

**FOSTON C.E.  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**  
**2014 - 2015**

# **FOSTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

(Voluntary Controlled)

Foston,

York, YO60 7QB

Telephone 01653 618265

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## **Our Staff**

Mrs Sarah Moore	Headteacher
Mr M Popplewell	KS2 Coordinator
Miss K Stringer	EYFS/KS1 Teacher
Miss L Cooke	Advanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs N Bailey	Advanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Fairclough	Midday Supervisor
Mr M Tyler	School Administrator
Mrs J Tyler	Administration Assistant
Mr A Moore	Caretaker/Cleaner

Parent helpers, clerical and peripatetic staff visit and assist.

## **CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

Mrs Fiona Hill – 01904 468773

## **INTRODUCTION**

The school is situated on the edge of Thornton-le-Clay, close to the village of Foston.

It was built in 1844, on land close to the old rectory for Foston Church. The building was modernised in 1988. An outbuilding was converted into a new classroom in 2000.

We are a small friendly school with high aims for all our children. We enjoy a close relationship with Foston Church, Thornton and Foston Methodist Chapel, our parents and the wider community. We are part of a confederation with Terrington CE VA Primary School and share the same Headteacher. This link provides excellent opportunities to make friends, take part in joint events and for staff to work together.

## **OUR VISION**

Working together supported by our Christian Ethos we provide children with a dynamic curriculum that encourages creativity, curiosity and a love of learning. Individuals will develop their personalities and potential in order that they have the lifelong ability to relate to others and skills for use in an ever changing world.

## **SCHOOL AIMS**

### **We aim to:**

- ❖ Ensure that all pupils experience high quality, stimulating and purposeful teaching and learning.
- ❖ Ensure that all children, through appropriate planning, quality teaching, excellent resourcing and curriculum enhancements, achieve their full potential.
- ❖ Maintain small classes that promote creativity, teamwork, inclusion, motivation, imagination and fun.
- ❖ Develop a school that, underpinned by our Christian Ethos, relates to, respects and enhances the immediate community and the wider world.
- ❖ Approach the curriculum in a dynamic manner that allows children to learn through a holistic, technological and purposeful environment.
- ❖ To provide children with the skills needed to be successful, independent and thoughtful members of an ever changing society.
- ❖ Involve parents in every aspect of their child's education.
- ❖ Have happy, confident, fulfilled children who want to come to school.
- ❖ Ensure that the Christian Ethos permeates the life of the children in our school to create caring and successful individuals.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

Morning Session 9.00am – 12.00pm

Afternoon Session 1.00pm – 3.15pm

### **Lunch**

Lunch, either a hot school meal or a packed lunch from home, is taken in school.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

### **Girls**

Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress

Yellow polo shirt\* or white blouse

Red school sweatshirt\*

Gingham summer dress

Sensible shoes, preferably not lace-up for the younger children

### **Boys**

Grey or black trousers – long or short

Yellow polo shirt\* or white button shirt

Red school sweatshirt\*

Sensible shoes, preferably not lace up for the younger children

### **P.E.**

Black or blue shorts, white T-shirt, plimsolls (black elastic ones for infants).

PE kit is kept at school in one of our customised PE bags.

Please ensure that **all** items of clothing etc are **CLEARLY NAMED**

\*These items of clothing are available from school. Please ask.

## **ADMISSIONS**

Children are normally admitted to school at the beginning of the school year before their fifth birthday. However, school policy permits children to start in the term that they become four years old. Visits are arranged during the term preceding this. Pre-school children and their parents are usually invited to our special occasions as a welcome to the school.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS**

Many documents are held in school, which may be consulted by parents. These include:

- The North Yorkshire LEA Curriculum Statement
- Statutory Orders for National Curriculum subjects
- The North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E.

## **PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

When the children are being taken out of school for educational purposes, we usually ask parents for voluntary contributions to cover admission or transport costs. These are always kept to a minimum. However, children are never excluded from activities because of their parent's inability to pay.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics is an essential part of everyday life. At Foston, we have formal maths lessons every day, starting with mental work for all the children, in accordance with the National Numeracy Strategy and the Primary Framework for mathematics Group work on specific aspects of numbers and plenary sessions as a class are incorporated into all maths lessons.

We endeavour to:

- ❖ develop an interest in maths in our children, and a joy in the preciseness of the subject;
- ❖ develop children's confidence and competence;
- ❖ encourage children to regard maths as an important means of communication;
- ❖ give children the mathematics necessary for the study of other subjects in preparation for adult life.

We use a wide variety of resources from teachers' own material and published schemes. Calculators and computers are used when the problem being solved demands such tools. Number bonds and tables are taught from an early age.

## **ENGLISH**

Language is the basis of all learning. It crosses all subject boundaries. Therefore, in accordance with the National Literacy Strategy and the Primary Framework for Literacy, we aim to provide a wide range of experiences to develop children's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

This involves encouraging the children to:

- ❖ read fluently and accurately with understanding, feeling and discrimination;
- ❖ develop a legible style of hand-writing, and satisfactory standards of spelling and grammar, whilst encouraging the natural flow of writing; listen attentively with understanding and become confident with their use of spoken language;
- ❖ learn how to acquire information from various sources, and to record information and findings in various ways.

We use a range of reading schemes. We would like to stress the value of reading for enjoyment both in school and at home, and would recommend that parents play an active role in their child's reading development.

We aim to have all children using joined-up style handwriting by the end of Year 2

All the children bring weekly spellings home to learn.

## **SCIENCE**

The science curriculum aims to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them through practical activities.

We are guided by the National Curriculum science document in planning our science topics for the children. We give the children practical experiences as much as possible.

## **HISTORY**

At KS1 pupils are given opportunities to develop an awareness and curiosity about the past, through a variety of sources.

At KS2 historical skills and knowledge of different periods of history are developed through history study units. The units are planned over 4 years, so the children only cover each area once.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

The geography curriculum aims to foster the children's interest in their surroundings and the wider world. We also aim to help the children appreciate the variety of physical processes and human activities on earth, and the relationship between them. It also aims to develop in children the range of skills necessary to interpret information and enable geographical enquiry.

At KS1 the children's awareness of human and physical geography in the immediate locality is developed.

At KS2 children's awareness of the world outside the immediate locality is developed, along with the skills necessary to further their enquiry.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Information Technology involves the use of communication equipment and machinery. The one most often used by the children in school is a computer. There are 18 computers for children's use in school, plus other relevant IT equipment, such as ipads, visualisers and Smartboards in both classes. We aim for all children to be computer literate by the time they leave our school.

The computers are usually used through relevant work in various areas of the curriculum and we incorporate a published scheme of work into our planning.

## **ART**

Opportunities for a wide range of creative work are provided in school, and the work of other artists is observed.

The development of the imagination, artistic skills and knowledge will be structures to build on previous work and achievement.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious Education forms part of the normal curriculum of the school, as required by the 1988 Education Act. The curriculum used is supported by the North Yorkshire Guidelines for Religious Education and is non-denominational.

We aim to help the children develop an awareness of religion with particular reference to Christianity. We also aim to develop a sensitivity and appreciation of other religious beliefs.

Moral education is provided throughout the school day whenever the need arises. We aim to provide our children with an awareness of other's needs and feelings, whilst maintaining a confidence in themselves.

## **DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

The Design Technology curriculum is basically a 'plan-do-review' process, during which the children learn new skills and ideas, and become aware of the safety aspects involved in some of the activities.

Design Technology is usually taught through linking it with themes or topics in other areas of the curriculum.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All children have P.E. with small apparatus in the Village Hall, or on the school field.

We take KS2 for a series of swimming sessions during the spring or summer term. We bring in experts and join in with cluster sporting events as often as possible.

Our aim in all these activities is to build the children's confidence, help them to understand the value of a healthy lifestyle and to be aware of safety issues.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN CURRICULUM PLANNING**

The DfES is encouraging schools to be inventive when planning the curriculum. At Foston, we are aiming to take a theme for each class, each term, and cover all areas of the curriculum through this topic. We aim to start a topic with a bang and finish with an explosion, our creative curriculum inspires children and provides lasting educational memories. We often use historical interpreters, visitors to school and out of school visits to enhance the curriculum.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We hold an act of Collective Worship – an 'assembly' each day. Parents have the right under the 1988 Education Act to withdraw their children from assemblies on notification in writing to the Headteacher or Governing Body.

Our themes in assemblies follow the Christian calendar, and also incorporate stories from other religions and cultures, and moral issues.

We hold services in either the Parish Church in Foston or the Methodist Chapel in Thornton-le-Clay, at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. We welcome visiting speakers to our assemblies.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Our aim for all the children is to ensure that they achieve their true potential. When a child is considered to have 'special needs' we follow the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice and ensure the child receives support, in any area of the curriculum, appropriate to their needs. The support is usually given in a normal classroom situation, and may involve the child working with a parent or teaching assistant on tasks set by the teacher or on the same work as the rest of the class with the adult supporting them.

Should a child's needs require it, we receive support in school from the Local Authority's Pupil and Parent Services. Frequent assessment by the class teachers, and by the Learning Support Teachers, help us to be aware of all our children's needs.

We have specific resources for use with SEN children.

## **SEX EDUCATION**

We feel the areas covered under the term 'Sex Education' – i.e. health and hygiene, moral issues and relationships – are fundamental to a young person's development. We deal with reproduction matters, if the children raise them, as part of the general information-giving process in the classrooms. We take advantage of the school nurse's expertise to talk to the Year 5 & 6 children. Children of this age are, nowadays, very aware of sexual matters, and we hope we can give the children the opportunity to talk openly and frankly about some of the issues they may be curious about, or which may have been worrying them.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or parts of any sex education provided (but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum).

## **THE FOUNDATION STAGE**

Individual children vary greatly when entering school. Some experience no problems settling in, while for others it can be quite traumatic. Being such a small school, we very quickly get to know the children, and their parents, and can adopt quite a flexible timetable for their initial period in school.

The children in the foundation stage follow their own curriculum which allows children to develop at their own pace through play related activities. Our teachers

and teaching assistants are very skilled at challenging and moving our children forward in their learning and planning activities that will aid this.

## **PARENTS IN SCHOOL**

Parents are the first educators of our children. As such, a good relationship with our parents built on trust and communication is vital.

We welcome parents into school at anytime. Obviously, we will be more able to talk at length if we can arrange an appointment. We hold a Parents' Evening each term to look at the children's work and discuss their progress.

We welcome help in the classroom from parents after arranging a suitable time. The range of jobs can be organised to suit different talents – photocopying, tidying books, working with one or two children in class, or helping the teacher in the classroom etc.

## **PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF FOSTON SCHOOL (P.A.F.F.S.)**

This is a social/fundraising group which usually meet once a term. All parents of children in the school are automatically members of P.A.F.F.S.

We organise various events, ranging from quizzes and fairs to dances and BBQs

Since 1996, PAFFS have provided the children with computers, a new school office, many educational pieces of equipment, and a school sports strip.