



Sitwell Nursery & Infant School

Be the best that we can be



Welcome to Sitwell Nursery & Infant School

Foreword: Mrs Kirstey Peart, headteacher, says...

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our amazing school and I look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

Positive relationships

Sitwell Nursery & Infant School is a place where positive relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Through a shared focus on the core values of kindness, gentleness, respect, resilience, communication and honesty; our children grow into well-rounded individuals who develop a love of learning and are well prepared for their future learning journey.

A vibrant and diverse community

We are so proud to have a vibrant and diverse school community, and we value and celebrate the range of religions that are practised, cultures that are experienced and languages that are spoken by the children who attend our school. We want everyone to feel proud of their backgrounds and heritage.

Throughout the school year, we develop children's understanding of bullying and how to deal with any unkind behaviour. Using the Sitwell Superheroes, we support children to develop an understanding of how our words and actions have an impact on others, which in turn, helps them to learn how to be kind and gentle to one another. We are proud to have achieved the Gold Rotherham Anti-Bullying Award for the work we do to celebrate difference.

First-hand experience

Every year, we build first hand experiences into our curriculum to enhance and support children's development, such as educational visits and special visitors and events in school. We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities, which build on children's learning in school and inspire them to develop interests outside of school.

Pastoral care

While academic achievements are valued at our school, we believe we should support and develop the whole child. Pastoral support and well-being are at the heart of our school ethos. It underpins everything we do, and along with the high standard of teaching and learning, it is what our school community is all about.

Parent partnership

We work hard to develop strong relationships with all our families as we know that through true partnership with parents, children will thrive and become the best version of themselves.

Get in touch

Our prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our school's culture and ethos, but this is just a start. We love to share our wonderful learning environment with others, and we regularly organise open evenings for prospective parents to visit school. Please get in touch to find out our upcoming dates.

We look forward to meeting you.



Sitwell Superheroes

Our 'Sitwell Superheroes', which were developed by children and staff, help children to understand and embed our core values. They are:

- Captain Kindness
- Determinator
- Communication Crusader
- Respecto
- Honesty Hunter
- Gentle Guardian.

They are a huge part of our school culture and enable children to become the best they can be.



School day: settling in

School hours

- 8.40am: School opens and morning session begins
- 11.45am: Morning session ends and lunchtime begins for full time provision
- 12.15pm: Lunchtime ends
- 3.15pm: Home time

Wraparound care

We offer full wraparound care for all children in school, through our Breakfast Club and Tea Club provision. This runs every day; Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am until the start of the school day, and Tea Club runs from the end of the school day until 5.45pm. Highly trained school staff provide a wide range of activities and healthy snacks in this provision.

Uniform

A school uniform gives children a sense of belonging and of taking pride in their appearance. Our uniform consists of a round-neck sweatshirt or cardigan in kingfisher blue-green and a dark blue/white polo shirt. Trousers can be navy blue, grey or black or skirts can be worn, and during the summer shorts or green checked dresses may be worn. We have a well-stocked pre-loved uniform rail that is available to all parents. Donations are welcome!

PE Kit

For PE, children should wear a white t-shirt, black shorts/jogging bottoms and black pumps. These should be kept in the school drawstring bag that is provided free of charge by school. All uniform must be clearly labelled with your child's name and is available to purchase online to then collect from school.



School meals and snacks

As an accredited Healthy School, encouraging children to make healthy food choices is an important part of the education we provide. Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious school dinner or bringing a varied and nutritious packed lunch into school. Please note, we are a nut-free school due to serious nut allergies within the school community, so no nut-containing food items are permitted in packed lunches.

Lunchtime

All children in Nursery are able to have a cooked meal during lunchtime at an additional cost. Parents will order and pay for this on our online system once children are enrolled. Children can bring a packed lunch from home each day if they would prefer.

Break-time and drinks

Fruit is provided to be eaten at playtime or continuous provision for every child within all years of the infant school. Other snacks are only permitted as part of a packed lunch. Drinks for the children should not be in glass containers or cans, for safety reasons. All children are expected to bring their own water bottle to school each day. Fresh water is always available so these can be filled up when needed.

Milk

All children under five are entitled to a free carton of milk each day. There is a small charge for milk once children turn five, but parents have the option to choose whether their child continues with this once they have turned five.

Inspiring and creative curriculum: foundations for success

Our curriculum

In our latest Ofsted report, it states that "The early years curriculum is well considered. It sparks children's curiosity and motivates them to learn. It ensures that children acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be well prepared for Year 1."

In our Nursery, our aim is to create a fun, stimulating, safe and nurturing environment, where children are given equal opportunity to discover and develop through quality play-based learning, supported by a team of caring, experienced and qualified practitioners.

Children can access a range of learning opportunities independently. These are planned using the school's progression skills curriculum which ensures they are developing the expertise they need to access the National Curriculum as they move into Key Stage 1. Planning is also linked to the DfE development matters guidance.

Our sessions are set up to give children the opportunity to explore different activities to ensure they have access to a rich learning environment with a range of resources. Children are encouraged to take part in small adult led activities or child led activities during each session. These help to develop their social skills such as working with others and building relationships with their peers and adults in the setting. Children have access to the outdoor areas all year round.

The curriculum is divided into two stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 3-5.

Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7.

Early Years Foundation Stage

A high-quality early years experience is of vital importance and can have a lasting effect on a child's attitude to education, personal and social skills and attainment. Our outstanding early years provision provides a fantastic start to school life and formal education for all children at Sitwell Nursery & Infant School.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

A personalised approach

We value each child as an individual with unique learning potential. We aim to enable each child to contribute positively to their current and future society as responsible, self-confident citizens. Our curriculum is personalised, reflecting the backgrounds and experiences of our pupils. It is outward-facing, setting learning in global contexts where possible and celebrating diversity to emphasise unity.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Equality of opportunity

We believe in equal opportunities for all, and that everyone in our community deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and consideration. Everyone at Sitwell Nursery & Infant School is committed to ensuring that we achieve the best outcomes for all children.

Special Educational Needs

The governors and staff of Sitwell Nursery & Infant School work hard to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) have access to a fully inclusive curriculum and can take part fully in school activities.

Support for children

Children with SEND will receive specific help from their class teachers, teaching assistants and the SENDCo. Where necessary, the school and parents will consult with and seek advice from various outside agencies. These can include Learning Support Advisory Teachers, Educational Psychologists or Speech and Language Therapists. We review and assess the progress of children with additional needs and put appropriate interventions and educational plans in place.

Support for families

We have an open-door policy in school and aim to work as closely as possible with parents to support our most vulnerable children. Our SENDCo is available to speak to parents whenever necessary. Full details of our SEND policy is available on our website.

Rotherham SEND Local Offer

You can find a wealth of information on the Rotherham Local Offer website here: <https://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk>

Accessibility

A clear accessibility plan is in place in school to ensure that we consider the needs of all people with disabilities - parents, children, visitors and staff alike. We operate a fully inclusive policy, catering for children with diverse needs and abilities. The school has access ramps to the entrance and all rooms, except one, are all on one level.

Specialist Enhanced Provision

We are very proud that we are able to offer a specialist enhanced provision within our setting, which is a specialist classroom for children within our school who have complex needs. The provision is led and supported by a highly trained staff team, who provide outstanding care and support to our most vulnerable children. Children will be placed in this class following discussions with parents and the complex needs team.



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions arrangements

As we have our own Nursery (Foundation 1) provision in school, children are entitled to start school the term after their third birthday. Parents need to apply for a place and can do so by contacting the school office. We will then get in touch if you secure a place. Even if a child attends our Nursery class, they are not guaranteed a place for Foundation 2 therefore, parents still must apply for a place for their child to start school formally, in the September following their fourth birthday. Children must start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday.

The school's current admission policy is operated by Rotherham Local Authority (LA), which is the admissions authority for all community and controlled schools within Rotherham. Application forms need to be completed by 15th January for a place in the following academic year. The application can be made online or a paper form can be completed. Full details of the admission arrangements can be found on the RMBC website www.rotherham.gov.uk or by contacting the Admissions team on 01709 823777.

Transition to Junior School

At the end of Year 2, children will transfer to a junior school. Most children choose to go to Sitwell Junior School, with whom we share our site and work closely with. A preference form will be sent to all parents of children currently in Year 2 at an infant school in Rotherham in September.



Getting involved

Sitwell Nursery & Infant Schools PTA

We have a thriving and committed PTA group, whose aim is to populate the school calendar with community-focused events and fundraise for equipment and opportunities for the children that would otherwise be impossible. PTA group fundraising events have included a disco, movie night, afternoon tea, summer fayre and cultural festival. If you would like to get involved with the Sitwell Nursery & Infant Schools PTA in any way, please contact the school office for more information on when meetings and events are taking place.

Governorship

The governing board at Sitwell Nursery & Infant School has a total of 12 governors, made up of people from the school and the local community who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. Governors come from all backgrounds - teachers, parents, business owners, local authority representatives and members of the community. They use their diverse knowledge and experience to help the headteachers make the right decisions for the school and oversee the strategic direction and performance of the school and ensure accountability.

We have three parent governor positions, and when one becomes available we will notify you and allow you to apply.

Voluntary helpers

We appreciate and encourage the help and support parents give to the school. If you would like to become a parent helper or help in any way, please let the headteacher know.



Our vision statement has been shaped and developed after consultation with the whole school community, incorporating everyone's hopes and aspirations for Sitwell Nursery & Infant School over the next five years.

Sitwell Nursery & Infant School is a school where positive relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Through a shared focus on the core values of kindness, gentleness, respect, resilience, communication and honesty, our children grow into well rounded individuals who develop a love of learning and are well prepared for their future learning journey. To continue to provide our children and families with an outstanding experience during their time with us, over the next five years we will:

- develop a community wide **shared understanding and respect** for each other's differences and **celebrate diversity** in all its forms. We will challenge stereotypes and appropriately develop children's understanding of important issues such as bullying, racism and equality
- ensure our children are **proud of their backgrounds and heritage**, valuing and celebrating the range of religions, cultures and languages spoken within our school
- **nurture the wellbeing of all** members of our school community; building a culture of sustainable work/life balance for staff and a strong understanding of how to look after ourselves to ensure we are both **mentally and physically well**. Introduce school animals to support both adults and children's mental health and wellbeing
- **work closely with our families**, guaranteeing school is supported by parents and parents are supported by school, to enable children to thrive and become the best version of themselves
- further **develop links with our local community** through visits to local places of worship, businesses and places of interest, building children's **understanding of and pride in where they come from**
- provide children with a **meaningful, exciting, creative and inclusive curriculum** which is shaped according to what our children need to know, understand and do in order to thrive in the future. Children will be **interested and excited** by what they are learning and will make excellent progress across the curriculum
- build **first hand experiences** into the curriculum every year to enhance and support children's development, such as educational visits and special events in school. Offer a wide variety of **extra-curricular opportunities** which build on children's learning in school and inspire them to develop interests outside of school
- use **state-of-the-art technology** to support learning across the curriculum in each key stage; ensuring staff are fully trained and equipped to use technology to **enrich children's learning**
- collaborate as a whole staff to continually **explore new approaches** to teaching and learning, using **evidence based strategies and research** to impact positively on our children
- introduce children to ways in which we can support **sustainability and foster eco-friendly practices** within and outside of school
- redevelop the use of our wonderful outside area, offering **child-centred inspirational learning opportunities** that support children's **holistic growth** through play, exploration and supported risk taking.



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