



St Oswald's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary and Nursery School

I can do all things in Him that strengthens me

Welcome to St Oswald's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary and Nursery School

Foreword: Mrs Gill Harrison, Headteacher, says...

St Oswald's is a Church of England School and has strong links with St Oswald's Church. We have a caring ethos founded on Christian beliefs, where every member of our school is valued as an individual, contributing to the happy, caring Christian environment which we strive to create. We encourage children to develop as individuals by promoting independence, care and respect for others.

The school has established a tradition of achieving high standards with a caring and supportive environment where all children are encouraged to do their best. We hope to instil in our children a love of learning by offering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum set within an enriching and stimulating learning environment.

We recognise our role within the local community and the importance of developing links between home and school. We believe in working with parents as partners and look forward to sharing this new partnership with you.

I hope you find the information in this booklet useful. Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any other information you may need.



Parent partnership

At St. Oswald's we embrace our role within the local community and the importance of developing links between home and school. We believe in working with parents as partners. 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

The staff and governors of St. Oswald's are very proud of our children and our school. We have a caring ethos founded on Christian beliefs where every member of our school is valued as an individual, contributing to the happy, caring Christian environment here. Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to visit us and see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: stoswalds.ce@durhamlearning.net or telephone 0191-386-8029





St Oswald's is a small school with 5 mixed age classes. These are as follows for 2016:

- Nursery
- Elvet Class - Reception /Year 1
- Dunelm Class - Year 2
- Kingsgate Class - Year 3/4
- Neville - Class year 4/5.

The make up of each class will change each year in order to incorporate all of the year groups currently in school.

School hours

Nursery

Parents can choose from the following sessions:

- 8.45am to 11.45am X 5
- 12.00pm to 3.00pm X 5
- 2.5 days per week Monday and Tuesday 8.45am to 3pm, Wednesday 8.45am to 11.45am

- 2.5 days per week Wednesday 12pm to 3pm, Thursday and Friday 8.45am to 3pm

Wraparound care

St Oswald's Sunshine Club is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm.

Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it children quickly feel part of the community. Pupils are encouraged to wear the school uniform, which consists of royal blue sweatshirts and white polo shirt with grey or black trousers, shorts or skirts. Blue and white checked dresses may be worn in the summer. Good quality second hand uniform is also available from the Friends of St Oswald's. A list showing current availability can be obtained from the school office.



School meals and snacks

Lunchtime meals are provided by 'Taylor Shaw', and are eaten in the school dining room. The children are given a daily choice of menu and are encouraged to eat as much of the foods they have selected as possible. Absolute dislikes are acknowledged, but the menu is varied so it is unusual for problems to occur.

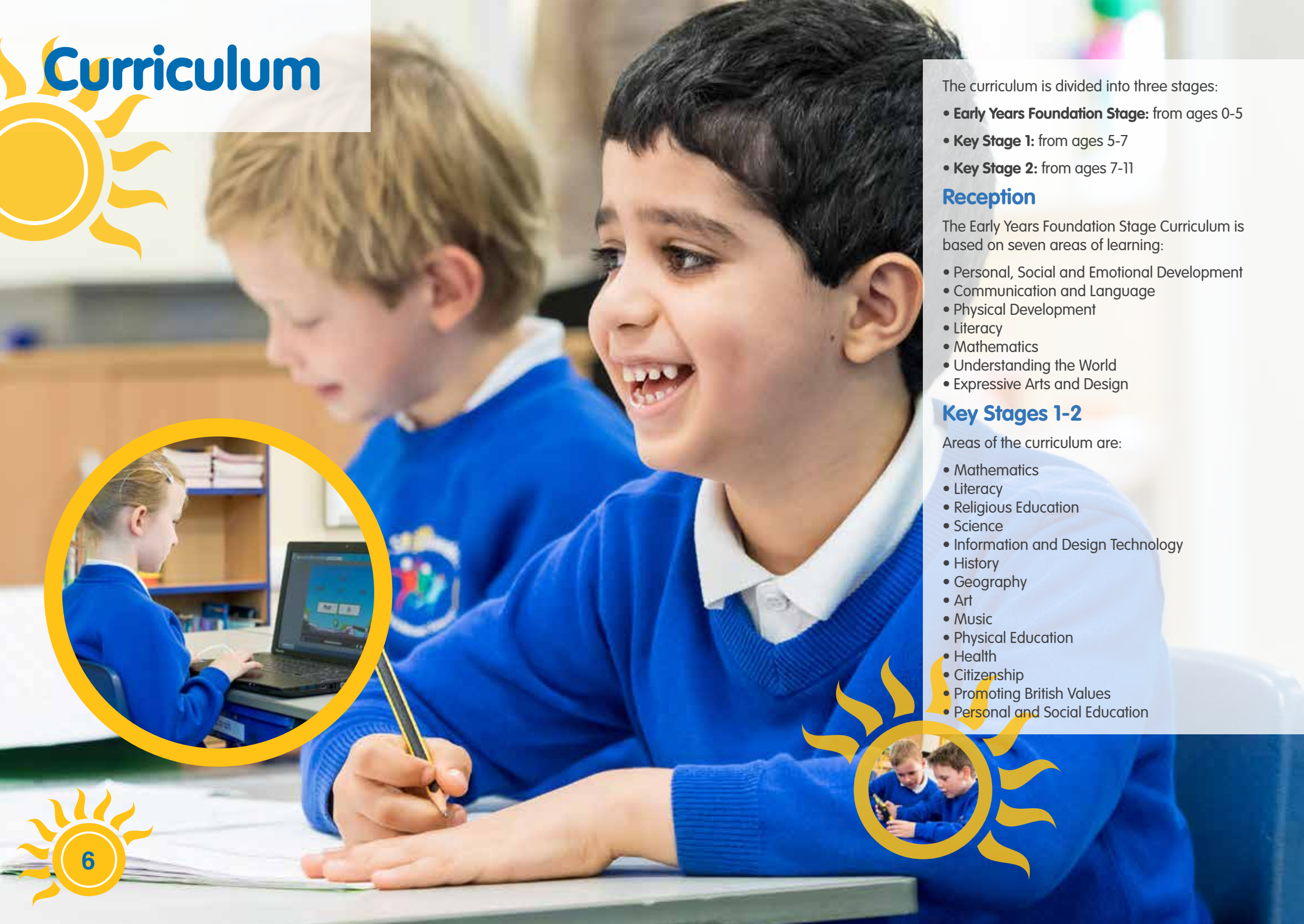
All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 can receive a free hot school meal. Children are also welcome to bring in lunch boxes.

Break-time and drinks

Free Fruit is provided for Foundation and KS 1 children, and this is funded by DFE as part of a government initiative to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. Water bottles are available to purchase from the office for £1.50, but new reception pupils are issued with a free water bottle.

Milk

Nursery and Reception children (aged up to 4 years) are provided with free fresh milk daily if your child would like to receive this. Cool Milk also supply milk to children from age 5 years. Details are available from the school office regarding costs and the ordering procedure.



The curriculum is divided into three stages:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5
- **Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7
- **Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

Reception

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 Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Religious Education
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Promoting British Values
- Personal and Social Education



Behaviour and Self Development



High standards

We provide quality education for children aged three to nine years (due to increase to 11 years over a phased transition period) and aim for high standards of performance and behaviour. Much time is spent in developing social and behavioural skills. Children are encouraged to think of how their actions can affect others. Consideration for others, quietness in moving around school and when working, are key elements in developing self-control.

Awards ceremony

An award ceremony is held each week when good effort in work, behaviour and helpfulness are rewarded. This takes the form of a Star of the Week certificate, Good Writing award and a Friendship Cup for each class. Children are encouraged to bring in any certificates, medals or trophies that they have earned out of school so that these can be also be celebrated.





Extended curriculum: trips and visits

Visits

All classes organise visits to places of interest to enhance their curriculum studies. These have included:

- Walks to the Botanical Gardens to experience Forest School activities
- Cathedral , Church and Castle visits
- Trip to the Oriental Museum
- Theatre visits

- Performing songs and plays to members of the parish
- Visit to Whitehouse Farm

School projects

We also have regular in-school projects based around the major festivals of Christmas (Nativity play, parties etc.) and Easter (Church visit and competitions for the best decorated eggs, Easter Gardens and Easter bonnets) as well as smaller celebrations throughout the year. Regular fun days are also held, e.g. Europe day,

sports days, international celebrations and book days.

Invites to school

We also occasionally invite authors and theatre groups into school along with Zoo Lab who bring along a selection of animals to show the children.



Communicating with parents

Your child's achievements

This school upholds the L.A.'s view that "individual pupils are entitled to have their achievements, skills, abilities and progress recognised throughout the whole curriculum." Careful records of pupils' achievements are kept throughout the year in each class. Parents will receive a written report compiled by the class teacher towards the end of the summer term and are invited to discuss the report with the teacher.

School News

Parents are updated with school news via the school website and weekly and termly newsletters. You can also keep up to date with the Friends of St.Oswald's and our school community via our Facebook page. We also have a Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/stoswaldsdurham>) and Tweets are uploaded onto the school website.

Open days

Throughout the year, your child will bring you invitations to visit, sometimes on an individual basis with the teacher, other times on a more informal basis to view work in the classroom with groups of other parents. We vary times to try to accommodate everyone at some time during the school year. Children are encouraged to show parents around their classroom during our 'open sessions'. There may also be special assemblies where parents will be invited to attend.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all



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Being a Christian school



Special education needs

Some children are on the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Register. This is because the school has a policy of identifying concerns early and putting strategies in place to try and prevent small concerns becoming big problems. Mrs Stanley is the school's SENCO (the SEN Co-ordinator). The Local Offer and Schools offer giving details about SEND is available on the school website.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.



St Oswald's Church

As a Christian school, St Oswald's finds opportunities throughout the school's curriculum, and through relationships at all levels, to share the Christian gospel and to demonstrate the life of faith in God. This is evident in relationships, attitudes, understanding of right and wrong, forgiveness, and tolerance. The school also enjoys close links with St Oswald's Church.

Welcoming

Although Christianity is the main religion of the school, we welcome children of other faiths and cultures, accepting differences and valuing the experiences that they bring.

Worship

The school provides all pupils with a daily act of Collective Worship that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Nursery children have their own experiences of worship. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw pupils in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.

Christian values

Our Christian values and virtues are expressed throughout the school, in the curriculum and character and life of the school through:

- spiritual development which fully recognises the religious dimension of education throughout the curriculum and in the daily act of worship
- moral development which builds character, enabling each child to have the courage to do what is right
- cultural development which incorporates the Christian heritage of this country as well as the contribution made by other religions and cultures
- mental and physical development which releases each child's full potential to grow in the image of God.

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Clubs



There are many lunchtime and after school clubs for the children to enjoy. These include:

- Gardening
- Dance
- French
- Football
- Singing
- ICT
- Outdoor and adventurous
- Chess
- Cookery
- Music
- French
- Spanish
- Magical Maths.



Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your children to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games.



Admissions



Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time.

High standards

Children may be admitted to the nursery class at the beginning of the term after their third birthday. To apply for a place, please download and complete our application form from our website, and return it to the school office. You will receive an acknowledgement that we have received your application and we will contact you when a space becomes available. Usually we will contact applicants for September start in May; for January start in November and for April start in February.

School

Children start in the reception class of St Oswald's School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

Durham County Council deals with all new admissions to St. Oswald's school. Contact details for the School Admissions Team are:

Tel: 03000 265 895

Email: schooladmission@durham.gov.uk

Web: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions



Getting involved



Friends of the School

'The Friends of St Oswald's' are a group of people who support the school and help to raise money for additional resources to enrich the children's education. Projects over recent years include purchasing I Pads and netbooks, providing a shed and gardening equipment for the Gardening Club, installing seating areas in the playground, laying artificial grass and installing a climbing frame in the Nursery garden, providing an Early Years outdoor play area for the Reception Class and providing a shed and gardening equipment for the gardening Club. The Friends also support cultural activities

for the children and occasionally fund visits from theatre companies who perform and work with the children. All of these projects enhance the school environment greatly. All parents and carers are invited to become members of the Friends and are very welcome to attend meetings and join in the various activities.

Parent helpers

Parents play an important role in the life of the school. Parents and carers also help in classrooms and in the school in different ways, such as helping to label and organise books. Class teachers will advise parents of ways they can help.

As long as parents/carers are not left alone with children there is no longer a necessity for DBS (old CRB's) to be applied for. The school will ensure that volunteers are never left unsupervised.

Governorship

Our school governors manage the school with the Headteacher. Our Governing Body are made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Authority (LA), co-opted governors, teacher representatives and the Headteacher who has the option of being a governor. Members are elected for period of four years. Foundation Governors appointed by the PCC and the Diocese.



Do you want to be a Governor?

Our parent governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the school office.





How to find us

Mission Statement

We aim to enable each child to develop their full and individual potential in a caring Christian environment that bonds the home, school and community together.

Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, St Oswald's C of E Aided Primary and Nursery School will preserve its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

St. Oswald's C of E Aided Primary and Nursery School
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DH1 3DQ

Tel: 0191 3868029

Website: <http://www.stoswaldsdurham.net>


St Oswald's
CE Aided Primary and Nursery School, Durham