



Extremely happy with the progress our child has made since starting school.

The school is thriving, and we are very happy that our child is at Willow and excelling. Good job Willow!

**Parent Survey  
October 2022**



# WILLOW PRIMARY ACADEMY



Taking PRIDE in all we do

# Welcome to Willow Primary Academy

## FOREWORD: MR PETER HALES, HEADTEACHER, SAYS...

Welcome to our lovely school where everyone takes pride in all they do.

### A small school with a big heart

We are a small, yet growing school. Each class has a Learning Partner supporting the learning alongside the class teacher, normally working with groups or individuals, to help every child achieve their potential.

### Developing lifelong learners

Our aim is for each child to feel valued and successful and for them to grow to understand what makes them an individual.

Our teaching is stimulating and creative and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun! We want children to know, understand and live by our PRIDE values of Positivity, Respect, Individuality, Determination and Excellence.

### We offer a rounded approach to learning

Academic achievements are an important part of life at our school. All of our children also enjoy a variety of opportunities, as well as regular visits and residential trips. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school. The children are at the heart of everything we do, developing academically and socially in our friendly environment which offers safety and security whilst nurturing confidence and independence.

### Championing our parents

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! 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.

### Committed to the best start for every child

We firmly believe that children only get one chance at a quality education and are, therefore, a school that is committed to raising standards for children in all areas of their education. I promise you that, as Headteacher, I will do my very best to ensure that your children receive the very best whilst they are with us.

### Get in touch

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight and understanding of our core value of PRIDE – positivity, respect, individuality, determination and excellence. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please call the school office on 01452 526442 to arrange a visit and see why our school is so special.



## School day: settling in

Willow Primary Academy is open from 8.45am until 3.00pm from Monday to Friday. The school gates will open at 8:45am to allow a 10 minute 'drop off' time – children can go to class from 8:45am but must be in school by 8:55am.

### WRAPAROUND CLUBS

#### Breakfast Club

We offer a daily Breakfast Club in school which starts at 8am. Children can enjoy a balanced breakfast before school and spend time with their friends. Please visit our website for price and booking details.

#### After School Club

After School Club is run by VIPs Children's Club and runs from 3.00pm until 6.00pm. Children are looked after in a safe, secure and familiar environment by professional, trained staff. For more information and prices, please ring 07454898561 or email [sally@vipschildrensclub.com](mailto:sally@vipschildrensclub.com)

### UNIFORM

We believe that the school uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community. Our uniform is kept as simple and practical as possible and our school colours are navy, grey and white. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to take a pride in their personal appearance.

#### Where to buy

Items of uniform can be bought with the school logo on from Monkhouse in Gloucester, whilst other plain items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets.

### SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

Our school meals are made on site each day by our contract catering team. There are always three options for children. The menu can be viewed via Class Dojo and is made available each term. As children arrive on a morning, they are provided with a bagel which is supplied through the National Schools Breakfast Program.

#### Free school meals

Every child in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a Free School Meal. Children in Year 3 and above can qualify for free school meals if their family are in receipt of certain income related benefits.

#### Break-time and drinks

Children in early years and key stage 1 receive free daily fruit as a snack at morning break. Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit from home if they would like a snack. We do not allow chocolate or biscuits at break time as snacks. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not allowed in school at any time.

#### Milk

Milk is free to all children until they are five or in receipt of statutory free school meals. Other children can have this milk for a small fee. To subscribe to this service please go to: <http://www.coolmilk.com> or speak to our staff in the main office.



# Inspiring and creative curriculum: enriched, relevant, engaging

## UNCOVER A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

We deliver an enriched, relevant, engaging and innovative curriculum enabling children to uncover a world of possibilities, inspiring each and every child to reach true academic brilliance. By embracing the role that Willow Primary Academy plays within the wider community, fostering positive partnerships with parents in and beyond the walls of the school – into the streets, into the town and far beyond – the school ensures children can take PRIDE in all they do.

## READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

We believe that we have created a friendly, caring and supportive environment that encourages our children to fully learn and develop into well-rounded pupils ready for the challenge of the 21st century. Our children are very happy and feel safe in school. Our exceptionally talented staff team use all their expertise and experience to extend learning, creating challenges in a broad and balanced, experience-rich curriculum.

## THE CURRICULUM IS DIVIDED INTO THREE STAGES:

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

We provide a creative curriculum based around the Cornerstones Curriculum, a nationally recognised approach for delivering outstanding learning opportunities for children. We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our curriculum provides lots of learning challenges throughout

the academic year that requires children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across different subjects and topics.

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on core and specific areas of learning:

### The prime areas of learning:

- Communication and language.
- Physical development.
- Personal, social and emotional development.

### The specific areas of learning:

- Literacy.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding the world.
- Expressive arts and design.

### The learning characteristics:

- Playing and exploring.
- Active learning.
- Creating and thinking critically.

## KEY STAGES 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

1. Mathematics.
2. Reading, Writing and Communication.
3. Science.
4. Computing.
5. Design and Technology.
6. History.
7. Geography.
8. Art and Design.
9. Music.
10. Modern Foreign Languages.
11. Physical Education.
12. Religious Education.
13. Personal Development.



## MUSIC: A PASSION FOR CREATIVITY AND A LOVE OF MUSIC

The intent of the music curriculum at Willow Primary Academy is to inspire a passion for creativity and a love of music.

Every child is entitled to a high-quality music education that gives them the opportunity to learn to read music, play a variety of musical instruments, listen and watch high quality live music performances, compose their own music and perform to family and peers in and outside of school.

### Exciting music opportunities

Through our music curriculum we offer children the opportunity to develop a thorough understanding of music, through performing, composing, listening and analysing. They develop self-confidence through performance and we encourage creativity through composition skills. Music opens many doors for children to learn new skills and express their creativity.

# Enriched curriculum: trips and visitors, sport and P.E, and clubs

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

We have a very successful enrichment programme that draws upon a wide range of adult skills which is offered through school trips, visiting specialists and themed days and weeks. We provide pupils with a range of experiences to help extend their understanding of themselves and the world in which they live.

### Willows Wonders

We have created a list of Willow Wonders so that all pupils access these enriching and character-building activities before they leave Willow Primary Academy.

### Residential trip

Our Year 6 pupils also have the opportunity to experience a residential school trip.

## TRIPS

Examples of our trips include:

- Warwick Castle.
- The Tailor of Gloucester.
- Reading Festival
- Gloucester Cathedral.
- Visiting the Roman remains under Gloucester.
- Hiking up Robinswood Hill.

## THEMED WEEKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

We have themed weeks throughout the year. For example, 'Healthy Living Week' falls in January to help boost exercise and good nutrition. Year 6 pupils take part in an 'Enterprise Week' in the summer term, where they are given a budget which they can use to prepare items to sell at our after-school market.

Themed days are also incorporated into our curriculum such as World Maths Day.

## VISITORS

We have an interesting mix of visitors who come into school and provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and develop their confidence.

Recently a theatre company came into school to perform the pantomime Snow White. Other visitors include:

- Religious visitors.
- Reading volunteers.
- Charity representatives.
- Emergency services.

## SPORT AND P.E.

We follow the National Curriculum for PE with each child encouraged to participate in at least two hours of physical activity each week.

### Sports Teacher and Sports Coach

We believe that Physical Education (PE), experienced in a safe and supportive environment, is essential to ensure children attain optimum physical and emotional development and good health. We deliver high-quality teaching and learning opportunities that inspire all children to succeed in physical education and in developing life skills.

### Safety

We want to teach children skills to keep them safe, such as being able to swim. We also want to teach children how to cooperate and collaborate with others as part of an effective team, understanding fairness and equity of play to embed life-long values. Our curriculum aims to improve the wellbeing and fitness of all children, not only through the sporting skills taught, but through the underpinning values and disciplines PE promotes.



## WIDE RANGE OF CLUBS

We have an extensive range of lunchtime and after school clubs. Examples include:

- Football.
- Netball.
- Running.
- Singing.
- Construction.
- Junk modelling.
- Drama.

# Inclusion: a curriculum for all

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Willow Primary Academy is an inclusive school. We have significant strengths working with children with special needs. We welcome pupils with disabilities or learning difficulties if we are deemed to be the most appropriate school and places are available. All our pupils are valued members of our school and accept each other regardless of needs and differences.

A child has Special Educational Needs if he or she has learning or physical difficulties that call for special educational provision to be made.

As part of Willow Primary Academy, we are delighted to host The Piper Centre which is specialist resource centre. To access this provision children must have an EHCP and be referred by the Local Authority. A place at Willow Primary Academy does not increase chances of a place at The Piper Centre.

### How accessible is the school environment?

Our school is fully accessible, and we work to encourage independence in all our pupils.

## 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. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area.



# Admissions and getting involved

## ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

### Reception intake

Gloucestershire County Council coordinates Reception stage admissions for all Gloucester primary schools.

### Transfer during the academic year

If you have a child who would like to transfer to our school from another school, please make an appointment to have a look around and we will be delighted to give you a tour and advise you about our 'in year' application process.

### Application Process

- The closing date for September applications is in mid-January of that year.
- Application forms can be found on our website.
- You will be notified of your child's placement by the following April.

Contact details for the Gloucester County Council School Admissions Team

- Address: The Admissions Team, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG.
- Tel: 01452 425407
- Email: [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- Web: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/>

## GETTING INVOLVED

### Voluntary helpers

We always welcome volunteers from our school and wider community to help with activities such as school visits, or supporting children in class etc. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or the school office for more information.

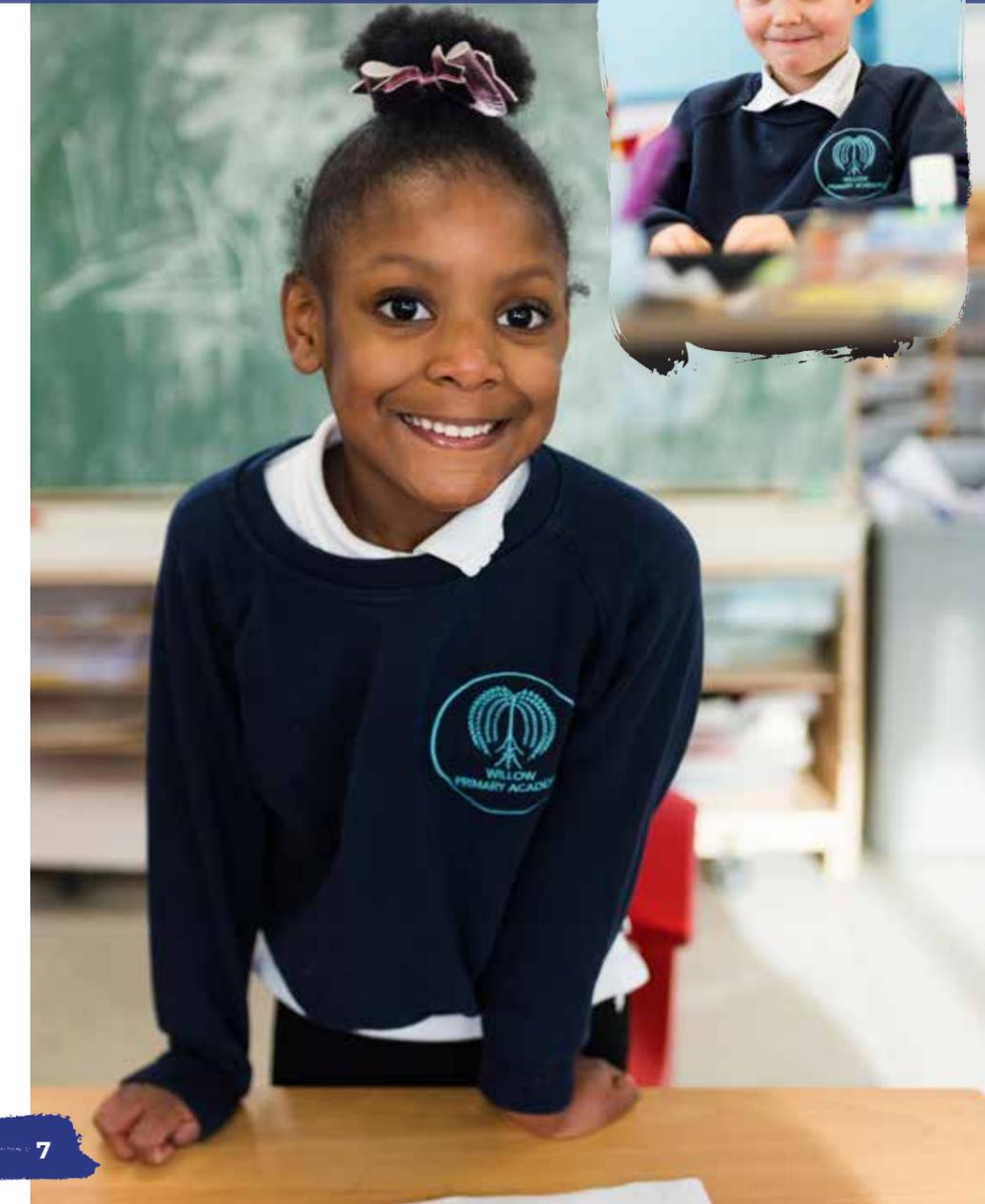
### The Friends of Willow

The Friends of Willow are an active group of staff and parents who work together to organise events which generate additional income for the school and create a sense of community. Their support is invaluable as they provide the special 'added extras' that help make our children's experiences joyful and memorable.

### Governorship

Local Advisory Boards are a key part of the governance structure within SAND Academies Trust and are integral to supporting the vision for the Trust in ensuring the individual identity of each school.

The Trust Board is the accountable body and has ultimate responsibility for the strategic functions of governance. They ensure there is clarity of vision, that responsibility is taken for the performance of the school and that the school is financially stable.



# OUR VALUES, ETHOS AND VISION

Our school empowers all children to fulfil their true potential by fostering their love of learning; nurturing their personal development; and enabling them to feel proud of their own achievements.

Willow Primary Academy's mascot 'Willow the Lion' is linked to our school emblem, a willow tree. Willow embodies our overarching school value of PRIDE.

Our school empowers all children to fulfil their true potential by fostering their love of learning; nurturing their personal development; and enabling them to feel proud of their own achievements.

We are a centre of PRIDE

- **Positivity:** Encouraging others, having hope and staying happy.
- **Respect:** Treating each other fairly and our belongings with care.
- **Individuality:** Developing independence and celebrating uniqueness whilst treating all equally.
- **Determination:** Developing independence and celebrating uniqueness whilst treating all equally.
- **Excellence:** Trying our best in everything we do, especially our work.



Adults and pupils at Willow Primary Academy are expected to show the following PRIDE values in all they do.

PRIDE also expresses how stakeholders at Willow feel about everything that happens at our school. Adults will model our school mission statement – 'Taking PRIDE in all we do' – and this mind-set will be expected of the children and parents too.

In addition to our own personal values we also recognise the importance of:

- **SMSC** – We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.
- **British Values** – We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.

## Our Aims

Our aim is to make every one of our pupils feel valued and successful, to achieve and understand themselves as individuals. The children are at the heart of everything we do, developing academically and socially in our friendly environment which offers safety and security whilst nurturing confidence and independence.

The overarching aims of our school enable children to:

- Be confident individuals who lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives (Individuality).
- Be successful learners who enjoy learning, build progressively on acquired knowledge and skills and develop effective learning behaviours (Excellence).
- Develop inquisitive minds and resilient attitudes in order to reach their full potential (Determination).
- Be responsible citizens who make positive contributions to society with high aspirations and ambitions (Respect).
- Create happy memories (Positivity).



## Willow Primary Academy

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