



2025-6



About us

Whittingham is a small traditional Northumbrian village close to the larger towns of Rothbury and Alnwick. The village lies just off the A697 and is situated within an easy distance of about 35 miles travel southwards to Newcastle upon Tyne. The village enjoys a beautiful rural setting with magnificent views of the Cheviot Hills.

Our school serves a wide rural community and catchment area. We pride ourselves that we are warm and welcoming to all. School sits at the heart of its community with active links the local village hall, church and wider community. We have a longstanding local history and our school population includes children of former pupils and grandchildren of staff.



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



At Whittingham School, we are proud to be a warm, welcoming and inclusive community where every child is encouraged to flourish. Inspired by the values of kindness, collaboration and courage, we aim to create an environment where children feel safe, supported and inspired to be the very best version of themselves. Through learning, friendship and shared experiences, we encourage our children to care for others, work together and approach the world with confidence, curiosity and compassion

We are extremely ambitious for our children, always striving for them to have the best opportunities we can provide and for them to reach their full potential. The dedication of our inspirational staff, the resources available and our broad and balanced curriculum have all been contributing factors in enabling us to have an excellent reputation in the local and wider community. The proportion of our Pupil Premium children and children with SEND are broadly in line with national averages.



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We strive to make sure that the time the children spend as part of our school family, is happy and successful. We aim to provide a high standard of education in a supportive, secure and stimulating environment where all children can learn and develop to their full potential. We also seek to build a trusting and well-informed relationships with families.

Our Early Years provision follows the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework 2025, which places a strong emphasis on developing confident, happy and independent learners through meaningful play, high quality interactions and carefully planned experiences. We recognise the importance of communication, language and personal development as the foundations for future learning and ensure children are supported to grow socially, emotionally and academically from the very earliest stages. Through a nurturing environment, stimulating indoor and outdoor provision and responsive teaching, we encourage children to become curious, creative and resilient learners who develop a lifelong love of learning



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About Early Years

Curriculum and learning

At Whittingham C of E Primary School, the Early Years curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning which support children's development through play, exploration and meaningful experiences.

The three Prime Areas; Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development provide the foundations for children's learning and development.

Alongside these, children also develop skills within the Specific Areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Through carefully planned provision, engaging experiences and high quality interactions with adults, we support children to become confident, curious and independent learners who are eager to explore the world around them.



2 Year Old Provision

We are delighted to be looking forward to extending our Early Years provision to welcome 2 year olds from Summer Term 2026. This exciting development will allow us to provide high quality care and education for even younger children within our nurturing and supportive school environment. We recognise how important the earliest experiences are in shaping children's confidence, communication and love of learning and we are committed to creating a safe, stimulating and caring environment where every child can thrive from the very beginning of their learning journey.



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We hope to develop independent, curious, resilient, confident and caring learners who are ready to leave Early Years and progress through our school with these vital life and learning skills from the earliest age.

We believe that play is vital in the way we learn in Early Years and we support children to progress across the curriculum through child led play. We believe children learn best by leading their own play and by taking part in play that is facilitated by adults. Adults skilfully play alongside children, ensuring progress through highly effective questioning related to individual next steps. For example, developing writing or number skills by encouraging children to write a shopping list in the role-play area, recipe in the mud kitchen or practises their number recognition by parking the cars in numbered bays.

Alongside child led play, Nursery children also take part in short, daily, adult led inputs which help them to secure skills across the areas of learning. Adults then support children to demonstrate these skills independently within the provision. These daily inputs can include listening activities, circle times, fine motor or gross motor skill practise, phonics and mathematics.

Outdoor learning

We like to learn outdoors at Whittingham! We spend lots of time in the EYFS outdoor area and also enjoy visiting forest school regularly. The children play an active role in looking after our school chickens and enjoy learning about the world around us through real life experiences.

Mrs Manners is a Level 3 Forest School leader and enjoys taking the children to forest school where they learn about the environment, skills like whittling willow, play in our mud kitchen areas, make dens and enjoy campfires.

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact the school directly - 01665574222.

Best Wishes,

Toni Marsden, Early Years Teachers and the EYFS Staff Team.



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