

WELCOME



St David's Church of England Primary School is a happy school, where we work hard to ensure that pupils and their families are made to feel part of the school community right from the start. We work hard to ensure that all children in our care have the opportunity to thrive and reach their potential.

St David's C of E Primary School is situated near two major landmarks in the city: St Michael's Church and the Iron Bridge, right in the heart of the city.

The original Victorian school building houses two classrooms, a hall, a library, a music room and a community room. There are also two new classrooms built at the back of the school which accommodate our Key stage 1 children.

We have a playground in front of the school, with trees, planting and activities for the children. Behind the school is a smaller area, used for class activities and at playtimes, which includes fixed play equipment, a garden and an environmental area and also a field which is used (weather permitting) for a whole range of outdoor activities.

The school has between 95 and 105 pupils, with 3 full-time and 2 part-time teaching staff and several teaching support staff.

The children are taught in 4 mixed age classes, our teaching groups are reasonably small and are usually a maximum of 25 in KS1 and 30 in KS2.

STARTING SCHOOL

During the Spring term before your child is due to start school; the Pupil Admissions department of the Local Authority will request that you apply directly to them either online or by post indicating your school(s) of choice. At your request we will arrange for you to look around the school with your child, and in the half term prior to your child's admission you will be invited to attend induction sessions which take place one afternoon a week for 4 weeks. These induction sessions are of great value in introducing new children to the school, its staff and the other children. Experience shows us that children who attend the induction sessions settle more easily in to school when they start in September and for this reason we would urge you to attend if at all possible.

Please see the Early Years induction policy for more information on the process.

During the first week of term in September the EYFS teacher and teaching assistant will come to see you and your child at home. We very much enjoy home visits, as they allow us to meet the children in their own environment, and we find that parents and children also appreciate them.

Admissions Criteria

Order of Priority for County and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools:

1. Children who are in Public Care (Looked After Children)
 2. Children living in the school's designated area, with a sibling who will be attending the school at the time of admission
 3. Other children living in the school's designated area
 4. Children living outside the school's designated area, but with a sibling who will be attending the school at the time of admission
 5. Other children living outside the school's designated area
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Communication

Good communication between home and school is important in helping us to ensure that your child is happy and settled. Please feel free to visit your child's class and look at the displays and work and talk to staff.

Photographs of all the children starting school are prominently displayed, so that we can all get to know the new faces and names. Particular care is taken to see that each child is introduced to the pattern of the school day in a sensitive way.

The Headteacher and the Foundation Stage class teacher are normally available at the beginning and end of the day to talk about how your child is settling in.

All staff are available before and after school to talk about news, events and celebrations, or any concerns you might have. If you would like to have a more formal discussion, please make an appointment at the school office.

We want the children at our school to do well, to achieve and to be happy, not only at school, but in all areas of their lives, and we take an interest in all aspects of their development. If a problem should arise, we will discuss this with the child's parents, and we hope that parents will let us know of any concerns they have at an early stage.

Newsletters

A weekly newsletter is sent to families to inform them about forthcoming events and other matters. Most families receive their newsletters electronically but paper copies can be issued on request. A copy of the latest newsletter will be displayed on the notice board.

Information relating to specific classes will be sent out by the class teacher and then displayed on the class notice board. Please read all the letters with your child and return any slips as soon as possible.

Absence

If your child is absent from school please telephone the school at the start of the day to advise us of the reason. On returning to school, a letter explaining the absence needs to be given to the class teacher.

As a parent/carer, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by taking your holidays during school holidays. Headteachers no longer have the power to grant term time leave for holidays.

Requests for absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The following are examples of the criteria for leave of absence, which may be considered as 'exceptional':

- Genuine illness
- Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible)
- Days of religious observance
- Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces
- External examinations
- When Traveller children go on the road with their parents

What to do if you have concerns

If you are anxious about any aspect of your child's education, the first step is to talk to your child's teacher and/or the Headteacher. We will endeavour to resolve the problem, but if we are unable to do this to your satisfaction, there is a more formal procedure, which you may follow. Full details are available from the school office.

Parents are welcome! We want you to be involved in the life of the school and the education of your child. Please come and see us whenever you can. We hope you will feel that the atmosphere in the school is welcoming and that you can approach us at any time.

At the beginning of the year, parents and class teachers meet to talk about the themes and activities that have been planned. This enables you to extend these activities at home, either in your own way, or through the tasks sent home from school.

We encourage children to bring home a variety of books, which we hope you will read with them. These books will vary in style, content and difficulty, as we want your child to develop a love of books and reading, which will bring life-long pleasure. Reading is monitored carefully by the class teacher so that we can ensure children are making progress at the expected rate. Children will bring home a Reading diary where comments from both home and school can be recorded, it is really helpful if these can be returned to school each day.

If you would like to help in school, either regularly, or on an occasional basis, please come and discuss this with your child's teacher.

Parents evenings

Twice a year, in the autumn and spring term, parents are given an appointment with the class teacher. During these sessions children's progress in relation to expectations will be discussed along with pastoral issues and comments on general development. Your child is welcome to attend this interview with you. This is also an opportunity to look at your child's work and displays in the classroom. In the Summer Term, written reports are

sent out and following this, parents may request an appointment to see the class teacher if there are any issues they wish to discuss or any points they would like clarified.

In addition we have we have regular informal opportunities at which parents can meet, talk and learn more about the curriculum and the work your child is doing.

Educational Visits

We believe that educational visits enrich and reinforce the work done in the classroom. Our central location means that many short excursions can be made at no cost, but for visits further afield we do appreciate voluntary contributions. The help of parents or other adults who can spare the time to accompany us on these occasions is essential.

The Curriculum

At St David's C of E Primary School we provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which:

- a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- b) Prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

We aim to provide all pupils with the means:

-  To develop enquiring minds, a lively interest in the world around them, and a desire to learn, together with the confidence to express their own findings, feelings and opinions
-  To be sensitive to the emotional needs of those around them, and to appreciate others' consideration towards them
-  To begin to acquire skills that will serve them in adult life
-  To respect others' religions and moral values, and to consider thoughtfully their own attitudes and beliefs
-  To begin to understand the world in which we live
-  To develop their own sense of self-respect and the ability to co-operate with others

The requirements of the National Curriculum are met through integrated and subject approaches, which are outlined in each member of staff's planning. Mathematics and English are mainly delivered through discrete subject lessons which are taught daily. Support from home is encouraged.

LITERACY

Children's' development in literacy is considered by all staff to be of paramount importance. We have a very wide-ranging language curriculum, with close, careful monitoring and recording of the progress of each child in speaking and listening, reading and writing.

MATHEMATICS

In our teaching of mathematics, we aim to create an environment in which children can acquire new skills and have fun exploring and investigating all aspects of numbers, including: algebra, measurements, shape, size and data handling in real-life situations.

SCIENCE

A high priority is given to science work throughout the school. Children are helped to develop science skills and acquire scientific knowledge by engaging in relevant, investigative activities.

TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology, children are given the opportunity to develop skills of enquiry, to think independently and to increase their understanding of the environment. The children are encouraged to discover how things work through direct experience and to design, construct and evaluate products, which perform a practical and specific function.

ICT

We aim to develop children's confidence and skills in using computers and other electronic equipment

HISTORY

We aim to stimulate children's curiosity about the past through a wide variety of historical experiences, ranging from using family photographs to walking along Exeter's Roman walls. Through this the children will gain a widening historical perspective on the world around them.

GEOGRAPHY

The children will experience being geographers by asking questions about the world around them and about distant places; about people and the environment. They will develop a range of geographical skills as they find answers both through practical observations and explorations, and through the use of a variety of reference materials.

RE

In Religious Education, we spend a great deal of time helping children to formulate questions. These questions

concern the beauty and meaning of our world, the children's commitment to it, and all aspects of religious belief. While our teaching is mainly Christian-based, we also emphasise the importance of respect for and interest in other religions.

ART

Every child at the school takes part in a wide range of art, craft and design activities, working both individually and co-operatively. We also feel it is important for children to appreciate and evaluate other artists' work, both past and contemporary, and to examine their own responses to it.

PE

The children participate in gymnastics, dance, games, athletics and outdoor activities. We aim to encourage children to develop skills, which will help them to manage their bodies, be creative and work with other children.

MUSIC

We encourage our children to enjoy and appreciate music. All children throughout the school are involved in composing, performing and listening to a variety of music from different periods of history and cultures.

PSHE

Personal and Social Education may be defined as all those aspects of the curriculum which contribute to the personal and social development of the pupils. We aim to cultivate awareness of and respect for both the environment and the people within it. We teach the children to understand that their school, its grounds and its facilities should always be used in a careful and caring way, and we extend this teaching to the wider environment.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to an equal-opportunities policy for all members of the school. This means that each individual is treated with the same care and consideration, regardless of ability, disability, culture, gender, social circumstances, ethnic origin or religion.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

In our school there are children of all abilities, some of whom may have special educational needs (physical, intellectual or emotional). We believe that they can only achieve their full potential if they are strongly supported by school, home and outside agencies. If you wish to know more about Special Educational provision in school, please speak to the Headteacher.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As a school we meet every day to worship. On these occasions, children are active participants, celebrating and

exploring different themes. Parents who wish to withdraw a child from collective worship or Religious Education may do so and should put their request in writing to the Headteacher.

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The science and PSHE curriculum provide opportunities to explore aspects of relationships and reproduction in simple terms throughout the primary education at an age appropriate level. The main input on Sex Education is delivered in Y5/6 using a series of Educational programmes as a basis for more detailed discussion and exploration. Parents will be informed in advance that these sessions are about to take place and will be offered the opportunity to watch the programmes in if they request. Parents who wish to withdraw a child from these sessions may do so and should put their request in writing to the Headteacher.

The Child's Wellbeing

In-order to benefit fully from school life, children need to be helped to feel healthy, comfortable and safe as possible while they are with us. Caring for their physical needs is important to us.

Medication

It is important that we know about any allergies or past medical history before a child starts school. If your child needs to take prescribed medicine during the school day, please make sure that the appropriate form is completed, and that the medication is handed to one of our teaching assistants who will store it safely in the medicine cupboard.

Health Checks

In a child's first year of school, the school nurse will carry out a short health interview at which parents are invited to be present. During this interview, children's weight and height are checked as well as being given a routine sight and hearing test. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's health, our school nurse would be happy to discuss them with you before your child starts school.

School Meals

Children may choose to have school dinners or packed lunch. Water is provided, but children may bring their own drinks to school, provided these are in plastic containers or cartons.

A weekly menu showing the choices of meals is displayed in the class and on the notice board. Menus are on a 3 week cycle and are sent home so that families can make their selections in advance. Most dietary requirements can be catered for, and children can have school dinners on selected days only, if preferred. Meals must be ordered a week in advance. Any money sent to school for this payment of school meals must be sent in an envelope clearly marked with the child's name. If you think you may be eligible for Free school meals please ask at the school office so that we can help you complete the registration, even if you think your child may not want the meals it is worth registering as there are other benefits both to families and the school.

Snacks

If you wish, your child may bring a piece of fruit for the morning break. Fruit is provided for all children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (Red and Green class) but some children who have specific tastes may prefer to bring their own. It is important that all children should have an adequate breakfast before coming to school as the mornings

can seem long if they haven't eaten before coming to school.

School Uniform

Parents are encouraged to dress their children in the correct uniform. (A uniform list will be supplied prior to admission). Clothing can be purchased from any stockist, although the sweatshirt with the school logo is only available from Thomas Moore (Fore Street).

The school has a small selection of nearly new (previously loved) school uniform at a very reasonable price, please ask at the school office if you would like to see what is available.

P.E. kit consists of shorts, round necked white T-shirt and plimsolls (leotards may be worn if preferred for indoor gym work). These should be brought to school in a drawstring bag and kept on the child's peg in class.

Track suit trousers (plain blue or black) can be worn for outdoor Games in cold weather.

Trainers can be worn for outdoor Games.

All clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name.

Jewellery

If your child has pierced ears, then a pair of simple studs may be worn. However, parents need to accept responsibility if an accident should happen in P.E. A watch may be worn if the child is capable of looking after it sensibly and is able to tell the time. No other jewelry is permitted, largely for reasons of health and safety.

Possessions

Special toys (eg a comfort teddy) can sometimes help an anxious child to settle in to school life, but once children have settled at school we ask them not to bring any toys as they can be a source of distraction.

Lost Property

If your child loses something and it cannot be found in the classroom, please check in the Lost Property box outside the office.

Fire Procedures

Procedures for vacating the school in the event of a fire are displayed in Key areas. Fire drills are carried out every term.

Dogs

With the exception of Guide Dogs we do not allow dogs on the premises.

Smoking

We have a policy of no smoking on the premises.

Travel to and from School

The authority provides free school transport where a pupil lives beyond the agreed statutory distance (2 miles for children up to 8 years of age). Some pupils who live within this limit may be given free transport for special reasons (e.g. on medical grounds). Parents are responsible for their child's safety on the journey between home and school.

We encourage parents to accompany KS1 children into school and to settle them in class ready for the day to begin. It is expected that KS2 children should come in to school without their parents and organise their belongings in class themselves; this promotes independence and eases congestion in the corridors.

All children should be collected from the playground at the end of the school day.

Parking

Car parking is a problem and the area is regularly patrolled by traffic wardens and security firms. The school has negotiated ten-minute parking concessions in specific areas (outside the church), at the beginning and the end of the school day (parking permits and details of parking places are available from the office). Please ensure your permit is displayed prominently and adhere to the timings, as the school will not accept any responsibility for penalty notices issued that do not comply with the agreed terms.

In order to keep our school safe, we encourage families to park a little way away from school and walk the rest of the way.

The Wider Community

Our school enjoys something of the atmosphere of a village school within the city. We take pride in our strong links with the community and our special connections with the parish; the whole school benefits from the interest taken in St David's by our friends and neighbours, and the children learn the importance of society in its widest sense.

Governors

Our governors take an active interest in all aspects of school life. The governing body, which is legally responsible for the overall running of the school, includes:

- Parent governors who are elected from and by parents of pupils at the school
- DCC governors who are appointed by the Local Authority
- Foundation governors who are nominated by the Church Authority
- A teacher who is elected from the staff by the other teachers
- A member of the support staff who is elected from and by the other support staff
- The Headteacher as Ex Officio

The parent governors are your representatives. Please feel free to approach them, not only for information or advice, but also with any positive ideas you may have.

Meetings are held at the school, at least once a term. They are open to anyone who wishes to attend as an observer, although visitors will be asked to withdraw for the discussion of certain confidential matters.

PTFA

All parents are automatically members of the PTFA, which also consists of other people interested in the well-being of the school. They give their time in various ways to help the school: some come into school to help class teachers, or to share books with children; others help on educational visits. From within the group, a fundraising committee is formed to organise events to raise money for special purchases.

Links with the parish church

As a church school, we value our links with St David's Church (opposite Exeter College) and St Michael's Church (next to our school). The local vicar and curate and members of the congregation are regular visitors to the school. The school has a weekly act of worship, led by the vicar or the curate at St Michael's Church. Harvest, Easter and Christmas celebrations are held in Church. Parents are welcome at all acts of worship and celebrations.

Everyone is welcome at the Sunday Family Service at St David's Church, in which the school sometimes takes part. Some of our children are also members of the Junior Church at St David's.

Charities

Across the year, we collect money for an individual child from Equador whom we sponsor through Plan International. Other fundraising events are planned by individual classes, often arising from work done in the classroom.

Connections

We enjoy and benefit from our close links with students and staff from the High Schools in Exeter, Exeter College and the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth. Visits are welcomed from people working in all fields, especially those connected with the arts or the environment, and the children find such visits both entertaining and stimulating.

