge'



Dear Parents and Carers

It is a privilege for me to be able to welcome you and your family to Simonstone St Peter's Church of England Primary School and share with you our Christian ethos and mission statement.

At Simonstone School we want all children to:

Be confident and happy about who they are.

Have knowledge and skills for life and to work together and make friends.

Learn to have faith and understand differences.

Learn through Jesus that we are loved and can love; that we can talk to others; find guidance to be a better and stronger person, to know right from wrong and find forgiveness.

Show care, kindness and appreciation in the world.

The school's committed, caring and professional staff and governors are united in aiming for excellence and ensuring that every child reaches their full potential. We cherish working in partnership with parents and watching your children grow from strength to strength in both ability and independence. We hope that by choosing our school, your child will thrive in every way taking full advantage of the many opportunities that we offer.

The school's close links with the church and the community are part of its heritage and something that as a school we are proud of. One of the first things that visitors to school comment on is the 'family' atmosphere within its walls. We would be delighted to welcome you in school and let you experience this first hand.

We recognise that starting school is a huge milestone for you and your child and we will endeavour to ensure that this is a happy and positive time for you and your family.

On behalf of the staff, pupils, parents and governors I would like to thank you for taking an interest in our school and hope that you find all the information you need in this prospectus.

Yours sincerely,
Christine Smith
Head Teacher

Foreword from John Aizlewood, Chairman of the Governing body

This school is well known for its high standards of teaching and the all around achievement of its pupils. It does not happen by luck but through the dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff at the school. As Governors we have a key role to play by being fully supportive yet challenging to raise the standards still further.

The facilities available to the children are being constantly improved to provide the best education, based on Christian principles that we can provide for our children. This has been achieved by very strong links with the Church, parents and especially the fund raising efforts of our Parents, teachers and friends group (FOSS – Friends of Simonstone School).

This prospectus contains the details about life in the school that you will need to know, but I would urge all prospective parents to take up the request of our Head Teacher, Mrs C Smith and visit St. Peter's school to experience the atmosphere for yourselves.

John Aizlewood
Chair of Governors
December 2016

Useful Information

School Address

Simonstone St. Peter's C.E Primary School
School Lane
Simonstone
Burnley
Lancashire
BB12 7HR

Tel: 01282 771147

Fax: 01282 774309

Email: head@simonstone.lancs.sch.uk

School Website: www.simonstone.lancs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Christine Smith

Area Education Office

The Globe Centre
St. James Square
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 0RE

Tel: 01254 220500

Teaching Staff

Mrs. C Smith	Head Teacher
Mrs J Cockings	Deputy Head and Year 5 and 6 Teacher
Mrs. C Rossi	Class 3 – Year 3 and 4 Teacher
Miss D Hartley	Class 2 – Year 1 and 2 Teacher
Mrs J Booth	Reception / Year 1 Teacher

Non – Teaching Staff

Mrs. A Emanuel	Office Manager
Mrs. C Dyer	Teaching Assistant (Class 3)
Mrs K Barber	Teaching Assistant (Class 1)
Mrs. L Smith	SEN Support Assistant (Class 4)/HLTA/Welfare Assistant
Mrs. G Sutcliffe	SEN Support Assistant (Class 1)/Welfare assistant
Mrs. D Shaw	Teaching Assistant (Class 2)
Mrs. J Wood	Teaching Assistant (Class 3)
Mrs. H Webster	Teaching Assistant (Class 4)
Mrs. C Whitham	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs. J Dobson	Welfare Assistant

Mr. Marco Galea from The Lancashire Music Service teaches singing and percussion throughout the School on a part-time basis and the ukulele each Tuesday afternoon to children in Year 3 and 4.

Guitar lessons taught by Mr. P Frayne from the music service are available (small charge payable) for children in Key Stage 2.

Governors

Our Governors are a group of people made up from the local community, church community, parents and people from within the school. They work on a voluntary basis to serve the school and provide support and challenge to the school leadership.

Chair of Governors	Mr. J Aizlewood
Head Teacher	Mrs. C Smith
Ex-Officio	Rev'd Robert Fielding
Staff Governor	Mrs J Cockings
Parent Governors	Mrs K Clarke Mrs. H Webster
LA Governor	Mrs. J Mayers
Foundation Governors	Mrs. H Birch Mr A Davies Mrs G Chew Mrs E Evans

You can find out more about our School Governors by visiting the School website where you can read a short profile of each member of the governing body.

Aims of the school

The School Aims:

- To educate all pupils intellectually, morally, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually within a school firmly based on Christian principles.
- To enable each child to grow in these areas, and to achieve fullness of life through discovering and developing their talents.
- To stimulate in each child a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world, and to encourage them to seek for faith, truth, meaning and purpose in life.
- To provide a caring ethos based on the Christian ideals of commitment, self-reliance, responsibility and respect for others, embracing all who work or learn at the school.
- To foster links between home, school and the wider community.
- To encourage each pupil to make a positive contribution to the society and environment in which they live.

The School

Simonstone St Peter's Primary School offers a primary education to children aged 4 to 11. The children of St. Peter's were originally housed in what is now known as the Old School. The building itself is in fact the Village Church which was built prior to 1879 and served a double purpose for worship and education. All of the children in the village were educated here and the Head Teacher lived in the house attached to the church. This has since been incorporated into the building as the Chancel.

When the 1944 Education Act came into force, older children from the age of eleven were transferred to St. Leonard's and later to Gawthorpe, which was to become the present Shuttleworth College, or to one of the Clitheroe Schools. Simonstone St. Peter's is an Aided Church of England School for children between the ages of four to eleven. It is provided by the Church Trustees, governed by its Governing Body, of which a majority of whose members are appointed by the Church, and maintained by Lancashire County Council.

In May 1976, the new building was completed and the school moved in during the Summer term. The Old School is still used for acts of Collective Worship, physical education, music and for school meals as a dining hall where the children either have a hot meal or bring a packed lunch. It is also used as a hall for curriculum activities where space is required, concerts and activities organised by the School or by the Friends of Simonstone School for the purpose of fund-raising and community relations.

Church Links

Simonstone St Peter's C.E Primary School is conducted in accordance with the principles of the Church of England religious worship and religious teaching, based upon a syllabus of Religious Education adopted by the Blackburn Diocesan Educational Council. Religious Education and Worship is a very important aspect of our curriculum.

Services are held on special occasions in the school hall which doubles up as St Peter's Church and parents are cordially invited to attend with their children. We attend St Peter's Church on four occasions during the academic year as a whole school; Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers Service. Your children are expected to participate on these occasions and parents are encouraged to attend.

An act of Collective Worship takes place each day. The Vicar attends school on a regular basis and leads the act of worship for the whole school weekly. He also leads the whole school and members of the community in a Eucharist Service once per term. Parents are very welcome to join in the termly Eucharist Services.

Admissions Policy

The school admits 18 pupils into the Reception class each year. On occasions when there are more applicants than places, then the Governors will apply the admission policy. A copy of this policy can be found on the school website.

The Work of the School

The main aim of the school is to provide every child with a stimulating, safe and caring environment where they can develop to their maximum potential. We make every effort to nurture and develop

the whole child. The curriculum is balanced and broadly based and aims to promote the spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of the pupils and helps to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We endeavour to help the children develop lively, enquiring minds, the ability to question and argue rationally and to acquire knowledge and skills based on the present which they can apply in the future.

In order to develop these skills and to further the children's personal, social and moral development, we consider that the children need to have:

A desire to learn

Respect for others and their feelings

Self confidence, independence and a sense of their own worth

An appreciation of their environment

Open-mindedness and curiosity

A great deal of work is directed towards building up these positive attitudes in children. In school, we aim to establish an atmosphere where children, teachers and parents feel secure and happy and where learning takes place at a pace suited to each individual child.

PARENTS

Liaison with parents

It helps enormously if there is good communication between school and home. If there is anything you wish to discuss, then please do not hesitate to telephone school to arrange to see the class teacher or Head teacher. Similarly, if we feel that your child has a problem of any kind, we shall get in touch with you straight away.

Open days – Parents Evenings and partnerships with parents

Parents are encouraged to liaise with the Head teacher and staff in matters concerning their children. Appointments may be made at any time during the school year.

Parents meetings are held in both the Autumn and Spring Term when parents and carers are invited to school to discuss their child's progress. An annual end of year report is sent out at the end of the Summer Term.

Parents' evenings held throughout the year give you the opportunity to see your child's work and discuss his/her progress with the class teacher(s). We ask that you make every effort to attend these meetings as they are of great benefit to you, to us and subsequently your child. We also hope that parents will join with us at school productions and concerts, sports days, social functions and special religious acts of worship.

During the Autumn term, the Head teacher and Governors send out a confidential parental questionnaire where parents are invited to comment on the schools strengths and areas for development. The Head teacher and Governors value the parent's views and try to act upon any suggestions made. We are proud of the strong links with our parents and look forward to working closely with you.

Preparation for school

You are your child's first and most important teachers, helping them to develop from birth to a youngster of almost five years old.

There are many ways in which a parent can help to prepare a child for school. Talk about the new 'adventure'. Help your child to cope easily by easing away practical problems: try to ensure your child can use the toilet correctly without an adult's help, encourage him/her to dress and undress by themselves, teach him/her to handle cutlery correctly and that they are able to open and close their lunchbox.

Prepare your child for learning by talking to him/her, reading stories and looking at colourful, interesting pictures together. Try to encourage him/her to handle books carefully, to hold a pencil or crayon properly and to put his/her toys away. In the classroom situation, simple skills and good habits are very important. We have an Induction meeting for parents of children who are joining us at school where we will give you lots more information about 'getting ready for school.'

Organisation

The school is a primary school and as such it accepts boys and girls within the age range of four plus to eleven. The local authority allows us to admit children into school before the age of five providing the child will be five during the academic year. Children born between 1st September and 31st August all begin school in September. Schools are required not to break these regulations even in cases where a child misses the date by a day.

Apart from the normal class structure, provision is made for children who experience difficulty in English and Maths who receive additional help either individually or in small groups. Children may also be taught by teachers other than their own class teacher in an attempt to use a teacher's particular talent – this could be in areas such as music and foreign languages.

Class organisation

Simonstone St Peter's is made up of four mixed age classes. They are organised as follows –

Class 1 - Reception / Year 1

Class 2 – Year 1 / Year 2

Class 3 – Year 3 / Year 4

Class 4 – Year 5 / Year 6

The staff

In addition to the Head teacher, there are four full-time class teachers. Mrs Clarke our office manager deals with administrative duties. The school employs teaching assistants in all of the classrooms, as well as a part-time teaching assistant who is responsible for working with children identified with special educational needs. Welfare staff supervise school lunches, which are prepared in the school kitchen.

The Governors

The Head teacher of the school, in consultation with the Governors, is responsible for the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school. The composition of the Governing Body, the responsibilities and requirements of the Governors are as defined by the 1980 Education Act. The names of the Governing Body are also found at the beginning of this prospectus and on the school website.

The School Day

The school day is as follows:

Key Stage 1

8.55am - Registration

9.00am - Session 1

10.05am - Worship

10.25am - Playtime

10.40am - Session 2

12.00pm - Lunch

1.10pm - Session 3

2.15pm - Break

2.30pm - Session 4

3.25pm - School finishes

Key Stage 2

8.55am - Registration

9.00am - Session 1

10.05am - Worship

10.25am - playtime

10.40am - Session 2

12.10pm - Lunch

1.00pm - Session 3

2.15pm - Break

2.30pm - Session 4

3.30pm - School finishes

Children should arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am. The children will stay outside until admitted at 8.55am. On a very wet morning children may come into school at 8.45 am and sit quietly in their classrooms.

Please do not send your child too early as you are responsible for your child's welfare until they have entered the school building.

All Key Stage 1 children are handed over to their parents/guardians at the end of the day. In Key Stage 2 parents have an option as to how they would like their child to be dismissed and sign an agreement indicating their preference.

The School Year & Holidays

The school year runs from September to July. The academic year is split into three terms; Autumn, Spring and Summer.

School holiday dates vary from year to year and parents are sent an up to date list each year which are also available on the website.

The Governing body respectfully request that children **do not** take holidays during term time as this can impact greatly on their progress in School.

School Uniform

At Simonstone St Peter's, school uniform is compulsory. It helps to promote a feeling of belonging and respect for our school. **All** items of clothing should be clearly labelled.

Uniform is as follows:

BOYS

Winter

- Dark Grey Trousers
- White school polo shirt or plain white polo shirt
- Red school sweatshirt or plain red round neck sweatshirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Summer

- Dark Grey shorts (optional)

GIRLS

Winter

- Grey skirt or pinafore dress
- White school polo shirt or plain white polo shirt
- Red school cardigan or sweatshirt or plain round neck sweatshirt
- Grey tights or grey/ white socks
- Black shoes

Summer

- Summer red checked dress (optional)

We also sell our unisex school coats at the school office which offer good value for money as well as looking very smart.

PE Kit

- Black shorts
- Red round neck PE t-shirt
- Black pumps (indoor) trainers (outdoor)

School Uniform

Sweatshirts, polo shirts, school coats, PE t-shirts, book bags and bags with our school logo can be ordered and purchased at the School Office. Alternatively, you can buy uniform without our logo at most major high street retailers.

School Discipline

At Simonstone St Peter's we are proud of our children's behaviour and constantly recognise and praise high standards. It is important that as parents you are not only aware of the following points, but stress their importance to your child.

The school is really a large family. We need a few rules to ensure the safety of your child and to help maintain a calm atmosphere. However, within school formal rules are kept to as few as possible. All children are encouraged to respect all adults, their fellow pupils and all school property. We also expect children to be well-behaved and attentive in the classroom and to play and relax in a sensible way during break time.

When problems do occur they are dealt with sympathetically and parents are involved if necessary. Our School rules are reviewed annually.

1. For reasons of safety, children should walk and not run when moving about school.
2. No chewing gum is allowed.
3. No toys, electronic toys or mobile phones should be brought into school.
4. Rough play which leads to quarrels or accidents is not encouraged and fighting and bullying will not be tolerated.
5. If a child has a grievance against another child, it must be reported to a member of staff who will investigate the matter. Under no circumstances is physical violence or anti-social behaviour allowed.
6. For safety reasons earrings or the wearing of jewellery or nail varnish is not allowed.
7. For reasons of safety and hygiene, children should wear school PE kits for games and PE.
8. Hair that is any longer than shoulder length must be tied back, we may ask children to tie up their hair for safety reasons or if it is impacting on their ability to work. Please also ensure that your child does not have any kind of extreme haircut or have their hair dyed.

When difficulties arise, on any of these points, but particularly with behaviour, and when it persists, it is our intention to work closely with parents/carers in the belief that mutual co-operation and understanding will help solve the problems. If this fails, then outside agencies, (eg. medical, welfare, behavioural support) will be involved. In extreme cases, suspension or exclusion will be considered (see Behaviour, Discipline and Exclusions Policy).

Leaving the Premises

1. No child is allowed to leave school during the day on his/her own.
2. Requests for children to leave school early or arrive late for medical appointments should be made by parents in a letter or personal request, a verbal message from the child cannot be accepted. All children must be collected by a parent or guardian who must also sign their child in out of school in the record book located in the reception area.
3. Requests for absences, other than medicals, must be made to the Head teacher.
4. Parents of children who are considered unwell during the school day will be contacted and asked to pick them up from school.
5. Any child who arrives late or leaves early must report to the school office.
6. Any child who has not been registered and the school has not received a letter or phone call to explain their absence will receive a phone call from the School.

School Meals

Dinners are prepared in our school kitchen for lunchtime. There is a choice of three options each day for both the main meal and dessert which are pre-ordered in advance. There is a daily salad bar and bread basket. We encourage children to have school meals to ensure that they have had a hot, nutritious meal at lunchtime.

We run a 'Friday Favourites' scheme whereby children can sample a school meal one day each week. In addition, we offer special celebration lunches which all children are invited to participate in which may include Christmas, Chinese New Year, St. George's Day and Easter etc.

If preferred a packed lunch may be brought into school. We encourage healthy packed lunches; fizzy drinks, chocolate and sweets are not allowed.

If you think your child is entitled to free meals and milk, please enquire at the school office.

School Milk

Milk is available for children in Key Stage 1 and a termly charge is set for children who wish to have milk.

School Fruit

School provides a free piece of fruit to Key Stage 1 children every day to promote healthy eating. Key Stage 2 children are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit to eat during afternoon playtime.

Water

We encourage all pupils at Simonstone to drink as much water as possible. All children have a place in class for a labelled sports bottle that they are able to drink from throughout the school day.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school offers a wide range of extra curricular activities. The clubs vary from year to year, but cater for a variety of interests. At various times of the year children will be able to attend lunchtime or after school clubs. Recent clubs have included:

Football	Cookery	Handball
Cricket	Choir	Dance
Multi skills	Craft Club	Tag Rugby
Dodge ball	Silk Painting	Netball
Sign Language	Tennis	Board Games

The Out of School Experience

Simonstone St Peter's is fortunate enough to benefit from an external company called 'The Out of School Experience' who run from our Old School Hall a breakfast and after school club serving our school. The club runs in the morning from 7.30am to 8.50am, when the children are escorted over the road and delivered to school, and from 3.30pm to 6pm after school when the children are picked up and taken over the road. During an after school club, all children receive food and drink and are cared for in the School hall. For further information please ask at school who will in turn provide you with their contact details.

Educational Visits

Simonstone St Peter's has a tradition of enriching the pupil's education by organising a number of educational visits throughout the school year. Parents are informed of all educational visits as they are provisionally organised. A standard letter explains the dates, times, costs and nature and purpose of the visit. The letters also inform parents that the level of response indicated by those willing to make a voluntary contribution will determine whether the visit will go ahead.

Medicals

School medicals are conducted in accordance with the Area Health Authority Regulations. Parents are notified of specific medical examinations, e.g. immunisations and height and weight checks.

General Medical Matters

Please do not send your child to school with an infection that could then affect the whole class. If a child has been vomiting they should not return to school for 48 hours so they do not infect other children or staff.

Special medical information should be entered in the appropriate space on the child's school admission form which is updated on a regular basis. The school works closely with the school nurse.

If your child is fit to attend school, but requires medicine during school time, it is important that you speak to either the Head teacher or your child's class teacher. We are prepared to administer medicine in certain circumstances if a medicine consent form has been completed.

In such cases, parents/carers and not the child should deliver the medicine to the school office where it will be stored safely. Parents will be asked to complete a medical form stating the child's name, medicine to be taken and dosage. Medicines must be clearly labelled with the child's name clearly visible. The medicine will be administered by the child's class teacher or by the school administrative officer.

If constant medication is required for ongoing ailments such as asthma, spare inhalers must be kept in the office, clearly labelled in case of emergency.

School Fund

This is accumulated in a variety of ways. The main one is through 'School fund' where every child is asked to contribute £10 per annum. We ask that you pay this amount in September or termly if you prefer. This helps to fund additional activities that are not covered in the school budget such as baking ingredients and equipment and Christmas art materials. We rely very heavily on this additional funding and are grateful to parents for this supplementary income which benefits all the children in the School.

Lost Property

Whilst we endeavour to find any missing article, no responsibility can be accepted by the school. To aid us in keeping lost property to a minimum, please ensure that your child's name is shown on all articles of clothing that are brought into school. At the end of each term any unclaimed lost property is donated to a charitable organisation.

School Council/Eco-Committee and Worship Team

Each year children from year 2-6 are invited to nominate themselves to join one of our school forums. We are proud that the children of Simonstone St Peter's have a voice and we value their input and opinions.

Friends of Simonstone School (FOSS)

We have a very active Parent, Teacher and Friends Association called FOSS. Their main aim is to foster and extend relationships between staff, parents and children. In addition to helping at school events, the Friends organise and run their own events throughout the school year. Money raised by these events is used to improve the facilities and equipment within the school. Every parent who has a child in school is automatically a member of our Friends association and we welcome your support at our future meetings. They usually raise in excess of £6,000 each year.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Parents should be aware that when it appears to a member of staff that a child may be at risk, the school is required, as part of the local authority child protection procedures, to report their concern to the authority immediately. We have a full copy of our Child Protection Policy in school which is also available on the school website. The policy is reviewed annually by the governing body and in line with local authority guidance staff have child protection and safeguarding training updates every three years.

Freedom of Information Act

The school holds a variety of policy information that is available for any person to see on request (our full school Freedom of Information Scheme is available on our school website – curriculum section).

Data Protection Act

Schools, local education authorities and the DFE (the government department that deals with education) all hold information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to comply with the data protection act 1998. This means that amongst other things, that the data held must only be used for specific purposes in law. Pupils, have certain right under the data protection act, including a right of access to personal data held on them, with parents exercising this right on behalf of the children if they are too young to do so themselves. If you wish to access the personal data held about your child, then please contact the school (a full copy of our data protection policy is available on the school website – curriculum section).

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Special needs, as defined by the 1993 Education Act are dealt with in accordance with the School Policy for SEN.

All children are entitled to receive an education that will develop them to their full potential. For some, this requires the provision of additional support in school. Children with learning difficulties are supported in line with the requirement of the 2001 Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. Concerns expressed by parents or staff are addressed by the school SEN co-ordinator and the Head teacher and appropriate action taken. Needs may be met using staff and resources available in school, or if needs demand, outside agencies may be asked to offer additional support.

We keep a list of children with Special Educational Needs to allow us to monitor their progress and ensure we are helping them successfully. An Individual Education Plan is drawn up stating the targets and approaches to be adopted for each child. Progress against these planned targets is reviewed termly. We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive school where every child matters whatever their individual needs. Copies of our SEN policy are available from our school office or on our school website.

Throughout the process parents are informed, consulted and involved as their input is valued. Parents are invited to discuss their children's progress and any matters of concern to them. Such discussion may take place formally or informally depending on the level of need required.

Gifted, Able and Talented Pupils

We cater for our more able pupils by identifying them at an early age and creating opportunities for them to excel by providing enriching materials and experiences to suit their needs.

Physical Education (PE)

All children are expected to participate in the full physical education programme offered by the school. A child may only be excused from participating in PE if requested, preferably in writing by the child's parent/carers guardians if they have become ill. PE equipment should be kept in a PE drawstring bag with the child's name clearly marked on it and kept in the cloakroom at all times. All jewellery, including watches must be taken off for all physical

education activities. Sensible and appropriate clothing must be worn for outdoor games and brought into school on timetabled days.

Swimming

Swimming lessons are part of the school curriculum for the Key Stage 2 children and all children are expected to participate . If a child is not able to attend, the school should be informed in writing. All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name.

Homework

We use homework to develop the partnership between home and school with the aim of working together to help all children achieve their potential.

From the Reception class to Year 6, children will take home reading books each evening. Children that read each day at home with their parents generally make good progress and we ask that parents support us in this important matter.

Children will be given appropriate work to do at home in English, Mathematics and at times throughout the year for other academic areas such as History/Geography.

The Dfe has issued schools with the following recommendations for homework:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 approximately one hour over the duration of the week which includes; reading, phonics and other English and Maths activities.

Year 3 and 4, approximately one and a half hours over the duration of the week which includes; reading, spelling, learning tables and other English and Maths activities.

Year 5 and 6 approximately 20-30 minutes each day which includes reading, spelling, learning tables, researching and completing a topic linked to an area of learning or interest and other English and Maths tasks.

Assessment at Simonstone St Peter's

Records are kept in accordance with the school assessment policy.

(Personal) – All personal records of staff and children are kept in school and are covered by the Data Protection Regulations.

Assessment is an integral part of the National Curriculum. We are required to teach within the framework of the statutory programmes of study, directing the learning of our pupils towards the statutory attainment targets, and assessing the children's progress against end of key stage assessments. This is carried out in three ways:

- **Continuous teacher assessment**
- **Standard Assessment Tasks**
- **Assessment for Learning**

Assessment is important at all stages of children's learning, with teacher assessment forming the major part of the process. Pupils are assessed in all core and foundation subjects. The continuous monitoring of pupil's progress enables us to determine how best to respond to individual strengths

and areas for development. The children are also involved in assessing their own performance and working towards achieving individual targets.

Our new Reception class children are assessed on entry to school - this information is invaluable in helping the class teacher understand the abilities and needs of every child in the class, as well as tailoring an Early Years curriculum that matches their interests.

All children in Year 2 and Year 6 are subject to Statutory Assessments which are carried out in May each year as children reach the end of their Key Stage. These assessments give parents an insight into how their child is performing compared to other children of the same age in schools nationally. Results are reported to parents with the children's annual report in the summer term.

Simonstone St Peter's C.E Primary School

The School Curriculum

The National framework provided by the Secretary of State incorporates the National Curriculum, Religious Education and other statutory requirements. This framework enables Simonstone St Peter's to respond effectively to national and local priorities to meet the needs of all pupils and to develop a distinctive character and ethos rooted in the local community by following the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2.

Foundation Stage

In September 2000, the term 'Foundation Stage' was introduced. This describes the phase of education from a child's third birthday to the end of Reception class. Children in the Reception class will pursue the early learning goals which are currently organised into seven areas of learning:

The three Prime areas of learning are:

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

The four specific areas of learning:

4. Mathematical development
5. Literacy (including reading and writing)
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive Art and Design

In addition, the children also study Religious Education at an age appropriate level.

The teaching of the early learning goals is organised in a thematic approach.

Key Stages 1 and 2

All children will study the subjects of the National Curriculum. Subjects that the children study include English, Mathematics, ICT, PE, History, Geography, Design Technology, Art and Music. In

September 2008 we introduced a Modern Foreign language in to the curriculum at Key Stage 2 (French).

Teachers often plan thematic topics for children to study to allow them to make important links in their learning.

Religious Education is not part of the National Curriculum, but is considered to be of fundamental importance in our Church school.

Priority is given to the teaching of the core subjects, some 50% of curriculum time in all. English and mathematics are taught as individual subjects following separate well structured schemes.

Skills from these subjects are applied and transferred to other areas of the curriculum.

Religious Education

As a Church of England voluntary aided school, it is our explicit aim to offer pupils a good quality Christian education. Staff and Governors work together to create a Christian environment where pupils can learn and grow in a healthy and balanced way. Religious Education plays a crucial role in this aim. The caring and sharing which is actively promoted and recommended in Religious Education and the worship programme of the school must be lived out in the day to day living and running of the school.

Religious teaching and worship are based upon the syllabus of Religious Education drawn up by Blackburn Diocesan Council.

The main aims and objectives of Religious Education in our school are: -

- To allow each child to develop spiritually.
- To develop knowledge of the teachings of the Bible.
- To offer the basis of faith by which children can live.
- To provide pupils with an understanding and knowledge of the Christian heritage and culture of our society.
- To help pupils understand that religion is a formative influence in the lives of many people.
- To increase the children's awareness, knowledge and respect of other faiths.
- To develop Christian principles of caring and respect for others, honesty, loyalty and integrity by teaching and example in the daily life of our school.

Rights of parents to withdraw children from RE and Worship

It is the right of parents to withdraw pupils from Religious Education and Collective Worship, but as a Church school it is hoped that all pupils will participate in RE lessons and collective worship.

English

English is a key area for children to develop in order to equip them for life. English is taught daily in all classes and these skills are often applied in other subjects. The children experience a wide range of reading and writing experiences. Children in the EYFS and KS 1 have daily phonics sessions to support their progress in reading, spelling and writing. Children who have more difficulty with reading and writing may still need phonics work on entry to Key Stage 2.

The English curriculum is divided into three main areas: speaking and listening; reading and writing. Specific aims for each area are:-

- *Speaking and Listening*

We aim to provide a rich, varied and stimulating environment where conversation and confidence will flourish. Good listening skills are fostered in each curriculum area.

- *Reading*

We promote an enjoyment of literature and books through our reading scheme, book corners and school libraries.

Phonics is taught daily to all our Key Stage 1 pupils and some of our Key Stage 2 children who need extra help. This enables children to decode unfamiliar words when they are reading.

- *Writing*

We aim that each child should be able to write legibly; developing a cursive style (in which letters are formed and linked without raising the pen). Regular spelling patterns are taught through a graded programme. Important links are made between handwriting and spelling.

Maths

Mathematics is a core National Curriculum subject and as such is given a high priority. Each child participates in a daily maths lesson. Whilst in school the children will learn about:

Numbers and the Number System

- Counting
- Properties of Number and number sequences, including negative numbers.
- Place value and ordering, including reading and writing numbers.
- Estimating and rounding.
- Fractions, decimals and percentages, and the equivalence; ratio and proportion.

Calculations

- Understanding number operations and relationships.
- Rapid mental recall of number facts.
- Mental calculation, including strategies for deriving new facts from known facts.
- Pencil and paper methods.
- Using a calculator.
- Fractions, decimals and percentages, and the equivalence; ratio and proportion.

Solving Problems

- Making decisions: deciding which operation and method of calculation to use.
- Solving problems involving numbers in context: 'real life', money and measures.

Measures, shape and space

- Measures including choosing units and reading scales.
- Properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes, position, direction and movement.
- Telling the time.

Information,Communication Technology

ICT prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are increasingly transformed by access to varied and developing technology.

Pupils use ICT to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information responsibly, creatively and with discrimination. They learn how to employ ICT to enable rapid access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures. Increased capability in the use of ICT promotes initiative and independent learning, with pupils being able to make informed judgements about when and where to use ICT to best effect, and to consider its implications for home and work, both now and in the future. The children have access to PC'S, Laptops and an interactive whiteboard in each classroom. Children are taught ICT skills across the whole school curriculum.

Science

Science is an important area of learning and is taught throughout the school. All work is in accordance with the programmes of study for Key Stages 1 and 2.

The purpose of the Science curriculum is to enable all pupils to develop an understanding of the world around them through investigation.

They are presented with the opportunity to learn about their environment and the ways things happen through scientific experiences using scientific methods.

Science contributes to the personal growth of children as well as preparing them for the adult world.

The science curriculum is composed of four attainment targets, these being:

- Scientific enquiry
- Life Processes and Living Things
- Materials and their properties
- Physical processes

Children learn science through exploration and investigation.

Geography

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human world, using different scales of enquiry to view them from different perspectives. It develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps, and a range of investigative and problem-solving skills both inside and outside of the classroom. It is also an important link between the natural and social sciences. As pupils study geography, they will encounter different societies and cultures. It can inspire them to think about their own place in the world, their values, their rights and the responsibilities to other people and the environment.

History

History fires pupils' curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies are like, how these societies organised their politics, and what peoples' beliefs and cultures influence people's actions.

As they do this, pupils begin to develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people. They see the diversity of human experience, and understand more about themselves and members of society. What they learn can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values. In history, pupils find evidence and weigh it up and reach their own conclusions. To do this, they need to be able to research, sift through evidence, and argue for their point of value – skills that are important in adult life.

Design Technology

Design technology prepares pupils to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. They learn to think and intervene creatively to improve quality of life. The subject calls for pupils to become autonomous and creative problem solvers, as individuals and as members of a team. They must look for needs, wants and opportunities and respond to them by developing a range of ideas and making products and systems. They combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices. As they do so they reflect on and evaluate present and past designs and technology, its uses and effects. Through design and technology, all pupils become discriminating and informed users of products, and become innovators.

Physical Education

Physical education develops pupil's physical competence and confidence, and their ability to use these to perform in a range of activities. It promotes physical development and a knowledge of the body in action. Physical education provides opportunities for pupils to be creative, competitive and to face up to challenges as individuals, groups and teams. It promotes positive attitudes towards active and healthy lifestyles. They learn how to plan, perform and evaluate actions, ideas and performances to improve their quality and effectiveness. We aim to encourage children to enjoy PE and become involved in lifelong physical activity.

Modern Foreign Languages

French was introduced into our school curriculum in September 2008.

All children in Key Stage 2 have an entitlement to one hour of French teaching each week.

Children in Key Stage 1 learn basic key words and numbers through rhymes and games.

Art and Design

Art, design and craft work stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world. Pupils use colour, form, pattern and different materials and processes to communicate what they see, feel and think. Through art and design activities, they learn to make informed judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions, becoming actively involved in shaping environments. They explore ideas and meanings in the work of artists, craftspeople and designers. They learn about the diverse roles and functions of art, craft and design in contemporary life, and in different times and cultures.

Understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts have the power to enrich our personal and public lives.

PSHE/Citizenship

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and communities.

In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. They reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up. They learn to respect humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

Music

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging links between the home, school and the wider world. The teaching of music develops pupils' ability to listen and appreciate a variety of music and to make judgements about musical quality.

It develops a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also creates self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment. In school we employ a specialist music teacher who works with each class for approximately one hour each week.

Healthy Schools

The school has both Lancashire and National Healthy Schools Status. It is our aim to encourage all the school community to be healthy individuals physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Smoke Free Zone

In accordance with Local authority guidance the school and all its grounds are designated no smoking areas. This is for the health and safety of all the pupils and staff in the school. This also includes any kind of electronic cigarettes.

Dogs on School Premises

The Governing Body respectfully request that for health and safety reasons, dogs are not brought on to the school premises at any time.

Sex and Relationships Education

At Simonstone St. Peter's sex and relationships education is taught via the Science and PSHE curriculum. The lessons are appropriate to age and maturity of the children. The school nurse leads a puberty talk for our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex and relationships education should they wish.

A full copy of our policy is available from the School website (policies section)/School office should you wish to see it.

Child Protection

School follows the guidelines set down by the local authority to ensure that all children are appropriately safeguarded. We have a comprehensive child protection policy which is reviewed by the Governing Body on an annual basis. A copy is available from the school office/website should you wish to see it.

In addition, we always ask your permission to use any photographs of children on the website or in the local press. If an image is used, the name of the child is never given.

We take internet and e-safety very seriously and have policies and procedures to ensure that our children are safe whilst using the internet in school. If you would like to see a copy of our e-safety policy, please ask at the office.

