



St Helens Primary School Prospectus

A Small School with a Big Heart



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Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Welcome

Message from the Headteacher



My name is Mr Carl Wake and I am delighted to be the Headteacher of St Helens Primary School.

St Helens is a small village primary school with a strong family ethos. The building construction began in 1972 on the current site as a half-form entry school, and has become a focal point in our community. Some of our pupils live in the village, but we do attract families from out of the area who seek a happy school with a family atmosphere for their children. In 2024 the school will have had pupils for 50 years.

Prior to September 2010 the school taught pupils aged 4 to 9. Since the reorganisation in 2010/11, year 5 and 6 pupils were included and continues to this current day.

A unique feature of our school is the way our older pupils take care of the younger pupils, working together on the School Council, and supporting each other daily at break times and whole school events. We are proud of our pupils as they grow up to be good, responsible citizens.

Our pupils are the heart of the school with their youthful energy, sense of humour, and commitment to doing their very best. They are the future of the village and our wider community.

Our hard working teaching staff are continually working to improve our curriculum, and we set high learning expectations for our pupils. Our wider team have a range of expertise and experience, and we aim to give all our pupils the best educational start we can.

The governing body are determined to challenge and support us in seeking the very best for our children. They offer knowledge, skills and commitment to ensure the school continues to have high expectations for each and every pupil. To complement the school, we have committed enthusiastic PTA (Friends of St Helens), who enthusiastically work together to provide a range of fund raising and social events for the whole community, as well as many volunteers who run clubs, support in the classroom and produce beautiful work with their children at home.

If you would like to visit our school to learn more about us please ring us on (01983) 872442 and I will gladly show you around.

Kind regards

Mr Carl Wake B.Ed (Hons)

Welcome to the Governors Page of the School Prospectus

As Governors of St Helens Primary School, we are ambitious for every one of the children at our school and are committed to pursuing a programme of continuous school improvement to achieve the best possible outcomes. We have signed up to the National Governors' Association Code of Conduct and have defined our core aim, namely: to be an effective Governing Body that works to maximize the potential of every child in a safe and caring environment.

Our main job is to set the strategic direction of the school. These are our three strategic priorities:

- Ensuring the vision, ethos, and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
 - Ensuring the Headteacher is held accountable for the performance of the school
- Ensuring the financial resources of the school are used in a sound, proper, and effective way.

Through a programme of school visits and Full Governing Body (FGB) and working group meetings, we monitor progress against the school improvement plan (SIP) and Action Plan. The key SIP priorities for 2019/20 are:

- Establish a consistent approach to the teaching of writing so pupils experience a rich learning journey.
- Ensure pupils are increasingly fluent in maths and are able to reason to solve problems of increasing complexity.
- Ensure a clarity of pedagogical approaches to teach reading that balance whole class and group guided reading and evidence explicit comprehension skills.
- Ensure that pupils have opportunities to edit and refine their work to help highlight the breadth of the broad and balanced curriculum available.

We ensure we know the strengths and weaknesses of the school and are able to provide a balance of challenge and support to the Headteacher and senior staff in areas including:

- Teaching, learning, and assessment
 - The transition from pre-school and the progress of children in EYFS
- Financial management and spending, in particular, the effectiveness of Pupil Premium Funding in 'closing the gap' in progress and attainment of vulnerable groups
 - Effectiveness and consistency of behaviour management
 - Equality of opportunity and inclusion
 - Effective safeguarding, including the implementation of the school's Prevent policy
- Effective promotion of the children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development (including the promotion of British Values), as well as their physical well-being
 - Effective attendance management.
 - Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings

Our Clerk to Governors manages minutes of the meetings, the governors' calendar, and policy ledger. In addition to the FGBs, we meet regularly within smaller working groups.

Training is important for all Governors, and we conduct an annual skills audit to identify need. During the past few years, Governors have participated in a wide range of training, including:

- Induction training (required for all new governors)
 - Monitoring, Evaluating and improving SEN
 - Life after levels (Assessment)
 - School finance for maintained schools
- Safeguarding and Child protection, Prevent Training
 - Safer recruitment
 - Ofsted update
 - HT and Chair of Governor's seminar
- Information management (Data Protection and Freedom of Information)

We evaluate the impact of the Governing Body to ensure we are making a positive contribution to school improvement. We do this in a number of ways, including through our regular Strategy Group meetings and our annual development day, which all Governors attend.

If you would like to know more about the Governing Body, please contact the Clerk via the school office.

What People Say

Pupils

"I like going on school trips"

"I like the school because I like maths"

"I like the school because it has a library bus"

"I loved space camp, we get to do lots of exciting things."

"I like St Helens Primary school because everyone is friendly and I like the lessons."

"You should come to St Helens Primary School because everyone is so kind-hearted and the teachers are lovely"

"St Helens is a great school. I think so, I love everything about it. There is a football pitch, toys in the shed, a tyre park and much more."

"St Helens Primary is the best in the world. It's got a big field with a football pitch. All the children get to go on the field and get all the toys out. My favourite subject is PE because I like sports."

"Everyone is kind, well behaved and friendly."

"Even though were only a small school, everyone is kind and we look out for each other. One of my favourite things is the plays because it is really fun and our friends and family all come along and watch. I love maths because we get fun challenges and in English we get to write incredible stories. Music and art are really great because we can be free and creative. Last but not least, I love all the teachers because they are kind and caring. So that's why I love my school."



Parent Feedback

"My daughter seems to have settled in very nicely in Year 1. She is enjoying the work and is progressing nicely, both academically and socially! Thank you."

"I am really pleased with how well my son has settled back into school routine. He has shared what new things he has been learning and in particular he is enjoying making/decorating his clay pot."

"My son is happy at school as usual, and we know that he is making good progress."

"My daughter seems really happy to be in Year 5 and talks with enthusiasm about things she has got up to. Her reading has really come on and, whilst her writing stamina needs building up, I don't have any concerns about her progress."



Ofsted, October 2023

In October 2023, St Helens received a visit from Ofsted, The two day inspection examined all aspects of school life, including teaching and learning, safeguarding, leadership, personal development and provision for SEN. The outcome was good with an outstanding grade for personal development.

“Pupils are polite and cheerful and arrive at school excited for the day ahead. They demonstrate the school’s value of respect in all they do.

Pupils behave well and live up to the school’s high expectations and are keen to learn and achieve well. Strong relationships exist between pupils of all ages; they look forward to their time together and value how it creates new friendships.”

“The school ensures that all pupils experience a curriculum that prepares them for their next stage of education and beyond. There is clarity about what pupils need to learn and when.

However the school needs to make sure that curriculum tasks always have a clear enough focus on the intended learning.”

“Pupils learn to read well. This begins with a phonics-based approach as soon as children start school in Reception. Across the school, pupils enjoy their familiar reading routines, which include songs and rhymes to help them remember their letter sounds. They have access to reading books that match the sounds they are learning. As pupils progress through the school, those who need additional help with their reading receive it. Parents are provided with a wealth of information so they can support their children with reading at home.”

“In lessons, pupils learn how to discuss current issues and moral dilemmas in a highly respectful way. For example, older pupils understand the concepts of negotiation and compromise and use these skills to frame debates. Teachers’ skilful use of ‘floor books’ in personal, social and health education means that pupils’ responses are collated and referred to in future learning. Pupils enjoy looking back through these books, which are highly effective at helping them to remember their previous study.

However, there are times when learning moves on too quickly. This means that in a few subjects, pupils’ misconceptions are not identified and addressed as well as they should be.”

“There are clear processes to identify pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and they then receive effective support in all subjects. For example, in art, pupils with SEND have access to tools and equipment that allow them to be successful with their learning.”

“The attention given to pupils’ personal development and wider opportunities is impressive. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular clubs. These reflect pupils’ interests as well as providing wider opportunities for all. The clubs include skateboarding, computing and seasonal sports.”

“Teaching staff are ever mindful about making the most of the school’s location. Pupils enjoy their school trips and link them clearly with their classroom learning.”

“The governing body understands its statutory responsibilities and the importance of challenging and supporting school leaders. It recognises the challenges that face a small staff team when sharing workload and is careful to check up on staff’s well-being.

Leaders have prioritised safeguarding throughout the school and staff are well trained. Pupils learn about ways to keep themselves safe and who their trusted adults are.”

Values at St Helens Primary School

A Value is a principle that guides our thinking and our behaviour.

At St Helens, every individual is valued for who they are and what they contribute to the school. Values are intended to support the personal, social and spiritual development of every pupil throughout the school.

The whole staff team, parents and pupils are involved in promoting values and recognising where others are 'living the values'.

Through the values we aim to:

- Improve behaviour, conduct and self- confidence by developing strong values within the pupils at the school.
- Develop pupils understanding of what values are and why they are important in life.
- Encourage children to 'live the values' in all aspects of their lives both in school and out.
 - Promote values to pupils in every aspect of school life.
- Promote values in the way in which adults interact with each other and with pupils
 - To link our school values with the British Values

Our core values are:

- Creativity
- Determination
- Excellence
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Tolerance



Senior Leadership	Carl Wake	Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
	Sarah Maloney	Year 5/6 Senior Teacher, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
	Carly Rees	Year 1/2 Teacher, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Teachers	Louise Allman	Reception
	Phoebe Callaghan	Reception
	Patsie Gorman	Year 1/2
	Jack Popple	Year 3/4
	Michele Linnell	SENCO
Support Staff	Debbie Sharp	Reception Teaching Assistant/Higher Level Teaching Assistant
	Mary Royal	Teaching Assistant/Higher Level Teaching Assistant/PE Lead
	Michelle Hatch	Teaching Assistant
	Jodie Ferrier	Year 1/2 Teaching Assistant
	Sarah Jenvey	Year 3/4 Teaching Assistant/Higher Level Teaching Assistant
	Duncan Enser	Teaching Assistant
	Samantha Lee	Teaching Assistant/MSA
	Denise Ashdown	Teaching Assistant
Office	Teresa Anderson	Administrator
	Victoria Taylor	Administrator/MSA
ICT	Warwick Hammerton	ICT Manager
School Site	Mark Andre	Site Manager
Finance	Aly Townend	Bursar
Clerk to Governors	Sharon Marlton	
Co Chair of Governors	Gary Booth	
Co Chair of Governors	Matthew Searle	

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.45am when the gates are closed. Reception and KS1 lunch break is 12.00pm to 1.00pm and KS2 12.10pm to 1.00pm. The school day ends at 3.00pm.



Attendance and Absentees

If your child is too unwell to attend school please contact us to let us know. You can phone on 872442 or email us on admin@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk If you let us know by phone, please tell the office staff the reason for the absence and follow up in writing when they return to school otherwise the absence will be marked as unauthorised. We are required to ask you for this in order to follow the Local Authority attendance procedures, and if we don't receive a letter or email we have to follow it up.



Whilst we appreciate the financial difficulties some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays, there is an expectation that all schools have firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

The school understands there will be family circumstances and emergency cases which require exception and the school and its governors have sympathy and understanding when these arise. As a general rule, however, students will not be granted authorised absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is our clear understanding that it is in our remit to serve the education of your children to the best of our ability. To do this, we need them to be in school.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is exceptionally important at St Helens Primary School.

Safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcome.

The action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them, from harm is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Special Education Needs

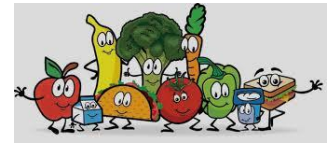
1. We endeavor to meet the needs of all learners by identifying their individual learning needs and the setting and sharing of targets with the children and parents.
2. Experienced and well-qualified Teaching Assistants work in every class with individuals and groups of children of all abilities, supporting the work of the class teachers.
3. In addition, we work alongside outside agencies such as Speech Therapists, Educational Psychologists, the School Nursing service, Physiotherapists, and other professionals.
4. Copies of our policies relating to SEND and the Local Offer are available on the website.

Bullying

We believe that every child has the right to learn in a secure and safe environment and that no child has the right to disrupt the learning of others. We aim to ensure fairness for all children and to have a consistent response from all staff in line with our Behaviour, Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies. We encourage a positive relationship with parents and carers to develop a shared approach to involve them in the implementation of the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.



School Meals



We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Please bring dinner money in a clearly marked envelope. Your child can hand it to the class teacher or the school office. Please see the school newsletter or ask the school office for the current cost. Menus can always be found on the in the foyer, website and in the weekly newsletter. If your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 they will be entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

Children may bring a packed lunch. Please give your children a balanced lunchbox with fruit and vegetables. No sweets, junk food or fizzy drinks please.

Cool Milk provides milk and a form will be given to you so that you can register your child either prior to starting school or for older children, once they have joined. Children under five are entitled to free milk and the appropriate form will be given.

We have a filtered water unit in the cloakrooms, providing cold water in order to keep the children hydrated and enable them to have water continuously throughout the school day.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for pupil premium free school meals. Your child is eligible for pupil premium free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Pupil Premium

Registering for pupil premium free meals you could raise an extra **£1,480** for your child's primary school to help fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. Registering for free school meals is confidential.

In addition you also will benefit from reduced charges for school trips and when your child moves into year 3, he/she should be able to continue having free school meals.

If you think you are eligible, a form can be obtained from the school office. Once completed, either return to the school office or the address on the form. You only need to complete this form once and it will last for the duration of your child's time at their current school. You should contact the local authority if you have a change in financial circumstances. Alternatively, you can apply online using the following link:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Free-School-Meals/Key-Stage-1-and-2>

Admissions

By law, every child has to receive full-time education from the beginning of the term following his or her fifth birthday. However, your child can start primary school in September provided their fourth birthday is on or before 31 August.

To enquire if there is space for your child at our school, in the first instance please contact school admissions (01983) 823455.

If you would like to visit the school, please contact the school office (01983) 872442 or email admin@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk to arrange an appointment.

Home/School Agreement

The aim of the home/school agreement is to ensure that every student fulfils his/her potential. By signing the form we agree to work in partnership to achieve this. We all have high expectations so we can support your child to make good progress and be happy while they are learning at St Helens Primary School. The school, parents and pupils agree the following points:

- Encourage children to give their best at all times.
- High standards of behaviour at all times.
- Provide a balanced curriculum to meet the individual needs of all children.
- Provide regular meetings to discuss your child's progress.
- Arrange appointments to discuss strategies to deal with issues such as attitude, behaviour, work or uniform.
- Contact you if there is a problem with attendance, work, behaviour or uniform.
- Keep families informed about school activities.
- Provide opportunities for families to be involved with the life of the school.

School Uniform

Winter

Royal Blue Tartan Pleated Skirt



Pale Blue Shirt



Grey Trousers



Royal Blue Cardigan or Royal Blue School Sweatshirt



Sensible footwear, preferably black or brown shoes

Summer

Blue and White Gingham Dress



Pale blue shirt



Grey Shorts



Low heeled sandals, black or brown shoes

PE Kit

Royal Blue Logo T-Shirt



Navy Blue Hooded Top



Navy Blue Shorts



Navy Blue Joggers



Logo school uniform is available from Kids & Co, Ryde and the tartan-pleated skirts from the school office.

Children will need a drawstring bag with their name clearly marked.

PLEASE MARK ALL CLOTHING

Medicines and Administration

Prescribed Medicines

It is our policy to manage prescribed medicines (e.g. antibiotics, inhalers) where appropriate following consultation and agreement with, and written consent from the parents.

Non-Prescribed Medicines

It is our general policy not to take responsibility for the administration of non-prescribed medicines (e.g. Calpol or cough mixtures provided by parents) as this responsibility rests with the parents. On occasions when children require paracetamol it is our policy to administer, providing that written consent from the parents has been received in advance and administration is in accordance with the guidance provided in the Health Guidance for Schools document. Children under 16 years old are never to be administered aspirin or medicines containing Ibuprofen unless prescribed by a doctor. Responsibility for decision-making about the administration of all non-prescribed medicines will always be at the discretion of the Responsible Manager who may decide to administer under certain miscellaneous or exceptional circumstances.

It is not the responsibility of St Helens Primary School to dispose of medicines. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that all medicines no longer required, including those that have date-expired, are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

Afterschool Clubs

We provide a range of activities after school and during the mid-day break thanks to the generous support of staff and parents.

Gardening Club



Football and Various Sports Clubs



Carnival and Mardi Gras Club



ICT Club



Skateboarding Club



The Pre-school at St Helens offer breakfast and afterschool club care. Please contact them on 875755 for further details.



Educational Visits and School Trips

The children often have the opportunity to take part in educational visits and trips:

Sailing in Seaview and UKSA



Wildbeach



Beach School



Space Camp



The Mary Rose at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



Primary Engineer Event at Cecamm



Year 5 & 6 Residential at Avon Tyrrell Outdoor Activity Centre, Hampshire



Community and Friends of St Helens

Enriching the learning experience

St Helens Primary School is at the heart of its community and has its community at its heart. We are proud of our reputation as a community school.

We believe that the involvement of the wider community in the life of the school enriches the learning experience of the children we teach.

Sometimes the benefits of our community links are plain to see - we are very grateful to the local people who volunteer to help with reading; those that help with after-school clubs; and those that help with fundraising, for example.

Sometimes the benefits are more subtle. Our children really enjoy talking to visitors to our school, particularly to the older members of our community who have such rich and varied life experiences to share.

Giving back to the community

Our Christmas Fayre, concerts and other productions are always enjoyed and supported by a wide variety of visitors as well as parents (often it's 'standing room only!'). We are also very grateful for all the parents, carers grandparents and other friends who join us for celebration assembly each week.



Activities beyond the school

As well as welcoming people in, we believe it is important for our school to go out into the community too. We take part in local events, such as the annual Summer Fayre and Village of Angels. Some of our children participate in the Ryde Mardi Gras and Ryde Carnival.

Harvest Festival

We believe the role of our school in the community enriches our children's learning experiences, helping them become well-rounded, confident and happy individuals who treat others with respect and sensitivity.



FOSH (Friends of St Helens)

Friends of St Helens is a small group of people working together to raise vital funds for the school.

They organise several fundraising events every year, both in school and the local community.

MISSION STATEMENT - embracing the nurturing and supportive environment in our school, the mission of Friends of St Helens Primary School (F.O.S.H) is to connect home, school and community to enrich and support every child's learning and pastoral experience.

We do this by:

- encouraging parental and family involvement and participation
- organising and running fundraising events - using aforementioned funds raised to support academic and recreational activities
- creating a strong community within the school through enriching activities and inclusive events.

Please take the time to visit our [Friends of St Helens](#) website.

You will find information about:

Latest News

Future Events

News and projects

How to join us

If you have some spare time, we would very much welcome your support.

FOSH Sponsored Bounce and Winter Ball

