St Paul's C of E Primary

Our Prospectus

St Paul's
C of E Primary School

A place to belong

Our School

Welcome to St Paul's C of E Primary

Christie Clarke

Headteacher

It is my pleasure to welcome you to St Paul's C of E Primary. We are a Church of England, voluntary controlled school situated in Holgate that caters for children aged 4 to 11 years, with approximately 190 pupils on roll, St Paul's C of E is a vibrant, happy school with a strong reputation within York for achieving high levels of academic success.

Founded in 1874, St Paul's C of E Primary's distinct, Christian character means we provide a nurturing environment within which children thrive. Our core aims are to ensure everyone feels safe, happy and valued and is supported to achieve their full potential. We encourage all individuals in school to become confident, lifelong learners and to achieve high standards in everything they do.

Offering 7 single form entry classes from Reception to Year 6, our small class sizes ensure that everyone is treated as an individual. We pride ourselves on our school family ethos where staff, pupils and parents all know each other well. Working closely in partnership with the wider community is key to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils. Our most recent Ofsted inspection was in March 2023 and we maintained our **"Good"** rating as a school.

"Pupils have a strong sense of belonging"

If you are interested in seeing for yourself what makes St Paul's C of E Primary so special, please take a look at our website and Twitter account which give a flavour of the vibrant life and quality of education our children experience. I would also like to extend a personal invitation to you to visit us in person, so that you can see for yourselves what a wonderful place this is for children to grow, learn and thrive.

I am very privileged to be the Headteacher of this school. St Paul's C of E Primary is a very special place, where the entire school community feel they belong.

Our Aims, Vision & Values

Our aim is to provide an exciting, well-rounded and inclusive curriculum to prepare our pupils for the next stage of education, and for their future. Alongside this, we believe in teaching our children to have sound core values with an emphasis on respect for others, mutual understanding and a celebration of diversity. At the heart of our ethos and curriculum design are our school aims, vision and values.

Our Aims & Christian Vision

Our school is a family where everyone feels safe, happy and valued and is supported to achieve their full potential. We will develop compassionate and caring individuals who depend on one another, are

Our Core Values

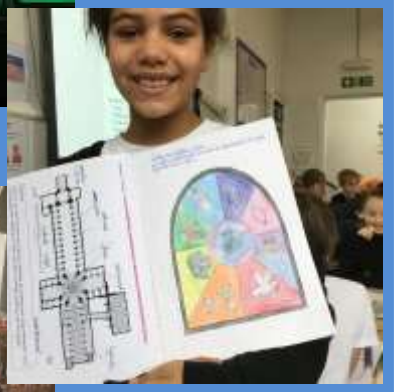
All that we do is underpinned by the core Christian values of Family (Koinonia), Compassion, Perseverance and Forgiveness.

"Though we are many, we form one body, all joined together as members of the whole. We each have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. We must use them wisely."

Romans 12:5-8

Our Church School

Our distinct, Christian character means we provide a nurturing environment within which not only do children thrive, but the entire school community feel they belong.



Here at St Paul's C of E Primary, we value our links with St Paul's Church, Holgate, which is a short distance from school. The clergy team regularly lead our collective worship at school and we also visit St Paul's Church for services and festivals, such as Harvest, Christingle and Easter.

The Church also allow us to use the building for RE curriculum purposes, to run our weekly School Rock Band and to hold a number of performances. School Goes to Church takes place once a term, when the school community attend the Family Sunday Service at St Paul's.

St Paul's Holgate
a place to belong

Collective worship forms an integral part of the daily life of our school community and takes place on a daily basis. Members of the church, staff, and visitors from the wider community lead our collective worship.

We teach the statutory, locally agreed, Religious Education syllabus that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. As well as the study of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, the programme also includes learning about a range of religions and worldviews, fostering respect for others.

In October 2017, St Paul's C of E Primary School was graded 'Outstanding' in the (SIAMS) National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report.

"***The school's deep Christian character underpins all aspects of school life with the highest priority placed on enabling all pupils to flourish and achieve well."***

Our Children

At St Paul's C of E Primary, children always come first.

At the heart of St Paul's C of E Primary is the commitment to ensure that all pupils make the best possible progress during their time with us, regardless of their ability. We celebrate every child's individual strengths and talents and understand no two learners are alike.

Pupils are treated as individuals who learn in different ways and at different paces and children are nurtured in a manner so that they can thrive. Their individual needs, emotional and mental wellbeing should always come first and we want all our children to be happy, supported, fulfilled and confident to be the best

We do not have any mixed age classes and the children who join us move through the school with their classmates, forming strong bonds which last throughout their time with us.

We are particularly proud of our 'buddy' system where every child who starts in Reception is partnered with a Year 6 child who offers a friendly face; helps them at lunchtimes; reading and other activities throughout their first year.

Our 'buddy' system is a crucial part of the support we give to our youngest pupils, and fosters a sense of friendship and trust between year groups which permeates right through the school. Buddies often become very fond of each other and the scheme gives parents the reassurance that in addition to teachers and support staff, there is an extra pair of eyes looking out for their child as they settle into school life.

Children's learning is regularly celebrated in school through a variety of ways including the weekly Stars of the Week assembly, when parents are invited into school to join in with celebrations. We pride ourselves on not just celebrating pupil academic success, but having a strong focus on children putting our core values into action and also achievements outside of school.

We believe in teaching our children to have sound values with an emphasis on respect for others, mutual understanding and a celebration of diversity.

Our Curriculum

We have a creative approach to our curriculum, which is specifically tailored to our children's needs.

At St Paul's C of E Primary School, we understand the importance of an exciting, well-rounded, inclusive curriculum to prepare our pupils for the next stage of education, and for their future.

As a staff, we have given careful consideration to our children, their experiences and needs, and developed a curriculum model that is engaging, ambitious and develops curious, independent learners. At the heart of our curriculum design is our school aims and vision and we strive to make learning irresistible.

Our curriculum is delivered through cross-curricular 'Projects' that aim to inspire and excite children with a range of rich and memorable learning experiences. The children go on a learning journey from their initial 'WOW' project launch experience, to the project finale. Each "Project" is built on actively promoting children's learning and thinking through creative, practical experiences.

To support this, we regularly take part in educational visits to museums, theatres, art galleries and places of cultural interest and provide pupils with exciting enrichment activities and opportunities through visits into school.

We are proud to offer our pupils specialist teaching in Spanish, Physical Education and Music by expert teachers in their field. Performing Arts is an integral part of the curriculum: children not only learn to read music and play an instrument but we also have our very own rock band. Children are also given opportunities to showcase at key events such as the Yorkshire Dance Festival, Young Voices, York Minster Choral Outreach Project and the Shakespeare School Project.

Pupils experience a wide range of extra-curricular pursuits at St Paul's C of E. We offer a variety of clubs after school and regularly compete in sport competitions and tournaments with other local primary schools across York.

In addition to the acquisition of knowledge and skills, the delivery of our curriculum supports and develops our Christian values and 'life skills' such as collaboration, perseverance, resilience, problem solving; so our pupils become confident learners, well prepared for the 21st century.

Overview of Our Curriculum Aims

- Ensure our curriculum underpins our aims, vision & values.
- Nurture a life-long love of learning.
- Prepare children for the 21st Century.
- Ensure all pupils are supported to achieve their full potential.
- Take account of children's interests and fascinations.
- Engage children through exciting topics and hands-on activities.
- Make meaningful links between subjects.
- Develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of concepts.
- Make effective connections to the real world.
- Help children to think creatively and solve problems.
- Develop children's capacities to work independently and collaboratively.

"The alien crash landing was amazing and using school trips to broaden a themed project have really expanded the scope of learning."
Y2 Parent

"The trips help us to learn more about our projects. The trip to Clifford's Tower helped me to learn more about History and helped me with my writing because I could imagine life in the past."

Y2 Pupil

Our Staff

We are proud of our highly motivated, enthusiastic and committed team of staff.

St Paul's C of E Primary prides itself in having high standards of teaching and learning. We are proud of our dedicated team of skilled, experienced professionals and staff work in partnership to make a positive contribution to school life and live by the school's core values.

We are committed to supporting families as well as pupils and we have an excellent reputation for inclusion and special educational needs provision.

We ensure that the children are following the national curriculum but in a style of teaching and learning that we feel is distinctive to St Paul's C of E Primary. High standards in English and Maths are modelled and promoted by all and underpin learning across the curriculum.

Our teachers have excellent subject knowledge and time is invested in researching current thinking and good practice. Our staff follow a programme of continuous professional development and share best practice both with colleagues within school and schools in and around York.

Lessons are appropriately challenging, encourage risk taking in a safe environment, foster curiosity and inspire creative thinking. A range of feedback strategies is used which pupils act upon to make or exceed progress. Teachers know their children well and plan for both their individual needs and same day interventions where necessary, so all groups of pupils can all achieve their full potential.

Our Community

The partnership between home and school, is crucial in providing the very best start for children.

It is key that parents feel they belong at St Paul's C of E, as by working together in partnership, we aim to provide the very best start in life for all of our children to help them achieve their full potential.

We therefore see parents as an active partner in your child's education and we really value your interest and support. We are as committed to supporting families as we are children. Our aim is to provide lots of opportunities throughout the year for parents to be involved in all aspects of school life: from helping out in classes; attending Stars of the Week Assembly; supporting on school trips; attending our Church or curriculum events or fabulous productions; or being a member of our parents group, 'The Friends of St Paul's' (FOSP).

FOSP is highly visible within school and supports our work through many annual events and curriculum projects. FOSP organise a range of events throughout the year, which vary between fundraising efforts to benefit and enhance the quality of education and experiences of all pupils, as well as social events for families and children to enjoy. Everyone who has a child at St. Paul's is a Friend of St. Paul's and as many volunteers as possible are welcomed to support FOSP and the school.

The school supports working families through links with St Paul's Nursery, located adjacent to school, who offer wrap-around care during term time, as well as holiday club provision. Breakfast club is available from 7:30am and after-school provision is available until 6pm.

St Paul's C of E has highly effective working relationships with numerous primary schools across the city and regularly work on collaborative projects to benefit the children of St Paul's C of E Primary and York in general.

We also have strong relationships with all York feeder secondary schools and work proactively with them around transition from Year 6 – Year 7.

We aim to provide opportunities for our children to form their own identity and sense of place and purpose. Our children are actively involved in raising money for a variety of events throughout the year such the Sean Coxhead Fun Run for MacMillan Cancer, Operation Orphan and Children in Need. This develops key skills to equip pupils to be courageous advocates for the common good, locally and globally.

Our Admissions Process

As a voluntary controlled school, our admissions arrangements are set by the City of York Council as the admissions authority for our school.

St Paul's C of E Primary School is an inclusive catchment school that does not select on the basis of religion and children of all and no religious backgrounds are welcome.

You should apply for your child to start primary school by the City of York Council's deadline (usually the January in the school year in which your child turns four years old). Late applications can be made after the council's January deadline, although these may be looked at after other applications.

If you have any questions about school admissions, please email the council at **education@york.gov.uk** or call **01904 551554.**

If you would like to visit St Paul's C of E Primary or request a place in year groups other than Reception, please contact us on 01904 551122.

St Paul's
C of E Primary School

A place to belong

St Paul's C of E Primary School
St Paul's Terrace
York
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Website: http://www.stpaulsprimaryyork.com
Twitter: @StPaulsCofEYork

Headteacher: Christie Clarke
Chair of Governors: Tom Mitchell

Ofsted
Good
Provider