



St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure



A Parent's Guide to Starting School

Our Vision:



At St Giles CE Primary School we strive to be

Active

Confident

High attaining

Individuals

Engaged in the pursuit of Christian

Values and

Excellence

In short we **ACHIEVE**



Welcome to the Reception Class

The first day

When the children start school we take special care to make sure each individual is settled and happy. In order to ensure that your child settles well we have a staggered start into their Reception year.

The first week children will attend:

- part-time for the first day and build up to full time by the end of their first week. This enables children to become used to the school routine in a gradual way.

Who will look after your child?

During their time in Reception your child will work with all of our teachers and teaching assistants within our Early Years / Key Stage One.

Coming into school

School starts at 8.50 am but the doors are open from 8.40 am and you can bring your child into the classroom, share the activities with them to ensure that they are settled for the day.

For security reasons the gates will be locked at 8.55am. If you arrive after this time please report to the school office to sign your child in.

Each child has a coat-peg in the cloakroom and a drawer in the classroom.

The children spend a long time outside each day so do make sure they are adequately protected from the weather; both hot and cold.



Life in Reception



The Reception Classroom

Your child's day will be spent accessing all areas of the Reception classroom both inside and outside.

We have five main zones in which your child will develop their learning. These are the Discovery Area, Imagination Area, Creative Area, Maths Area and Outside Area.

Within each of these spaces are a wide range of continuous resources which your child will be encouraged to access and become familiar with as well as various enhanced resources based upon children's interests and learning.



Discovery Area

In this area you will find our maths, construction, sand, water and investigation provision.

Imagination Area

Here you will find our role-play, writing, phonics challenge and small world provision.

Creative Area

In this area we have continuous access to malleable play, model making and painting resources.



Outside Area

We are fortunate to have an extensive outdoor provision including a mud kitchen, physical play and active provision for literacy, maths and knowledge and understanding the world.

There are toilets for boys and girls adjacent to the cloakroom. Children are encouraged to go at break time and before lunchtime but, of course, can go whenever they need to as long as they ask the adult in charge. The children are encouraged to wash their hands after a visit to the toilet and before lunch.

Any 'accidents' will always be dealt with sympathetically.

Please wash and return any clothes that are borrowed as soon as possible. Also to save confusion, please make sure that all clothes are labelled before the children start school.



How we encourage learning

At St Giles, we embrace the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Curriculum which your child will have experienced in their pre-school setting. In Reception children continue to work within this framework through developmentally appropriate stages leading to the Early Learning Goals.

Reception learning at St Giles is play based and learning objectives are clearly planned for all children to develop to their full potential in all 7 areas of learning and development. We talk with your child about their 'next steps in learning'. This is an approach that focuses on each child's individual needs. Each child is given individual next steps which will be regularly shared with parents. All children are encouraged to talk about their next steps in learning targets and review what they have been learning.



During their time in school the children develop their social skills and learn to work purposefully in large and small groups. Throughout the year staff spend time observing and assessing children's development in order to plan for each child to develop at their own pace and according to their interests. These observations are recorded in their Online Learning Journal (Tapestry) which we will share with parents in the autumn term.

Achievements

We encourage and praise children for persevering and trying their best. This applies to all areas of school life. It may be about listening carefully, being kind to another child, or doing a special drawing. We reward a child for such things, verbally and with stickers and certificates which are given out during our celebration collective worship each Friday.

During the day in Reception



Once the children are settled into school the days begin with a phonics activity in small groups. Each day your child will also take part in adult led maths, phonics and literacy based activities. These take place in groups and are organised to meet the needs of all our pupils.

When the children are not working on adult-led activities they are able to develop their learning according to their interests and next steps.

Collective Worship

As a Church School we plan our Collective Worship around Christian Values. Whole school worship takes place at the end of the school day in which we discuss our value of the term and share a quiet reflective time. We celebrate all Christian Festivals and visit St Giles Church at least once each term. Festivals from other faiths are also acknowledged.



R.E.

We have a weekly R.E. lesson where children learn about a range of faiths in a way that is appropriate to their understanding.

Physical Development

In Reception there are regular PE lessons each week. Your child will need a named P.E. kit to keep in school.



Forest Craft

All children in Reception take part in Forest Craft sessions. This enables children to work in teams, enjoy our outside environment and learn to take risks.

Snack Time

Fruit is provided every day at morning break time. Please supply your child with a named drinks bottle containing water. The children have access throughout the day to fresh water.

Lunch

Lunch is from 12.00 noon – 1.15 pm.

All children eat together in the hall and all children up to the end of Key Stage One receive a free school meal. The midday supervisors will help children having a school dinner to choose their lunch and will cut up food for children if necessary

Home time

We finish school at 3.15pm. We ask you to stand outside the playground gate and once the teacher sees you, your child will be allowed to leave. Please make sure staff know if you have arranged for another person to collect your child.



Absence from school and minor illnesses.

There is a high expectation at St Giles that all children will attend school daily.

Ring us as soon as possible if your child is absent giving the reason. By law we have to record this information. Please tell us if your child develops a medical problem so that we can keep our records up-to-date. It would be appreciated if you could notify us if your child has been unwell overnight so that we can monitor their well-being during the day. We will contact you if your child ever becomes ill so it is vital that you inform us if you change your contact arrangements.

Open Door Policy

We operate an 'open door policy' which encourages parents to talk to staff about any concerns they have before they become problems. If you are worried please talk to a member of staff in the first instance but if you remain concerned please make an appointment to see Mrs Forster.

Uniform

Boys- Black or Grey trousers or shorts, white polo shirt, red sweatshirt or fleece

Girls – Black or grey skirt or pinafore, white blouse or polo shirt, red cardigan or fleece

Most girls wear a red gingham dress in summer.

Footwear – Black school shoes or boots with white or black/grey socks or tights

P.E Kit

Red t-shirt, black or navy shorts and black pumps. Children also need black/navy tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt or hoody for the colder weather.

After School Club

There is no separate registration and children can attend on a regular basis or as required. If you need to use After School Club at short notice please ring the school office before 3.00pm.

After School Club runs daily from 3.20pm – 5.30pm.

The cost is:

Up to 4.30pm £6.00

Up to 5.30pm £8.00

Invoices are issued at the end of each month.

Breakfast Club

Runs daily from 8.00am. Children are offered a choice of cereal, wholemeal toast, yogurts and fruit juice.

The cost is £2.00 per day.

Invoices are issued at the end of each month or you can pay on the day.

No advance booking required.



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