



**Whittingham C of E  
Primary  
School Brochure**

**2024-25**

# Proud Of Our Awards & Achievements



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Good



## Welcome to Whittingham C of E Primary School

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to welcome you and your family to Whittingham C. of E. Primary School. We will do all we can to make sure that the time you and your child 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 relationship with families.

Our staff is made up of experienced, caring teachers and teaching assistants who use both modern and traditional methods to make learning as interesting and enjoyable as possible.

This brochure provides recent relevant information about the school. However, it is not a substitute for meeting you personally. Our school is happy and friendly and we are proud of our welcoming atmosphere.

Therefore, I look forward to meeting you and working with you and your child.

If you have any further questions or need help in any way do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mrs. Belinda Athey (Head Teacher).**

*Hand in hand together we will become kind, collaborative and courageous citizens of our community and the wider world.*



**Whittingham**  
CoF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

This brochure provides information concerning the school as required by the 1980 Education Act, for parents of pupils who are expected to enter the school from within the catchment area, and also for other parents who wish to know about the opportunities available at our school.

Information concerning the general arrangements in Northumberland is given separately in a County Education Booklet, copies of which are sent to parents of pupils who are starting or transferring to new schools next September.

This school serves the area of Whittingham, Callaly, Glanton, Thrunton, Edlingham, Bolton and Ryles.

Parents resident outside the school's catchment area who wish their children to attend the school may submit an application form (copies of which are available on the Northumberland County Council website) sending it to the Admissions Dept. Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF. 01670624889.

The Admissions Department will inform parents whether there is a place available at the school for their child. Requests from those outside the school's catchment area for places in September should be received by the Director of Education by the preceding 26th October at the latest.

Whittingham is a small traditional Northumbrian village close to the larger towns of Rothbury and Alnwick. The village lies to the west of the Morpeth to Wooler road and is situated about 35 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne. The village enjoys a beautiful rural setting with magnificent views of the Cheviot Hills.

The details in this school brochure are correct at the time of printing. The information in this brochure is correct as of September 2025.

**The information in this brochure relates to the school year 2024-25. The address of the school is:**

**Whittingham C. of E. Primary School**

**Whittingham**

**Alnwick**

**Northumberland**

**NE66 4UP.**

**Tel: 01665 574222 Fax: 01665 574763**

**Email: [Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk)**

**Website**

**<https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website>**

## Staff Team

**Headteacher** - Mrs Belinda Athey – in a teaching role across the school and also covers staff absence.

### **Teachers -**

**Early Years Class teacher** (Nursery and Reception) - Mrs Marsden.

**Class 1 Teacher (Years 1 and 2)** – Miss Lazenby

**Class 2 Teacher (Years 3 and 4)** – Mrs Fortescue

**Class 3 Teacher (Years 5 and 6)** - Mr Charlton

**Headteacher** – Mrs Belinda Athey

### **Teaching Assistants -**

Mrs Cheryl Chisholm (HLTA)

Miss Jess Forrest

Mrs Emma Manners

Ms Emma Coxon

**Office Manager** -Mrs Caroline Kennedy

**School Cook** - Mrs Mary Arkle



## The Governing Body

Our Governors hold regular meetings at least once a term, where they discuss national and local issues and the general management of the school. Each governor is appointed for a period of four years. When the period of office for a parent governor expires, nominations and elections will be organised as appropriate, and all parents will be notified. If you wish to contact any members of the Governing Body there are the following forms of communication - please ring or email school with your contact details and we will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as possible or write a letter addressed to either the Chair of Governors Mrs Sandra McCormack or Belinda Athey, Headteacher. If a complaint needs to be made please read our Complaints Policy. A copy is available from the school office or on the school website.

Chair – Mrs S McCormack- Co-opted Governor  
Vice – Chair - Mrs J Young - Co-opted Governor

Mrs J Saul- Community Governor

Mr N Charlton - Staff Governor  
Reverend R Townend -Ex officio

VACANCY - Foundation Governor

Mrs N Wood - Parent Governor

Mr A Whincup - Co-opted  
Governor

Mrs B Athey - Headteacher

VACANCY -

ParentGovernor



## Our School

Our present school building was opened in Easter 1968 after over a hundred years of teaching in the old school, which borders the square in front of the village hall. It consists of a central school hall surrounded by four classrooms and a kitchen, where our meals are prepared daily. The hall is well equipped with a good range of apparatus and equipment for physical education and is also where lunch is served. Each of the four light and airy classrooms has its own cloakroom and toilets. We also have a fantastic new library space, stocked with interesting books.

The school has its own playing field and wild-life area as well as an enclosed Early Years creative play and physical development area, an Adventure Trail, Tyre Park, Wooden Bridge and Climbing Wall. As well as a Multi Use Games Area, Trim Trail, Outdoor Gym, Gardening and Forest School Area and Daily Mile Running Track.

We have also recently built two new rooms adjacent to the school. The school, which serves a wide rural community and catchment area, presently has 81 pupils on roll and is organised into a Nursery/ Reception- Early Years Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Class, Year 3 and Year 4 Class and a Year 5 and Year 6 Class. Due to the variation in size of individual cohorts of children we review our class organisation every year. Current staffing includes five teachers (including the Head teacher) and four teaching assistants.

Like many small schools in Northumberland, we pride ourselves on the effective links maintained with other schools and we are part of the Alnwick Partnership of schools. This comprises of Primary and Secondary schools and staff meet on a regular basis to discuss local and national issues and develop good relationships so that the move to Secondary School is a smooth one. We are proud to retain our links with the Local Authority and work with other local authority schools in the Aln Alliance on projects with staff and children which further develop links.



## Our School Ethos

*'Hand in hand together we will become kind, collaborative and courageous citizens of our community and the wider world.'*

### Whittingham School Vision

As a school, we take inspiration from the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). In this story, the Samaritan was **kind** by going the extra mile so that all the injured man's needs were met. He was **collaborative** to make sure the man received the best care from him and others. Finally, he was **courageous** in helping someone who was different to him. These three values are at the heart of the community we seek to be at Whittingham School.

Through our daily worship, we acknowledge the presence of God in our lives.  
Through our learning environment, we provide space for everyone to flourish.  
Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we aspire for each child to be the very best they can be.

At Whittingham, we are:

Kind



Caring for everyone's safety, happiness and well-being by treating others how we'd like to be treated ourselves.

Collaborative



Providing opportunities for all to be involved in the daily life of school; preparing learners to be active in the wider world and fostering a supportive relationship between school, home and church.

Courageous



Celebrating what makes each of us unique and special; equipping us to make healthy choices in all areas of our life; and empowering us to step out for justice.





## Admissions

### Admissions to Nursery

Children are admitted into the Nursery Class, usually on a termly basis the term after their third birthday. However, we do offer provision for Rising Three Year Olds and Two Year Old children when we have spaces. Please see our separate brochure for Early Years or contact the office for further details

From September 2015 we were also pleased to offer in addition to our 15 hours of free

A letter or phone call offering nursery places are sent out the half term before the child is due to start, together with details of our taster Stay and Play sessions. Parents / Caregivers are asked to complete a questionnaire to provide us with information relevant to their child so that we can plan and prepare how best to suit their individual needs.

Throughout the year there are a variety of Parents / Caregivers Evenings ranging from whole-school celebrations to informal individual parent meetings. Each half term, a Class Topic letter giving information on the curriculum for that period is sent out to parents. A written report for every child is sent to parents in July. Please contact school for further details.



## Admissions to Reception Class

At Whittingham C. of E. Controlled Primary School we follow the admission policy laid down by Northumberland County Council in the County Admissions Handbook. When the number of applications for a school exceeds the number of places available in the year group in question (15 for Whittingham) priority will be given to the following categories of pupils in descending order of merit. Please see Northumberland County Council Admissions Policy.

Arrangements can be made for any prospective parents or caregivers and children to visit the school by contacting the school office.

### Early Years Foundation Stage

The aim of this stage is to build on the early learning that begins at home and to help children to develop their skills and knowledge further. Our approach to teaching and learning takes account of the importance and value of first-hand experience and play is recognised as an important way in which young children learn to make sense of their world. Children in the Foundation Stage will be given opportunities to learn in many ways, through structured play and by experiencing things first hand. We aim to develop a child's natural inquisitiveness into a desire to learn and expect to see our children become confident learners who are making identifiable progress, which we take care to monitor, record and celebrate.



## **Starting School**

In the Summer Term, before the school year of intake to Reception Class, all parents whose children are on the Reception class list for the following academic year will be contacted to invite them to visit the Reception class. They will meet with the staff and head teacher at a special parent meeting for new starters. This provides an opportunity for parents to see the classroom environment and to talk to the staff.

Starting school is a very important step in a child's life, so we aim to ensure a smooth transition for your child from home to school. Being made to feel welcome by a caring and committed staff goes a long way to allaying the fears of both parent and child.

Our first concern is to help children have the confidence to come into school and relate happily in a group of peers. Thus, we promote a calm friendly atmosphere enabling a child to feel secure so that he/she is open to learning situations. We see our job in terms of a partnership with parents where we work together for the good of the child. Parents can best help their children prepare for school by talking positively with them, listening to their ideas and encouraging independence. Having settled in happily, your child will embark on the adventure of acquiring a wide variety of skills and knowledge as well as making friends and developing their confidence. These are the foundations on which the rest of their education depends.

Children join the 'Reception Year' the September following their 4th birthday. Reception age children continue their 'Foundation Stage Education' in the Early Years Unit where a wide variety of curriculum opportunities are offered to them; we are fortunate enough to be able to fund staffing to allow small year group & mixed- year group work. We also allow for a degree of flexibility, knowing how tiring a full school day can be to some children as they begin full-time education. Every effort will be made to ensure a happy start to school for all children and parents.

## **The School Day**

Children should not arrive on the premises unaccompanied before 8.40 a.m. as the school cannot accept any responsibility or make any provision for them until this time. We usually run the Daily Mile with children in Year 1 to Year 6 from 8.40 a.m.

8.45 a.m. School Day begins for all pupils

12.00p.m. End of 15 hours Free Entitlement Nursery session..

3.15 p.m. End of school day.

We comply with the recommendations from the DFE for Primary School teaching time.

## School Uniform

We like to encourage children to feel part of and have pride in our school community. A way of achieving this is by wearing our school uniform. Uniform is available online and a stock of nearly new school uniform is available at no charge. Please see our school website or contact the School Office for further details.

This comprises of:

grey trousers/skirt/pinafore

white polo shirt EY and KS1 (available with the school logo) Key Stage 2 white shirt and school tie

burgundy school jumper cardigan with school logo (This can be purchased online) when wearing dresses or skirts white socks or grey tights to be worn

(no patterns please) and when wearing shorts grey socks please

□black school shoes (leather or leather look material – not fabric or trainers) .

In the summer term, there is the option of wearing a burgundy or yellow check dress or grey school shorts.

Parents/ Caregivers are also asked to provide a change of clothing for P.E.

This comprises of:

yellow T shirt with school logo

burgundy shorts and football socks

trainers / football boots and shin pads for KS2 children

In winter, grey jogging bottoms / leggings and trainers should be provided for PE lessons held outside – hoodies with school logo and jogging bottoms are available online.

Please no jewellery and for Health and Safety reasons small studs only should be worn and these should be removed for PE.

We review our swimming provision annually. Usually, we take KS2 swimming during the Summer Term. We use the specialist facilities at Willowburn in Alnwick for swimming and also deliver PE sessions in their sports hall.



## School Meals

Northumberland County Council has a healthy eating policy, so we provide healthy food that children love to eat. Each day there is a nutritionally balanced two-course meal cooked and attractively presented. The main course consists of fresh meat, fish, or pasta dishes, vegetables, plus access to the salad bar is available each day. The sweet course offers a choice of yoghurt, fresh fruit or a pudding. From September 2014 all children from Reception to Year 2 were entitled to a free school meal and this still continues. Please contact the office for further details.

Our aim is to encourage children to eat the right food and make choices that will help them to adopt a healthy eating pattern as they grow up.

The cost of a child's meal is £2.50.

Money for school meals is to be paid on a Monday or the first school day after a holiday and can be paid weekly or half termly in advance through our School Money payment system.

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, don't hesitate to ask, your enquiry will be dealt with in confidence. Applications for Free School Meals can be made by telephone to Northumberland County Council on 01670 623592 or on NCC website [fsm.northumberland.gov.uk](http://fsm.northumberland.gov.uk)

We encourage all children to have school lunch and even the fussiest of eaters have been known to eat what you would least expect, when surrounded by their friends. However, we would inform you if your child were eating little or nothing.

Please inform the school a week in advance if you wish to change arrangements for lunch, i.e. changing from packed lunch to school lunch or vice versa. Please note that we can only offer school meals OR packed lunches Please contact school office to check the most up to date information.

If you decide your child is going to bring a packed lunch to school, please note we are a Healthy School and therefore promote a Healthy Packed Lunch – please see our School Food Policy on the school website. Water is freely available, and we do not allow fizzy drinks or glass bottles. Please also note we have a member of staff with a nut allergy so nuts / nut based products are not allowed in school and for children under 5 fruit and vegetables should be provided chopped up.

Milk is available in school. Children under 5 are entitled to free milk until the term in which they are 5. Money for milk is paid via School Money at the end of the term ready for the beginning of the next term.

## **School Transport**

Transport is provided for children from Reception age up to the age of eleven and who live two miles or more from the school and for those over eight who live three miles or more from the school. It is not necessarily door-to-door transport, but the route and the times for picking up the children are made clear to the parents by the transport division at County Hall, Tel. 0845 600 6400. Normally a child who has not yet reached his/ her fifth birthday but has started school full time, and who would be entitled to school transport at a later date, can usually use the school buses provided the child is taken to the existing route. School transport is a contract between the parent and county. The contract for school transport is between parents and the bus company and school does not have any responsibility for children whilst they are on school transport. We do however expect the best behaviour of our pupils at all times as not only does this need to happen for everyone's safety but also as the children are representing our school.

## **The Curriculum**

We are required to teach all children in Key Stages 1&2 in our school (6-11 yrs) what is called the National Curriculum (Revised September 2014). Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum applies from the start of the school year in which children are 6. (Year 1) Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum applies from the start of the school year in which children are 8. (Year 3)

The National Curriculum is made up of four Core Subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and Computing plus the Foundation Subjects of History, Geography, Design Technology, Music, Art, and Physical Education. We must also make provision for teaching Religious Education as well as Forest School, RHSE and PSHE).

Children who are in the Early Years class in our school (3-5yrs) follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This is organised in seven areas of learning: personal, social and emotional development, communication and language, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, physical development and expressive art and design. To encourage a sense of independence, try to get your child used to dressing and undressing by themselves before they start school. This should also be considered when choosing clothing and footwear for school. Shoes with velcro fastenings are highly recommended by parents of younger children in school.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

We endeavour to meet all children's needs regardless of their ability or disability and pride ourselves on our inclusive, forward thinking curriculum which values and celebrates all children. Our school has highly trained staff and resources to help all children reach their full potential. For further details of our 'Local Offer' please see our SEND section on the school website.

# Subject

## English

The school follows the New National Curriculum, during the English lesson work is based on writing, reading, spelling, grammar, speaking and listening, phonic work, and handwriting. Opportunities are offered to practice and develop these skills. The school believes reading is of paramount importance and devotes much time and effort to ensuring that children enjoy reading and read as soon as they are able. The enjoyment of books and reading is encouraged right from the beginning through the provision of a wide range of books both in the classroom and in the library. We use the popular reading schemes 'Read Write Inc' for EY and Early KS 1 which is then developed by a range of books comprising of fiction and non-fiction books from our Accelerated Reader System. Parents of EY and KS 1 children are asked to purchase a school reading folder, and this holds your child's reading books and reading diary. This is an important home/school link providing a record of books read, with space for comments from parents and teachers.

A clear and legible cursive style of handwriting is taught, and the children are given opportunities to write for a range of audiences in a variety of contexts including both fiction and non-fiction. From the earliest stages of beginning writing their efforts are valued and we plan opportunities and experiences to move them towards independence. Speaking and listening skills are integral to the process of developing understanding. Children are encouraged to speak clearly and audibly in a range of situations, and to take account of their listeners. They are also encouraged to listen with concentration, in order to identify the main points of what they have heard.

## Maths

The school follows The National Curriculum and there is a daily Maths lesson where teaching and learning embraces number, geometry, statistics, reasoning and problem solving and handling data. Initially work is mainly practical providing the children with the means to explore their environment, develop concepts and their ability to think logically. Mathematics teaching is focused on developing mathematical concepts and skills in a context which provides meaning and purpose. Great emphasis is placed on mental calculations and quick recall of number facts.

We use "White Rose" mathematics scheme and materials and resources throughout the school to ensure progression, continuity and effective coverage of the National Curriculum as well as a range of resources. We aim to promote children's enjoyment of mathematics, confidence in their own ability and to give them experience of using mathematics in practical real-life situations. Mathematics is useful and can be very challenging and exciting!

## Science

Science is about satisfying curiosity and using knowledge gained to solve problems. Opportunities are provided to develop the children's scientific skills, attitudes and knowledge, which are needed to understand the world around them. We provide stimulating first hand experiences where the children are encouraged to observe, talk about what they see, follow investigations and record their results. Children are encouraged to ask questions about how and why things happen and how they are related to the world outside the classroom. They follow a programme which is divided into different areas which are then taught in units. i.e. light, sound, forces, electricity, rocks and soils, living things and materials. We are currently developing our provision of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and are keen to develop this exciting learning with colleagues from STEM professions and backgrounds.

## Computing

Computing is about the storage, processing and presentation of information by electronic means e.g. laptops, chromebooks and iPads. In its broadest sense it can include the use of apps, recording equipment, cameras, calculators, microwaves, electronic keyboards and programmable and robotic toys and control technology. It is vital that our children should have the knowledge, skills and understanding of the uses of technology as it is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction.

ICT skills are taught in specific lessons and these skills are used when ICT supports work in different subject areas such as the internet to find out information in science work, using a graphics program to do some artwork.

Our children have access to a range of up to date computers, laptops, iPads, printing facilities, digital cameras and floor robots and ozobots for control technology and programmes such as Scratch and Minecraft to code and debug!

Following continued fundraising efforts of our PTA we are very pleased that each class is very well resourced.

## Outdoor Education and Forest Schools

We are situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty and as such we encourage our children to learn outdoors as much as possible. We do this through our lessons and Outdoor Education is also taught as a discrete subject to all children from Nursery to Year 6. We have four fully trained Forest School Leaders in School. We also have a fantastic school garden where we grow a range of plants and sources of food.



## Religious Education

Religious Education follows the Northumberland County Syllabus. In the context of their own lives the children are encouraged to work towards an understanding of the traditions and beliefs of Christianity and to develop knowledge of other world faiths and cultures. R.E. is taught within a two-year rolling programme and religions explored are Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. We try to provide the experience of visiting a place of worship for each world faith we study.

## Collective Worship

The school has a statutory daily act of worship based on Christian values.

We have close links with the Parish Church, St. Bartholomew's and other local churches and the clergy of these churches play an active part in our worship. We also hold services in church, e.g. Harvest Festival, Christingle, Easter etc., to which all members of the community are invited. Year 6 children also travel to St. Nicholas's Cathedral in Newcastle to take part in the Diocesan Leaver's Service.

According to the Education Act 1944, parents are able to withdraw their children from all or part of the religious education and collective worship provided. Parents wishing to withdraw their children should discuss this with the headteacher as they are responsible for the supervision of their children at these times.

## E Safety

All our pupils use computer facilities including Internet access as an essential part of learning, as required by the National Curriculum. Children have access to the Internet via the County's protected site and we have an E-safety policy on safe use of the internet. Both pupils and their parents/carers are asked to sign to show that our, "Think then Click". E-Safety Rules have been understood and agreed. Every safety measure possible has been taken to allow safe use. We also teach and support our older children who may use mobile phones to use these safely and to know how to keep themselves safe.



## History

A study of the past helps children understand the world in which they live. In our history programme we aim to arouse the children's interest in the past and to develop an understanding of time, customs, beliefs and tradition. They will learn of ways in which the past is different to the present and about important events and people, as well as local history. The children's learning is supported by visits, visitors, the handling of artefacts, photographs and other sources of evidence and information.

## Geography

The study of geography extends children's knowledge and understanding of their own locality and of other areas in the world. It also helps to develop a responsible attitude to their role in the world today and to the quality and care of the environment. The children explore through first-hand experience and observations wherever possible. Work takes place out of doors around the school site, in Whittingham village, Alnwick, at the seaside and in towns and cities across the North-East.

Every other year, we intend for children in Class 2 and Class 3 take part in a residential visit. The main educational focus for the visit is a personal and physical one and the children have the chance to undertake challenging and rewarding experiences. It also provides a unique opportunity for the social development of the children as they stay away from home with a range of friends and school staff.

## PSHE / RHSE

The personal, social and health development and the development of a sense of citizenship in each child are crucial in preparing our pupils to become responsible members of society. We teach PSHE in a variety of ways. On occasions we introduce PSHE and citizenship topics through teaching in other subjects. Also, as there is a large overlap between the syllabus for religious education and the aims of PSHE and Citizenship, we deliver a considerable amount of the PSHE curriculum through our religious education and forest schools lessons. We also take great care to support mental health and well-being and we are an accredited Thrive School.



## Physical Education

We are extremely proud of the excellent facilities we have and our pleasure to have been awarded the School Games Gold Award for our provision for 2 years running and we are now looking to be one of the few schools in Northumberland to be accredited with the School Games Platinum Award. We place great importance on physical activity being the key to good mental health and well-being and as part of this our KS 1 and 2 children start our school day with the daily mile!

We offer a variety of activities including games, gymnastics, athletics, dance, athletics and outdoor activities. Children are taught skills in these using the good range of equipment we have in school and, at all times, are made aware of aspects of safety. In addition, some children have swimming and specialist PE lessons at Willowburn Sports Centre. This is reviewed annually with governors.

We want children to develop physical skills, control and coordination, along with an understanding of fair play and what constitutes "good sporting behaviour."

We also want children to enjoy physical activity and to learn about the importance of developing an active lifestyle.

We also take part in various inter school sports events e.g. athletics, dance and football. We are also proud to organise and run a variety of enrichment opportunity and team games.

We also ask you to contact us if your child cannot swim on a particular day.

Long hair must be tied back during all P.E. lessons including swimming. Children are asked to wear a swimming hat. Children who have pierced ears and wear studs should be provided with a box of plasters to allow them to cover the studs whilst doing P.E. However, earrings must be removed for swimming. Staff will not assist in putting in or removing earrings.

As mentioned earlier, in the uniform section, parents are asked to provide the relevant kit for P.E. lessons.



## Music

We believe that Music promotes concentration and memory; singing song and word patterns is known to help a young child's reading ability. All the children take an active part in music making as composers, performers and as listeners. They sing, dance and move, improvise, record and notate and talk about their own and other people's music. Music is important to us, it is fun, exciting and most of all is a force for bringing people together. We have an exciting range of resources for the children to explore, containing many different instruments, both tuned and untuned from a variety of cultures. Our aim is to ensure that all children have an opportunity to develop musical skills and a love of music. We are part of Northumberland's Music Hub and gain a range of experiences from this, such as drumming lessons. We also take part in whole school performances where we can alongside other schools and in a range of venues such as Opera North's Big Sing and opportunities with Alnwick Playhouse wherever possible.

## Art and Design

We aim for our children to develop a lively interest in all things visual and encourage them to look at the world around them carefully and to develop an awareness of colour, tone, pattern, shape, texture and line and form through activities such as drawing, painting, collage and modelling. They are encouraged to develop their creative, imaginative and practical skills through this range of activities. We aim to foster children's enjoyment of art and introduce them to the work of other artists past and present and of different countries and cultures. We make good use of the links we are able to make with other areas of the curriculum. Artwork is valued and displayed throughout the school to create a visually stimulating environment.

Design Technology is a subject which requires pupils to apply their knowledge and skills to solve practical problems. Children are provided with opportunities to design and make using a wide range of tools and materials safely. They also have practical tasks which give them the opportunity to learn and practice particular skills and to evaluate simple products. They are given tasks or problems requiring them to make models using appropriate mechanisms.



## **Behaviour**

We encourage children to develop self-discipline and a responsible attitude to their work, other children and adults in our school community. Our children were involved in formulating the school rules that ensure everyone has a happy time at school and these are incorporated into our home school agreement for children to sign. We have a reward system for good behaviour and a hierarchy of consequences for unacceptable behaviour. (outlined in our Behaviour Management policy). On the occasions when there is unacceptable behaviour, time out from an enjoyable activity or playtime is enforced. We will notify parents about persistent failure to keep the agreed school rules. We do not tolerate bullying and take any reports of this seriously by investigating immediately and reporting back to parents. Our school has achieved Northumberland County's Anti Bullying School accreditation and was the first first school to receive it and we have had this process re-accredited since becoming a Primary School.

## **Assessment and Pupil Progress**

Throughout their time in school regular teacher assessments record progress and enable us to inform future planning. From this we are able to identify children who need extra support or extension.

As children enter nursery and reception we carry out an informal baseline assessment which helps us to identify skills and areas for development and as such inform our planning of the curriculum. At the end of years 1,2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children do assessment tasks and/or SATS tests. In Year 1 pupils take part in the Year One Phonics Test. We regularly informally assess our children throughout the year so that we can tailor our teaching to fit individual needs.

All assessment tasks, whether statutory, teacher led or merely informal discussions, are carried out in such a natural manner that often the children do not realise that the work is any different to a normal lesson. Evaluation of the results of these allows us to see not only how the children are progressing compared to others in our school, but enables us to make comparisons between our school and look further at learning trends etc.

## **Homework**

To support the work that your child does in school, and to reinforce the important role we believe parents' play in the education of their child, homework may be set to enhance your children's learning. Homework is reviewed regularly in partnership with parents to ensure the best possible home/ school learning experience. Children are asked to read every night, and this is best carried out in a relaxed atmosphere without the distraction of television. All books read at home can be recorded in the

reading diary along with any written comments and encouragement you give to your children as you share books together.

## **Attendance**

It is important that your child attends school regularly and punctually. If your child is absent we need to know so that we can record the reason in the register, as the Education Welfare Officer inspects these. All absences must be accounted for, as unexplained absences have to be registered as unauthorised. We advise you to phone the school on the first day of illness before 9a.m. Once your child returns to school an absence slip is to be completed. These are available from the school office and on the school website. We do not encourage you to take holidays in term time, and in line with the policy adopted by schools in the Alnwick Partnership, no holidays should be taken within the school year. Any holidays taken will not be authorised.

## **Illness and Medication**

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea please allow a clear 48-hour period to lapse before they return to school.

If your child is unwell and receiving medication from the doctor it must be considered whether they are well enough to attend school.

Medicines may only be given by staff if prescribed by a doctor and the appropriate form must be filled in giving details of dose and time to be given. Medicines should be delivered to school by an adult. We maintain a record of pupils with any particular medical needs and we rely on parents making us aware of these needs on the admission form you will be asked to complete when your child joins us. Children who have asthma must have a spare inhaler in school and will fill in an asthma care plan, which will be kept in the staff room. Please see our Policy for Administrrating Medicine Policy.

## **Accident and Emergency**

In the event of your child becoming ill or having an accident at school we will contact you immediately. It is vital therefore that telephone numbers to contact you at work/ home/ mobile are kept up to date. We also require a second contact number in case you cannot be easily contacted.

There are also occasions when it is necessary to send the children home during the day because of deteriorating winter road conditions. We use the school website, Instagram feed, Facebook Page and Teachers 2 Parents text messaging and email system to inform parents if we need to close school suddenly.



## School Closure

If during the winter the school bus does not arrive at a child's home in the morning the child's parent is requested not to bring their child to school unless they can collect him/her at the end of the school day, or earlier if weather conditions force the school to close. Any closure and re-opening of the school may be reported on Northumberland County Council Website and BBC Radio Newcastle.

During the winter no child should be left at school unless there is a teacher on the school premises. If there is no teacher at school at 9.00 a.m. then the school will be closed for the day. Under no circumstances should children be left in the care of the non-teaching staff of the school.

The school operates a contact system, using email and the Teachers 2 Parents text messaging system, which is put into operation when bad weather prevents the school from opening or should we need to close early. We also put a 'newsflash' on the home page of our school website and Twitter and Facebook feeds.

## Charging

No child is excluded from any activity where his/her parent has not donated. If insufficient voluntary donations are made to cover the cost of an activity, then the activity may have to be cancelled and any monies paid returned.

Please see our Charging and Remissions Policy which is on the school website for further details.

## Educational Visits

During the course of the year, children undertake educational visits to support their classroom-based topic work. A lot of time and effort goes into planning and preparing the children for these trips and follow up work centres on the visit. This is not just "a day out." During the past years some of the trips the children have taken part in are; residential trip to Kingswood and Ford Castle visits to ,Northumberland Zoo, Grace Darling Museum, Lillidorei, Alnwick Castle and Gardens as well as various local schools, theatres and events. Sometimes there is a cost incurred and we may ask parents for a voluntary contribution.

Every other year, children in Class 2 take part in a residential visit to Ford Castle where it provides a unique opportunity for the social development of the children as they stay away from home with a range of friends and school staff. We are currently looking to develop our links with the Aln Alliance and are looking to have a Year 6 residential with pupils from these schools in Edinburgh during Summer 2026..



### **Pre School Provision**

As of School Year 2025-6 we offer an Early Bird Club 4 mornings per week from 8am.

### **After School Childcare –**

We offer after school childcare until 5.30pm 4 nights per week.

### **School Security**

Whittingham C. of E. Primary School believes that the safety of both staff and pupils is of paramount importance. While it is difficult to make the school site totally secure, we aim to do all we can to ensure that the school is a safe and secure environment for all who work or learn here.

### **Safeguarding of Pupils**

Whittingham C. of E. Primary School fully recognises the responsibility it has to have arrangements about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Through their day to day contact with children and direct work with families, our staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. We have a duty to care for the children in our school and in referring concerns to the appropriate agency. We will follow the procedures set out in Interagency Procedures produced by the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board,

All volunteers who offer to help out in school or on trips out of school are required to be cleared by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) if they have unsupervised access to children and any visitors who will have contact with children in school are asked to hand their mobile phone into the school office on entry to school as part of our Safeguarding Policy.



### **Access to Information**

Policies relating to the curriculum, schemes of work, OFSTED report, publication scheme etc. are available for parents to read. Please contact the Headteacher if you wish to have access to any of the documentation. Also, please refer to our school website.

### **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

Our school has an active PTA and Friends association which organises events for children and parents and also raises funds through discos, parties, summer fairs etc. All meetings are open, and officers are elected annually. Recent fundraising has paid for new Chromebooks, money towards our Early Years Outdoor Physical Play area and has also committed to helping us develop our music provision and school trips. Such a lot is paid for and organised by the PTA so please join in this vital part of our school.

### **Communication**

We pride ourselves on our strong communication links with parents and the wider community. If you wish to contact us please contact us in the following ways- in person, telephone, school admin email  
[Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk) or via the school office.

## **Whittingham C of E Primary School Policy for Use of Facebook, Instagram and other Social Media**

### **Rationale**

We believe that maintaining an online presence is vital for schools, not only in terms of keeping the school community up to date with school events, but also in terms of attracting potential enrolment. Having a school website is an essential part of this, but in order to do this parent and carers must specifically visit the school website regularly to receive this information. By having a Facebook page, the school is feeding school information, news and notices directly into the personal news feeds of parents and the wider school community.

### **Aims**

#### **The purpose of having a school Facebook Page is:**

- To continue to develop our school information system with information shared via Facebook, along with the existing methods of paper notes, text messages, email and the school website.
- To publicise school events and increase awareness about school fundraising.
- To announce any updated information that appears on our school website via Facebook.
- To highlight positive school achievements in a forum where they can be shared by the school community.
- To make school announcements.
- To use Facebook as a means of marketing the school to a wider audience.
- To have a Facebook Feed embedded on the homepage of the school website.
- To engage the community that Whittingham C of E Primary School serves and acts as a key component of our school's online presence.
- To facilitate communication and networking opportunities between parents especially new or prospective parents.
- To maintain contact with past parents and past pupils.

#### **Terms of use of Whittingham C of E Primary School Facebook page:**

- Users should not share anything that may compromise the safety of any member of the school community-never transmit any personal information of pupils, parents or staff.
- Users should not post anything on the page that could be deemed offensive- inappropriate or harmful comments/content will be removed immediately.
- Users should not share any information that is confidential- if it seems confidential, it probably is. Online "conversations" are never private.
- Users cannot tag photographs of children ( if permitted to be on) on the page.
- Users should not engage in giving negative feedback on Facebook, it is more appropriate to deal with the school directly on such matters.
- Users will not mention individual staff members in a negative light on the school Facebook page. The tone of any discussions should be positive and respectful.
- Users should not ask to be "friends" with staff as failure to respond may cause offence.
- Users cannot advertise business products and services on our school Facebook page unless it is of direct benefit to school such as a PTA event.



# We are really proud of our school and we believe we are "Wonderful Whittingham"

## But don't take our word for it...

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. You have worked closely with your team and the wider school community in leading the school's successful transition from a first school to a primary school.' Ofsted February 2018.

"School is led positively and enthusiastically. ' – Parent

'Children thrive here, both academically and personally' – Parent

'You and your team have expanded pupils' horizons through wider links with universities, workplaces and the wider community to develop pupils' social skills and their awareness of possible next steps in life.' Ofsted February 2018.

'Teachers enhance pupils' learning through regular opportunities to enrich their experience through the wider curriculum. Pupils have numerous opportunities to work outdoors through programmes that develop their understanding of the environment and their local area.' Ofsted February 2018



**'Whittingham Church of England Primary School sits at the heart of the community. The small size of the school helps staff to know pupils very well. Pupils feel safe in school and know that there is a trusted adult they can speak to if they are worried. There is a welcoming and friendly atmosphere at the school. Parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) feel well supported and are happy with the progress their children make.'** Ofsted March 2023.

'Fun with great learning experience's  
– Pupil

'You continue to encourage your team to be forward looking. Your school development plan has long-term goals as you explore how the curriculum and the experiences you provide will equip pupils with the skills, knowledge and personal attributes which will support them in later life...' Ofsted February 2018.

'A rich curriculum which enhances their knowledge and opportunities'.  
Parent .

'At the same time, visits to universities and involvement in science events expand their understanding of the wider world and future careers. Pupils have opportunities to develop their cultural awareness by experiencing and participating in theatrical and musical productions. As a result of accessing a comprehensive range of additional activities, pupils develop their self-confidence and their social skills' Ofsted February 2018.

'Staff strive to achieve the best for all pupils and enable the exceptional flourishing of individual talents. This is generated by inspirational leadership from the headteacher' – SIAMS July 2019

'The headteacher is a passionate advocate for supporting good mental health in both children and adults. She is a qualified 'Thrive' practitioner and has put effective strategies in place to support pupils' mental health'. SIAMS July 2019

'As a parent relatively new to school and the local area I am amazed by the opportunities that the children experience! From singing at The Sage in Gateshead, to cooking and using tools in your Forest School area, running on a Daily Mile Track with Laura Weightman and playing rugby with professional rugby players on your amazing MUGA. Keep up the good work everyone at Whittingham, we cannot wait to see what you have planned for the children next!' Parent

'Teachers enhance pupils' learning through regular opportunities to enrich their experience through the wider curriculum. Pupils have numerous opportunities to work outdoors through programmes that develop their understanding of the environment and their local area.' Ofsted February 2018



'The staff are an inspiration to the children and their hard work does not go unnoticed'- Parent

'Pupils regard school as being a big family and as a result behaviour is exemplary and relationships' between pupils are supportive and loving'. SIAMS July 2019

'Staff feel supported and listened to and appreciate how they are an intrinsic part of the school community.' SIAMS July 2019.

'Initiatives with Stonewall and Show Racism the Red Card are interwoven within the RE curriculum. This enhances pupils' understanding of injustice and what life can be like in the wider community, fostering a sense of aspiration and resilience'. SIAMS July 2019

'My children flourish at this school.' Parent

'School leadership recognises both the benefits and challenges that living in a rural community can pose. The school works proactively with the local community to support the '#iwill' campaign designed to involve young people in social action to make a difference to their communities.' SIAMS July 2019

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**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

