

Frequently asked questions for prospective parents 2021

How many children do you have? We have spaces for 30 children in each year group from Reception to Year 6. 187 children attend the school altogether.

How many staff in each class? Each class has a class teacher and a teaching assistant.

What outside space do you have? We have a playground and field which is suitable for the whole school to play together at playtimes. We also have a forest school area, a pond and outside classroom area.

Who is in the academy trust? We are proud to be part of Durrington Multi-Academy Trust with Durrington High School, the Durrington Research School and School of Initial Teacher Training. We place great importance in the professional development of our staff to ensure that our pupils get the very best start to their education through a strong focus on the highest quality teaching and learning. As we are in the same trust, our pupils also have priority places at Durrington High School.

What links do you have with Durrington High School? We are finding new ways to work together all the time! We work with their PE coaches and use their sports facilities for Sports' Days and Indoor Athletic Competitions. We also work with the Science Department and use their science labs. We have also been lucky to share IT resources and have enjoyed fieldwork with the Geography Department. We share minibuses for local visits too. By the time the children leave in Year 6, they are very familiar with the High School and this helps their transition to secondary school.

What pupil leadership roles do you have? We encourage the children to take an active role in school life and to help in the running of the school. Pupil leadership roles celebrate children's efforts or interests in specific subjects and enable the children to develop leadership skills. We have a Head Boy, Head Girl, School Council, Librarians, Prefects and Play Leaders.

How do you communicate with parents? We mainly communicate through email, our Facebook page and our weekly newsletter, the Friday Flyer.

How can parents communicate with school? The Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers greet the children as they arrive every morning so you can always talk to us in the morning. You can also use the school email or give us a call through the school office.

What clubs do you have? We have a range of clubs which are run by the teachers or external providers. Some of these are sporting clubs, others are chosen by the children e.g. drama, craft, Lego, Coding, cooking, music, games and puzzles.

Do you have a breakfast club? We have a breakfast club from 7.45am each day which is run by two members of school staff who are familiar to the children.

Do you have residential visits? We have residential visits in Years 4 and 6 to enable the children to experience adventurous activities such as sailing, canoeing, climbing and archery.

Do you go swimming? We take the children swimming in Key Stage 2.

Do the older and younger children mix together? The older children delight in playing games with the younger children at playtimes. Prior to coronavirus, the older children were also reading buddies to the younger children. Currently, we all meet together online every day for assembly to bring our community together.

How do we help the children prepare to start school? We want all of our children to feel confident when they start school and prepare a range of activities to ensure a smooth transition.

- We visit their pre-schools/childminders so we can meet the children in a familiar place and the pre-schools can handover information to us.
- We have two one hour stay and play sessions for the children so they can visit the school and explore the classroom environment with you.
- Our Reception teacher also does a presentation evening where she shares key information about starting school.
- We provide your child with a transition book so they can familiarise themselves with the layout of the school and the staff.
- We have one-to-one meetings with families in September so we can find out more about your child's likes, dislikes, interests and skills (this helps us plan provision so we can ensure there are lots of activities your child will enjoy when they start).
- Over the summer holidays, we send your child a postcard to welcome them to the school.
- We encourage the children to make 'memory boxes' and bring them to school in their first week. Memory boxes contain items from home which reflect the children's interests such as photographs of special occasions or family, a postcard from a recent holiday or a ticket from a fun day out. The children share their memory boxes with each other and it is a fantastic way for them to make new friends.

In September, the children have a staggered start over the first week; they come for two half days, then build up to half a day with lunch and finally, experience a whole day. This works really well and you'll find the children can't wait to come back!

Do children have homework? Children are encouraged to read at home every day. In Key Stage 1, the children also have phonics and maths homework. In Key Stage 2, the children read, play Times Tables Rockstars, complete reading journals and play Spelling Shed.

What is your behaviour policy? Children learn best when they are happy and we

encourage high standards from and towards everyone. We regularly celebrate children who go above and beyond expectations and persistently catch children doing the right thing and praise them in front of others. We encourage the children to recognise that they can and should make good choices. This creates a safe and caring environment, happy and motivated children and enables optimum learning to take place.