



Sitwell Infant School

Be the best that we can be



Welcome to Sitwell 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 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 closely with our families, guaranteeing the school is supported by parents and parents are supported by the school, to enable children to 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 would be very happy to organise a visit for you. Please get in touch with the school office to organise a suitable time.

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

- 8.45am: School opens and morning session begins
- 12.15pm: Lunchtime begins
- 1.15pm: Lunchtime ends and afternoon session begins
- 3.15pm: Home time

Wraparound care

We offer a breakfast club, which has 20 places and runs each day from 7.45am until the start of the school day. School staff organise a range of games and activities and a breakfast of cereal, toast and juice is provided. The cost is £3 per day.

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.

Free school meals

All children in school are provided with a cooked meal free of charge through the Government Universal Free School Meals offer. As part of this offer, every child is entitled to a free packed lunch when going out of school on an educational visit.

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. The school provides all children with a drinking bottle to be filled with water and drunk throughout the school day. Fresh water is always available.

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 school's outstanding achievement is underpinned by a curriculum that provides many rich and varied activities and experiences." We aim to inspire a love of learning in all subjects and offer vibrant and enriching learning opportunities for all children.

The curriculum is divided into two stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 4-5.

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 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.

Key Stage 1

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Reading, Writing and Communication
- Science
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Relationships & Health Education.

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.



Enriched curriculum: visits and visitors, P.E and clubs



Educational visits

We firmly believe that children learn best from their own first-hand experiences and to this end we endeavour to take the children on visits that enhance and enrich the curriculum. Teachers carefully plan visits, which can include visits to working farms, zoos or museums. Examples of our visits include:

- Cannon Hall Farm
- Emergency Services Museum
- Austerfield Study Centre
- Conisbrough Castle
- Cleethorpes.

Local visits too!

Children often participate in local visits too. These could include simple walks around the locality looking at shops, transport and infrastructure, housing and hedgerows.

Visitors

As well as enriching experiences out of school, we welcome many visitors into our school throughout the year to provide exciting, dynamic learning experiences for the children. These have included:

- Authors and illustrators such as Steve Smallman and Liz Million
- Poets such as Andy Tooze and Paul Cookson
- Andy and the Odd Socks from CBeebies
- A Pop-Up Circus
- Sublime Science workshops
- Police/Firefighter visits.



Sport & PE

We believe all children should have the opportunity to take part in regular, high-quality PE lessons. All classes take part in a minimum of two hours of PE per week. One of these hours is outside (weather permitting) with the other hours delivered in the school hall. Teachers structure PE lessons as they would any other lesson, with appropriate questioning, challenge and support offered to the children based on their individual needs.

Sports coach

One PE lesson each week is led by an experienced sports coach. This helps us ensure that children have the opportunity to experience high-quality physical education with good outcomes for all.

Clubs

We have a range of after-school clubs for children in Years 1 and 2 throughout the year. We welcome children in the Foundation class to clubs after October half term, giving them a chance to settle into school life first. The activities vary, but can include:

- Boxercise
- Gardening
- Trampolining
- Theatre performers
- Choir
- DJ Club
- Languages
- Forest School.

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 Infant School is committed to ensuring that we achieve the best outcomes for all children.

Special Educational Needs

The governors and staff of Sitwell 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.



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions arrangements

Children are entitled to start school in the September following their fourth birthday and must start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. An induction programme of visits is arranged to ease the children into school life. Children who begin full time in September will make several visits in the previous summer term.

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 returned in January for a place in the following academic year. 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 Infants 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 Infants 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 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 Infant School over the next five years.

Sitwell 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.



Sitwell Infant School

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