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Our Mission Statement





Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that our school prospectus gives you a flavour of school life at St Oswald's. However, the best way to see this is to come and see us in action. We would be delighted to show you round our happy, caring and inclusive school and answer any questions you may have. Please call in, telephone or email for an appointment.

We are very proud of our pupils and the success they achieve. We believe that our school is a special place and we are proud of the relationships with children and families which enable us to create a friendly, caring and supportive environment. We place great emphasis on the well-being and personal development of each child. We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child into the family of St Oswald's.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A E Gray Headteacher

'Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love' 1Corinthians 16:13





The Christian faith and its teachings is the basis for every aspect of our school life. Our school is distinguished by the support of the entire staff for its Christian Foundation, promoting a sympathetic understanding of Christianity and other faiths. We nurture the spiritual development of all members of our school community and promote mutual respect and responsibility. We provide effective teaching of the National Curriculum, encouraging the highest achievement for each child. We value the contribution each child makes to the life of the school and take account of individual's needs. We foster good links with parents and carers and encourage them to be a part of school life and their child's education. We promote an ethos of perseverance and resilience for all in a caring and Christian setting.

Our Mission Statement

'Inspiring God's Children with Courage, Compassion and Creativity

Our Vision

At St Oswald's we learn to develop a strong faith in the Lord our God in the knowledge that He has a plan and a purpose for each of us. We learn to reflect God's love in everything we do 'Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love' 1Corinthians 16:13

Our Values

Our 'Fruits of the Vine' was developed by the children and includes special values to live by, Politeness/Kindness, Respect, Patience, Self-control. All of these are rooted in love.

'Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love' 1Corinthians 16:13













Organisation of our School

Our school caters for approximately 200 children and is situated on the border between Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen authorities. Our admission number is 30 children per class according to the age of the children. We have a seven class structure. The first priority of all staff is the well-being, happiness and personal development of each child. Relationships between teachers and pupils form the basis of our school family.

Our school day begins at 9am, but doors are open for children to arrive any time from 8.50am. Afternoon school ends at 3.25pm for Reception, Year one and Year two, and 3.30pm for Years three to six.

Our school has a breakfast club which opens from 8am each morning and currently costs £3.00 per session. If you would like a place in breakfast club, please telephone the school office to check on availability of places.

We have links with other local providers who collect after school and return children to their own premises.









The School Curriculum

Our curriculum is devised to help extend the children's knowledge of themselves and the world around them. We aim to develop skills and ideas as individuals and to help them to relate to others with kindness and empathy. All children follow the national curriculum in a broad and balanced manner and cover the following subjects:

English	Science	Physical Education	Art	French
Maths	Computing	History	Music	
Religious Education	PSHRE*	Geography	Design Technology	

*Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education
At St Oswald's we aim to teach and guide pupils to develop strong moral values based on Christian Principles as they are commonly understood by the Church of England. In this context, children will be taught about the importance of marriage, and all types of stable loving relationships for family life.

Our Reception class follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Through these subjects we offer opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding, develop lively and enquiring minds, to be able to identify and solve problems, develop interest and imagination, encourage informed decision making, resilience and responsibility, persevere when things get tough and be sensitive to the needs of others. We do this by providing a safe learning environment which is supportive and caring.

Our carefully planned curriculum offers progression with work matched to the ability of the children. Our curriculum includes all the opportunities provided by the school, including the more formal programme of lessons within the timetable and varied and enriching activities of the outdoors, alongside trips, visits and visitors. Our Christian beliefs and values underpin everything that we do.





Religious Education and Collective Worship

As a school, we follow the Blackburn Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus and this includes a number of other world religions. It recognises the multi-cultural and multi-faith nature of our society and of our school.

Collective worship takes place every morning and provides opportunities for children to reflect and discuss moral, social, spiritual and religious issues. Prayer and reflection play a key part in our worship as the children are encouraged to think of others and pray for those in our community who are struggling. There are several opportunities for parents to join us for worship throughout the year in the form of Class Worship and Christmas and Easter Services

We love to sing in our Worship and choose a range of traditional hymns and worship songs to ensure children have a breadth of experiences within the school's worshipping life.

Celebration Worship is held every Friday morning at 9am. We invite parents, carers and relatives to join us for this each week and share in the joy as Golden awards and many others are presented to the children. Children are encouraged to bring certificates into school for achievements and hobbies enjoyed outside school.

Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act gives all parents the right to withdraw their children from RE and from the Act of Worship. If parents wish to exercise their right of withdrawal, they contact the Headteacher to discuss this.



















Reading

Reading is taught using the Read, Write, Inc phonics scheme. We endeavour to give children a love of books as soon as they enter into school. Children are encouraged to read at all times and there are areas in school and in the playground for reading during free time. We have two library areas where children can change their own books and school reading books are assessed by the classteacher for children to take home. Children should be able to read these books easily, whereas their choice of library book may be more challenging and parents may need to read it to them.

We encourage parents to read as often as possible with children and discuss books and language at home. We ask that parents read with children at least four times per week, and we are grateful for those parents who persevere willingly to support reading with their child on a regular basis. Children who read, find great advantages in that it allows them to access the wonder, joy and understanding of learning in other subjects with greater ease.

Special Educational Needs and Additional Needs

We welcome and value all children in our school and recognise that each child has their own unique talents and abilities. Sometimes, a child will need additional help to achieve their potential at our school. Our Special Education Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator will discuss any additional needs your child may have with you and agree any next steps that can be taken. If you are concerned about your child's progress, we will discuss it with you as soon as possible. It may be that help can be provided in school or sometimes we may contact external agencies to access support. If you have any concerns, please come and speak to us.

Parental Involvement

We encourage parents to be active participants and partners in their child's learning. Alongside various events where parents are invited into school to join us, we use the Dojo app to keep in touch with parents. Messages, pictures and videos are be sent on an individual, class or whole school basis.









Extra-Curricular activities and Educational Visits

We have a range of sporting after school clubs which change each half term. Children are encouraged to get active and participate wherever possible. We organise regular sporting events through our local cluster and these are often played at a local venue where several schools can gather.

Educational Visits and Visitors usually link to subjects being studied in class to give a better understanding of a topic or a live experience. Children take part in activities through our participation with clusters of schools in the local area, such as our Church Schools' cluster who host the annual pupil conference at Blackburn Cathedral. We also have visitors in school to deliver worship and talk to the children about their particular areas of expertise, such as the Police, or a Dental Nurse.

Breakfast Club and Out of School care

We run our own in-house breakfast club which opens from 8am. Breakfast and other activities are available before the children go through to their classes at 8.50am. Places at Breakfast club are limited due to staffing. Please contact the School Office for more information if you would like a place.

We have a number of Outside Providers who bring pupils in the mornings and collect after school and return children to their own premises. Should you require more information about this type of provision for your child, please contact the School Office.

Lunches

Lunches are cooked on the premises and offer a range of healthy foods with a meat and vegetarian option each day. Most dietary requirements can be catered for after discussion with our cook. If you are entitled to a free school meal, please claim, as this provides further benefits your child as the school can claim additional funding.

Children may bring a packed lunch if this is preferred.









Admissions

Our current Admissions Policy has been agreed with the Local Authority and Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. The current arrangements are located on our School Website. Our admission number is 30, which is the maximum number of places available.

Induction

When your child is offered a place at St Oswald's, you will be invited to an Induction Evening to meet the staff and receive important information about the start of your child's school life. This will also be an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. All essential paperwork is completed and you will need to bring your child's birth certificate to this meeting.

After this, your child will be visited in nursery and also invited to spend some time in school getting to know their way around. There will be some sessions for parents to take part in with their child to help ease the transition so that it's as easy as it can be for your child to start their school life.





Attendance

It is very important that your child attends school every day to enable them to make the best of all the learning opportunities available during their school life. However, we appreciate that there will be sometimes when your child is ill and cannot attend school. If your child is going to be absent, please telephone the office before 9.30am to discuss the reasons for their absence. It is the school's responsibility to decide whether or not the absence is authorised. Please note that we follow the Public Health policy for diarrhoea and vomiting which means your child must be absent for 48 hours after the last episode to prevent the spread of infection. If your child has frequent absences, you will be contacted by the school or other professionals to discuss the issues.

Holidays in term time

The Government believes that children's absence from school during term-time disrupts learning and undermines educational attainment and achievement. Changes in Government regulations means that Headteachers can no longer grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are specific exceptional circumstances. If you take leave of absence without permission, this is regarded as unauthorised and you may be issued with a Penalty Notice. If you need to take leave of absence, please come and discuss this with us.

Health and Welfare

If your child must take prescribed medication during school hours, please contact the school office for advice. Permission forms must be in place and all medication must be clearly labelled. Children will be supervised taking their own medication wherever possible. Asthma Inhalers are kept in the classrooms for easy access by the children.

Emergency contact details must be kept up to date in case of any emergencies. If a child is injured, it's very distressing for them if we can't get hold of a parent when we need to.







Safeguarding and Child Protection

At St Oswald's we are committed to promoting the physical, emotional and spiritual health of all our pupils and staff. The policies referred to below are located on our school website.

Our Mental Health and Wellbeing policy outlines the different strategies in place and our approach to this important issue. We use 'Emotion Works' throughout school, which is a concept designed to help children understand their own emotions and recognise the emotions of others. By understanding our emotions and their triggers, we can learn to regulate more effectively. We have a Family Wellbeing Practitioner from Child Action Northwest (CANW) who works in school part time and helps to support children' mental health.

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy outlines our duty to report concerns to Children's Social Care, where information comes to our attention that indicates children may be at risk. Any matters relating to this can be discussed with the Headteacher, who is the main Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection. We are committed to working with parents and other agencies to ensure that children are safe and protected. The welfare of the child is paramount.









Good behaviour at St Oswald's 'Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love' 1Corinthians 16.13

Children are encouraged to be kind and polite to each other at all times. We have received good feedback about our children's behaviour from visitors and the general public, who have commented when we have been out and about on school trips. We encourage the children to come and talk to us, if they are not feeling good, rather than be mean to someone else and the children are reminded by our hashtag #justbenice. Each week in our Celebration Worship, we read out the 'Catch Me' rollcall, which is a list of children who have done the right thing with a particular focus. It is encouraging that many children get 'caught' every week.

Occasionally, a pupil may need reminding of what is not acceptable, but should a pupil need reminding too frequently, then we would seek to involve parents and carers and discuss a way forward. Sometime sanctions are applied, such as withdrawal of privileges or playtimes, separation from peers etc, but in more serious cases, behaviour plans may be drawn up or fixed term/permanent exclusions may apply.

We firmly believe that bullying is wrong and can change a child's view. We therefore do everything we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable. Where a child is experiencing problems, we encourage them to come and discuss the problem with us as quickly as possible, so that it can be sorted out swiftly.



School Uniform

Our School Uniform gives our children an opportunity to be proud of their school and a sense of belonging within the St Oswald's Family.

Our uniform is as follows:

Sweatshirt or cardigan—red with our school logo

Skirt or pinafore - grey

Trousers—grey, long or short

White polo shirt, with or without the logo, red poloshirt, with the logo only Socks or tights—plain grey, black or white

Shoes—black, flat and sensible. Trainers or Trainer type shoes are not permitted.

During the summer (after Easter up to October half term) red checked dresses may be worn.

PE kits

White T-shirt

Black shorts

Black elasticated pumps

These need to be in a drawstring bag

We have red school bags with our logo on, and we encourage every child to have one of these

Jewellery and Hairstyles

Children are permitted to wear a small stud if ears are pierced. These must be removed for swimming and PE. Children are permitted to wear a **small** watch but for health and safety reasons, no other jewellery is allowed. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced, we encourage you to arrange this for the beginning of the summer holidays. False nails are not permitted.

Long hair must be tied back with a plain bobble and no further decoration. Short hair must not contain lines or patterns or extremes of length, for example very short at the sides and long on top.



Our Governing Body

Our School Governors play a significant part in running our school. There is a full governing body meeting each term and several committees that deal with different aspects of our school such as curriculum, finance, staffing, ethos, values and the strategic direction of the school. The school governors delegate the day to day running of the school to the Headteacher.

Freedom of Information

The school complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Parents may request to see the policy which details procedures todeal with transparency, accountability and individuals' rights to provisions, as well as the data privacy and security. Please contact the school office if you require any more information.

Complaints

If there is any aspect of your child's education that causes you concern, please contact your child's classteacher. If your concerns continue, please make an appointment to see the Headteacher to discuss it further.

To Governors have adopted the Lancashire County Council Complaints procedure, so it there is a problem that can't be resolved, please:

- ⇒ Contact the classteacher in the first instance. Not resolved?
- ⇒ Contact the Headteacher. Not resolved?
- ⇒ Contact the Chair of Governors via the school. Not resolved?
- ⇒ Contact the Clerk to Governors via the Education Office



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