



The Crossways  
Schools

**Contribute**  
**Aspire**  
**Respect**  
**Equality**





# Welcome to Crossways Infant and Junior Schools



## Mrs J Geoghegan, Federation Headteacher, says:

It is with great pride that I welcome you into our wonderful school community.

### Caring and successful

Both Crossways Infant and Juniors have an excellent reputation as caring and successful schools, where we strive for each of our children to be the best that they can be. The close relationship between the two schools gives us a unique feel of an all-through primary school, whilst being able to retain the individuality of an infant and junior school. We are a team of passionate educators who work on the craft of teaching to ensure learning is engaging, accessible and challenging for all children.

### Close relationships for effective learning

We are welcoming schools who value our relationship with parents and carers. We actively seek and engage with parent voice to ensure our schools meet the needs of our community. We hope that all of our children will view their time at Crossways as a positive, challenging and exciting experience. Our goal is to inspire a love of learning, nurture positive emotional and social wellbeing, empower all to be their personal best and thrive within our community and our values – contribute, aspire, respect and equality.

Pupil behaviour is well managed and exemplary. Children are polite, kind and tolerant, forming lasting relationships for life.

### Proud of what we offer

We are proud of our wider curriculum offer with a range of extra-curricular clubs and an enrichment session weekly where children can choose from a range of activities, and of our pastoral offer that recognises the challenges that life can throw at families and can support you through them.

Children achieve well here with outcomes in reading, writing and maths at and above national average by the end of Key Stage 2. We are also very proud of the range of opportunities and facilities we have to offer.

### Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

### Get in touch

We are always delighted to welcome prospective parents and carers to visit our schools, and see for themselves what a happy, successful and exciting education we offer our children. Please contact us on 01454 866 566 to make an appointment.



## Freddie and Alfie love school, the family believe it is a lovely place and the Crossways' community is brilliant.

Sam Baker-Green has two boys at Crossways, Freddie in Year 3 and Alfie in Year 5. The boys joined the school from reception and Freddie has moved up from Infants to Juniors seamlessly.

### Reading is no longer a chore

Developing a love for reading does not always come naturally for some children but with guidance and encouragement children can soon become enthusiastic readers. "Freddie had no interest in reading and school picked this up. He now goes out three to four times a week with a HLTA and this year he has done more academic work than ever before. He's now asking to read and it's no longer a battle. He has an animal encyclopaedia and every night he's decided he's going to choose a couple of animals and read the facts about them. Last year I couldn't get him to read at home, now he loves it, he absolutely loves it."

### Support in times of need

When Sam's family was involved in a scary road traffic accident, school was there every step of the way to help life return to normal. "The boys had a terrible road traffic accident a couple of years ago; my husband and Alfie were hospitalised. Freddie struggled with his confidence and his concentration and school was just lovely and incredible with their support. I knew I could send the boys back to school knowing everyone truly cared for them. That's the thing for me, I know that they care for my boys, as I want them to be cared for."

### Extended family

Sam remembers going to a single-entry form primary school and has been pleasantly surprised at the benefits of being part of a larger school family. "Crossways is dual form entry which I was reluctant for at first but now I think it's fantastic. It helps with building social dynamics and twice throughout their Crossways journey they mix the classes up, which I think is great because it means you get to make new friends. There's also interaction with other local schools through sports, so the opportunities to make friends outside of school are vast and means the transition to secondary school is less daunting," reflects Sam.

### Fun activities

There are tonnes of activities for children to participate in at Crossways. "Today both my boys have been at school activities, one's been at Rounders, and one's been at Federation Farmers, which is gardening club. The grounds are huge and have all kinds of play equipment including a MUGA. OPAL Playscheme has just been introduced; it's brilliant. At lunch times the infant and junior schools now have access to huge wooden sheds each filled with tents, unused PPE from the local health centre, huge wooden bobbin wheels, swimming foam pipes, all kinds of things. They make dens and get creative. It's gone down a storm. Kids love it," enthuses Sam.

### Home from home

The recent changes at Crossways have made school feel even more like home and everyone is feeling excited. "There's lots of positive change happening and it's exciting and everyone is embracing this new atmosphere. The teachers are keen and present and the school itself is looking updated and fresh. It's homely and I feel very comfortable and happy that I can send my kids there and I genuinely don't have to worry," says Sam.

### Community

Sam praises the PTA for their dedication and commitment to enhancing life at school for the children, parents and staff. "The PTA is hugely involved, they organise all sorts of things like pumpkin growing, discos and they do "Break The Rules Day". They put so much on and raise an incredible amount of money for the school. They're brilliant and work hard."

### Children say

Freddie says: "I love learning about maps."  
Alfie says: "I love the new school meals."



# School day: settling in

## School times?

- **Infants:** Gates open at 8.45am. There is a 10-minute window in which parents can drop off and members of staff will be on the gate to greet them during this period.
- Reception children enter the building via the door opposite the pre-school and parents are warmly invited to settle their child into class for the first term of the school year
- **Juniors:** There will be a member of staff on the Junior playground from 8.40am and the bell rings at 8.45. Registration is at 8.55am.

## Wraparound

### Breakfast Club

The Crossways Breakfast Club is led by staff from the schools. Running Mondays to Fridays in term time only, children can be dropped off between 7.40am and 8.00am. The club is for both Infant and Junior children. Breakfast is provided with a range of cereal, toast, fruit juice etc. available.

### After-School Club

The Crossways After School Club is also organised by staff from the schools, for both Infant and Junior children. The club is available Monday to Friday during term time. Opening hours are between 3.30pm and 6.00pm Monday to Thursday and between 3.30pm and 5.00pm on a Friday. Children will be offered a light snack during the session.

Both clubs offer a range of fun activities for every age group is available daily including: art, craft, board games, construction games. The staff discuss with the children what they would like

to do on a regular basis.

## Uniform

Children attending The Crossways Schools are expected to attend in school uniform. The school has a traditional uniform and parents are asked to support the school dress code. The uniform is designed to be affordable, simple and practical. Most items can be purchased from any supplier but the items bearing the school logo (eg sweatshirts, polo shirts and book bags) are only available from our supplier.

## Food in school

There are two lunch options for children, these include:

- To have a school dinner that is cooked on site.
- To bring a packed lunch to eat at school

### Meals at school

Our school meals are provided by Coombs Catering. The menu is updated frequently and the most recent can be found on our website. In the Infant School there is a free piece of fruit or vegetable available every day for the children. The Junior children are able to bring in a piece of fruit or healthy snack.

Children can go home for lunch if they are collected and returned by an adult.

### Free school meals

Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are all entitled to a free school meal. We encourage all parents to take up this option. Older children may also be eligible for free meals. If you think you are eligible, please ask in confidence for an application form from the school office.



**Sam feels children at Crossways become well-rounded individuals. They thrive from the very beginning of their journey at Crossways.**

Sam McDowall has three children at Crossways School, Erin in Year 1, Isaac in Year 4 and Jacob in Year 5.

### Nurturing community

Sam is delighted that her children are excited to head into school each day and she values the supportive and caring environment created by all the teachers and staff.

"The children love going to school. It's a nurturing environment, the staff are great, you feel valued, and the children feel valued. We trust school and feel well cared for, the children walk through the gates each morning no problem at all," says Sam.

### Opportunities to grow

The launch of a new "Enrichment" scheme has introduced a variety of activities and Sam's children have loved trying them all. "They have a new initiative called "Enrichment" which my children all love. It's across the school and children are taught by different teachers. For example, Erin has done Sewing and Recorder. Isaac has enjoyed Comic, Guitar and Chess. Jacob has loved 3D and Illusion Art. Everyone gets a fair chance to opt for an activity they would like to do. All staff are involved in providing a range of opportunities where the children can experience something new and potentially find a new hobby or interest," says Sam.

### Supportive network

There is a dedicated Pastoral Team and SENCO at Crossways and Sam feels this provision reflects how school listens to the needs of the children and parents. "There is a solid, approachable, pastoral team who are welcoming and friendly. The SENCO is very active, she's offering SEND Coffee mornings which aren't just for SEND pupils it's open to any parent. The staff are actively making links with parents and take an interest and care about the children," comments Sam.

### Brilliant teachers

"The teachers are all supportive, good teachers with high standards in all areas. I think the children from Crossways are courteous and well-rounded individuals. My children have a strong friendship base and the children at Crossways really care for each other. The children have that genuine love

for learning and so much of that is down to the teaching team's approach," says Sam.

### School trips

Covid put a stop to many things, so Sam is pleased to see the return of school trips and witness how the children take their classroom learning into the wider world. "The PTA fundraise and do a great job. They support the school to enrich the pupils school experience for example, they subsidise the school trips which creates opportunities for children to develop holistically in all areas and really connect their learning to real life experiences," says Sam.

### Listening to parents

From engaging the children with art projects that reflect school values to hosting Parent Forum meetings, Sam feels the school is making special effort to listen and take on board what children and parents have to say.

"They've done a great job at listening to parents and taking their opinions on board, they're trying their absolute best to live by their vision which in part is "To inspire a love of learning." My children live and breathe that, they love to learn new things. They're not afraid of challenges and that's clearly down to the environment they're taught in. Mistakes are valued and accepted. My children continue to thrive within the school community at Crossways." says Sam.

### Children say

Erin says: "I have loads of kind friends at school."

Isaac says: "Learning how to play the Ukulele this year, has been really fun."

Jacob says: "There are always people to talk to when you need help. All the teachers are great."



# Curriculum: enjoy and progress

## Preparing children for life

Our ambitious and interesting curriculum is designed to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

Our curriculum aims to:

- Provide a broad and balanced education for all pupils that's coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge for skills and future learning and employment.
- Enable pupils to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations.
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active.
- Promote a positive attitude towards learning.
- Ensure equal access to learning for all pupils, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support.
- Have a high academic ambition for all pupils.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

## Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
2. Communication and Language.
3. Physical Development.
4. Literacy.
5. Mathematics.
6. Understanding the World.
7. Expressive Arts and Design.

## Key Stages 1 and 2

- Mathematics.
- English.
- Science.
- Computing.
- Design and Technology.
- History.
- Geography.
- Languages – French.
- Art and Design.
- Music.
- Physical Education.
- Religious Education and Citizenship.
- Citizenship.
- Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE).



## Crossways supported Joe, Ollie, and Peyton as they joined from the pre-school and they all love being part of the Crossways' school family.

Shona and Sean Ryan have Joe and Ollie in Reception and Peyton in Year 2 plus little ones at home who are looking forward to their Crossways journey starting.

### Support from day one

Over the summer before the twins, Joe and Ollie, started in Reception at Crossways, the family received news that Joe has Perthes' disease which effects his hip and means he walks with a walker. "We spoke with school before Joe started and Crossways were very supportive. We have a parking pass so that we can park closer to school's entrance as crossing the road was proving difficult for Joe. I can't thank them enough for helping us settle in. Ollie can get anxious on a morning, and they've asked if there's anything they can do to help. His teacher comes out to meet him and we're okay to go in with him and help him settle in the classroom. The teachers are always there to welcome each child, it's a lovely school" says Shona.

### Settling in

Adapting to the new school day can be a big change for young children but Joe and Ollie are now fully on board with their new routine. "The boys have done really well adapting to the new school routine. They have a two-week staggered start which builds to full days. They have settled in well, they haven't struggled," says Shona.

### Keeping in touch

Crossways welcomes parents to talk to teachers and staff in school, from catching up at the classroom door to helping with medication, everyone is on hand to talk to. "I'm confident school would let me know of any issues; their communication is brilliant. Joe has medication, the office will always accommodate any changes, nothing ever seems to be any trouble, they're always willing to help," says Shona.

### Moving to Juniors

Crossways has an Infants school and Juniors school and come Year 3 the children make the transition over. "Peyton goes into Juniors next year. They have already started going to have a look around, they've done PE over on the Junior's fields so

they're getting the children used to the move. They started introducing them in April. She's looking forward to it," says Shona.

### Star Awards

Each week children are chosen for Star Awards and it's a chance for parents and families to come into Crossways and for the Infants and Juniors to come together and celebrate. "School message you and invite you to come and watch the awards, grandparents can come too, it's so nice to see it rather than the children come home and tell you. It's lovely to hear what the teachers are saying and seeing the children's faces as they receive their awards," says Shona.

### Quick to act

When Peyton joined Reception class after Covid, the teachers were quick to pick up that she needed extra support. "Peyton had speech problems which when she reached Reception, were immediately picked up on. Covid had paused so much of the usual support but the SENCO was there straight away to get her the extra support," says Shona.

### One big family

"Peyton's class are having a picnic and the whole family is welcome to attend, the boys have their play coming up and the teachers host open classroom days where parents can visit; when the boys had theirs, we went in and planted sunflower seeds, it's just a lovely place to be. They are a very family orientated as a school," says Shona.

### Children say

Joe says: "I play with Lego when I need quiet time."

Ollie says: "I love playing on the bikes at lunch time."

Peyton says: "I like reading at home with my mum and dad."



# Enrichment: activities, clubs, sport and music

## Varied activities

To enrich our curriculum, each week the children have a session where they can choose what they would like to do. Activities vary throughout the year but have included:

- French.
- Yoga.
- Mad-Science.
- Golf.
- New age curling.
- Guitar.
- Book club.
- Painting.
- Tie-dye.
- Sock puppets.

## Clubs

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular lunchtime and after-school clubs. These change termly but typically include:

- Choir.
- Journalism.
- Football.
- Colouring.
- Dance.
- Cross country.
- Multi-sports.
- Rounders.
- Cricket.
- Painting.
- Netball.

## Sport and P.E.

We have a number of successful sports teams representing the school. Our boys and girls football teams, coached by one of our teachers, play matches against other schools in the local league. We have also taken part in rugby competitions and Gym Run events. These provide children with the opportunity to compete against other schools, learn to play as a team and meet new friends.

## Music

The school offers music lessons (drumming, flute, guitar) as additional sessions that parents can book and pay for and are taught in school by peripatetic teachers. As part of their curriculum entitlement, children also access music lessons taught by specialists such as clarinet, beat bus, ukulele and djembe drumming.



## From Brazil to Crossways, Bea and her family are loving their new school life.

Marcilena and Eduardo Lobao moved their daughter Beatriz (Bea) to Crossways having moved to the UK from Brazil. Marcilena and Eduardo are pleased at how quickly Bea has settled school and the efforts the Crossways' community has made to make the whole family feel welcome.

### Support from day one

After a short initial start at a school further away from their new home, Bea started at Crossways in Year 2. "In January 2023, Bea moved to Crossways, she started at a different school initially, but we were finding the commute too much as we had yet to get a car. We now walk to school and it's a lovely way to meet other parents and children. It's what we like most about living in a small village like this," says Marcilena.

### A big move

It was a big and difficult move for the whole family, but Crossways made school feel like a welcoming place. "One thing we like about Crossways, since the beginning, is how welcome we were made to feel. Thornbury doesn't have the biggest international community, but school made us feel very welcome. School made efforts every day at the start to share individual follow-ups with us so that we knew how Bea was doing. This helped very much. They used texts in English and Portuguese and teachers used translation techniques to make it easy for us to understand how Bea was getting on," says Eduardo.

### Made to feel welcome

Teachers and classmates at Crossways made special efforts to welcome Bea and to help her settle in. "Bea was given a buddy when she first joined school which helped. Some of her classmates prepared a letter for her which encouraged her and made her feel welcome. They prepared "welcome gifts" which helped her feel embraced by her new environment," says Marcilena.

### Embraced by the school community

As Bea started to settle in to school life, so did Marcilena and Eduardo with the help of other parents and the PTA. "Parents and the PTA helped us to get familiar with school events, parents

invited us to things and school sent emails and newsletters. Marcilena has joined the PTA. We feel the PTA is very important and initially helped us feel part of the school community," says Marcilena.

### Enjoying school

Bea has progressed well; she has made friends and is enjoying finding the subjects and activities she loves. "At first we would be shown Bea's progress, even when progress was only small it made us feel confident that she was learning and catching up with her classmates. Bea enjoys the Enrichment Activities. She does these on a Friday, and she loves them. Bea loves to draw and she enjoyed Sketching Club. She also enjoys mathematics and geography. She is not satisfied with her writing, but her teacher says she's doing well. She enjoys PE, especially cricket and enjoys the dance lessons, she likes music and art. She likes the school library and regularly borrows books," says Eduardo.

### Sharing the same values

As the Lobao family settle into their new life, Crossways is providing confidence and assurance that Bea is growing in a community that shares their same values. "We feel that she is feeling happy going to school, she wakes up energised. It's great and we are very proud of her achievements. We took the decision to move to a different county and she has faced challenges and we are proud of how well she is doing. We see how school does things, like the Star Assemblies, and that makes us feel more confident and have peace of mind that we are sharing the same values," says Eduardo.

### Children say

Bea says: "I like showing my class the map of Brazil."



# Inclusion: an education for all

## Equality

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils.
- Pupils with low prior attainment.
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Pupils with SEN.
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL).

## Special Educational Needs

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

## EAL

Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects.



# Admissions and getting involved

## Admissions

Applications for a place in our Reception Class, starting next September, should be made through South Gloucestershire Council Department for Children, Adults & Health. All applications must be made by 15th January in the year your child will start school. Full details are published in the 'Admission to Primary Schools in South Gloucestershire – Information for Parents' booklet which can be downloaded via their website. All applications need to be completed online.

## Applications for in year place

Applications for an in year place in our schools should be made through South Gloucestershire Council Department for Children, Adults & Health.

Please note that all admissions are controlled by the Local Authority and they also hold our waiting list.

**Website:** [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

**Email:** [cis@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:cis@southglos.gov.uk) or telephone 01454 868008.

If you have a question relating to the school admission process please contact the Admissions and Transport Team

**Email:** [admissionsandtransport@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:admissionsandtransport@southglos.gov.uk) or telephone 01454 868008.

## Getting involved

### Crossways PTA

We have an active, fun and dynamic PTA, focussed on raising funds for the Crossways Schools. We have members, both parents and staff, across the Infants and Juniors and are here to support the parents/ carers, children and teachers of Crossways. We organise events throughout the year to provide social opportunities for families, children and staff to interact outside of the school day, and ultimately to raise funds for the schools. We aim to help forge stronger links between parents and the schools and

encourage good communication throughout the Crossways community.

There are many levels of involvement in our PTA, we understand that not everyone may have the time to dedicate but there are jobs and tasks to suit all. You can become a full CPTA member, attend meetings and help to arrange our amazing events; you can be a friend of the CPTA and receive our meeting minutes or you can volunteer on an ad hoc basis at events, helping to run stalls or supporting the organisation of events. The more support we get from parents/ carers, the more activities we can organise for all to enjoy and the more money we can raise to enrich the school experience for the children.

## Volunteers

We have a group of volunteers who regularly support the school by hearing children read, helping in classrooms and coming on school trips. Any parent wishing to volunteer should contact the school office or speak to their child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Volunteers are subject to DBS checks and the volunteer code of conduct. We regularly train our volunteers in safeguarding and aspects of teaching reading.

## Governors

The governing board have three core functions:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Hold the Federation Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of Crossways and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of Crossways and making sure its money is well spent.

If you would like to become a school governor, please ask at the school office.





# Our Vision and values

As part of the Federation the schools share a vision and set of values. These are very important to us and set the direction for the schools' journey over the coming years. Our values are the key attitudes we want the children to cherish and develop; we discuss these often as part of our school life.

The leadership team worked alongside a team of Governors to develop the Crossways' vision and values. During this process we have been able to bring together all of the ideas from staff, children and parents.

## Our Vision

Our goal is to inspire a love of learning, nurture positive emotional and social wellbeing, empower all to be their personal best and thrive within our community

## Our Values

- **Contribute** – collaboration, independence, engage, impactful
- **Aspire** – self-belief, resilience, courage, challenge.
- **Respect** – kindness, trust, compassion, friendship.
- **Equality** – inclusion, diversity, individuality, acceptance.



**The Crossways  
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