



Holly Hill Church School

Live life in all its fullness

Please God,
Help us to do all
the good we can,
In all the ways we can,
In all the places we can,
To all the people we can,
As long as ever we can.
Amen



Welcome to Holly Hill Church School



Mark Carr, Headteacher, says:

I am really pleased to welcome you to our fantastic school. At the heart of Holly Hill is our vision - 'Life in all its fullness' - and we firmly believe that we can achieve it when we live a life that is enabled to flourish. Our vision is our passion and driving force and is at the centre of all the decisions we make.

Happy and nurturing

Holly Hill is a Methodist and Anglican school that sits in South Birmingham. Our most recent OFSTED inspection graded us as a good school where 'We work as one, no child is left behind.' Our last Church School Inspection said that we are 'A beacon of hope, love and faith in the community'. We are a happy and nurturing school where our 12 Christian Values enable our children to learn and grow. We are very proud of all our children and strive to provide them with the best possible start in life.

A firm foundation

Our curriculum is bold and ambitious. Reading is at the heart of it, as we believe that it provides the mirrors, windows and doors into learning. It develops the children's vocabulary, imagination and creativity and will provide them with a firm foundation in their learning journey. Learning about inspirational people encourages our children to go out into the world and make it a better place.

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

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.

Part of the community

We are proud of our school and children and work hard to be a big part of the community. Relationships are the key to our success, and we welcome you to come and get to know us better; visitors are always welcome. If you would like to find out anything else or arrange a visit, please let us know. Contact us on 0121 675 8700 or email enquiry@hollyhill.bham.sch.uk.



Zidan is benefitting from the multicultural and supportive environment of Holly Hill Church School

Kulvinder lives with her two sons, six-year-old Zidan, who is in Year 1, and Zakariyya, who will soon be starting Reception.

Playing with friends and learning

Starting school can be a daunting experience for any child, but Zidan has truly flourished at Holly Hill Church School. Kulvinder shares: "He really enjoys it. He wasn't sure at first, but he settled in, and he's doing really well.

He really enjoys playing with his friends and learning. He likes reading and knows how to read a difficult book."

The nurturing environment and supportive teaching staff have played a significant role in Zidan's smooth transition and academic success. "Their way of teaching really works, and they've given him a lot of confidence to learn," Kulvinder adds.

Engaging in extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities are a great part of school life, and Zidan has taken full advantage of the opportunities available at Holly Hill, which help him build social skills and explore new interests. Kulvinder notes: "He's enjoyed doing Lego Club and Arts and Crafts in the past."

Holly Hill also offers numerous workshops throughout the year involving students and parents. "They have five or six workshops a year going on that the parents can get involved with, such as reading, RE, etc.," Kulvinder explains.

Overcoming challenges

Like many children, Zidan faced challenges in his early school years, particularly with confidence. However, the dedicated teachers at Holly Hill have been instrumental in helping him overcome these obstacles. Kulvinder shares, "The teachers have really helped grow his confidence. He wasn't very confident in Reception, but they've really helped him to progress."

Celebrating diversity and inclusion

One of Holly Hill Church School's standout features is its commitment to multiculturalism and inclusivity. Kulvinder appreciates the school's open and accepting environment, stating, "It's multicultural. They do RE on different religions and what they celebrate; it's open to everybody."

She further elaborates on the importance of this diversity: "Some other Christian schools have to go to church and all this stuff, but this isn't Holly Hill's culture. Asian people should trust the school and send their children there without having any doubts."

Kulvinder also addresses common misconceptions among local parents, saying, "I've spoken to other local parents that want to move to more Asian communities because they believe it will be better for their children, but that's not the case. The school is brilliant for education, and it's definitely multicultural, and more people should understand that."

Instilling good values and celebrating achievements

Holly Hill Church School places a strong emphasis on teaching good values and recognising student achievements. Kulvinder shares: "The children are being taught good values, and they are celebrated with certificates on a Friday. My son was even rewarded one for drawing a family picture. I've never seen other schools do that type of thing."

Looking ahead

As Zakariyya prepares to join his brother at Holly Hill, Kulvinder is confident in the school's ability to provide a supportive and enriching environment for both of her children. With its dedicated staff, inclusive community, and commitment to fostering academic and personal growth, Holly Hill Church School has proven to be an excellent choice for Zidan and his family.

Children say:

Zidan says: "I enjoy playing with my friends in the playground and taking part in the activities in class."



School day: settling in



Our school hours

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 the school day begins at 8.30am and ends at 3.10pm. Nursery hours are 8.30am to 3.00pm.

Extended school provision

We are pleased to be able to offer before and after school care, starting at 7.30am for Breakfast Club, and until 5.30pm after school. In the morning, children are provided with breakfast and a drink and after school, a drink and a snack.

Uniform

We are proud of our smart school uniform and believe that wearing it encourages a sense of belonging to our school family. Uniform items can be purchased from our authorised suppliers, or the school sells jumpers, cardigans, books bags and PE bags at a reduced cost - please speak to the office for prices and details. Pre-loved uniform is also available free of charge from Rubery Swop Shop.

School meals

The main aims of our school food policy are to enable pupils to make healthy food choices through the provision of information and development of appropriate skills and attitudes, and to provide healthy food choices throughout the school day. All our school meals are provided by a contracted caterer who has a healthy-food policy as part of their tender. Where possible this includes the use of fresh fruit and vegetables each day as a choice for the children. They provide a hot and cold option, both of which pay regard to nutritional balance and healthy options.

Drinks

All Nursery and Reception children receive free milk. Milk and juice can be purchased for all children who attend Holly Hill and is available to them at break and lunch times.

Free school meals

All children at Holly Hill receive free school meals. However, we encourage parents to apply for free school meals through the local authority, as this provides additional funding for the school to use for the benefit of the children.



Jackson and Eli have flourished since starting at Holly Hill Church School

Kelly lives near Holly Hill Church School with her two sons, Jackson, aged seven, and Eli, aged five. Jackson is currently in Year 2, while Eli is in Reception.

Settling into school life

Kelly reflects on how her boys settled into school life: "At first, Jackson was a bit overwhelmed by it all, but he soon settled, and Eli did the same." Despite initial nerves, both boys have thrived at Holly Hill Church School, quickly adapting to their new environment.

Fostering a love for reading

Reading has become a significant part of their school experience, particularly igniting Eli's enthusiasm for it. Kelly shares: "They both enjoy reading. I've been reading to them from an early age, and Jackson was always an avid reader anyway. Eli wasn't that into it, but his reading has really taken off since starting school."

Embracing diverse subjects and extracurricular activities

The boys have varied interests, and Holly Hill supports them in exploring these: "They both enjoy maths. Jackson loves art and sports."

Extracurricular activities also play a crucial role in both boys' development, helping them learn new skills and make friends outside of the classroom. Kelly says: "They're both in Forest School and loved that. Jackson did dodgeball, which he also enjoyed along with Lego club."

Supportive and approachable teachers

Kelly speaks highly of the teachers at Holly Hill Church School: "I've got a great rapport with all of them. Every single one of them is fabulous. They're always waiting at the gate, always say good morning and good afternoon, and have a chat with us. Nothing's too much trouble for them."

Kelly is particularly impressed with the support provided to Jackson: "Jackson is awaiting assessment for autism, which was something I picked up on when he was at nursery, but I felt like I wasn't really listened to. I noticed he was struggling with emotions more than other children. He's very academic and bright but has struggled with his feelings. I spoke to his Reception teacher about it, and she pointed me in the right direction. We're now on the waiting list, but it was nice to know that the support was there when I felt nobody else was listening."

Preparing for the future

The school has also been instrumental in helping Jackson prepare for his transition to junior school. Kelly shares: "He recently had his transition day for junior school and was a bit upset and overwhelmed by the idea of attending a bigger school. Since then, his teacher has talked to him, and he's been fine since."

Instilling strong values

Kelly appreciates the values taught at Holly Hill: "The values they teach there are wonderful. It is a religious school, and I'm not particularly religious, but I do like the values they teach the children. My children are polite, their manners are impeccable, and they learn patience and kindness."

"They deeply care about all the children. I've never seen a child upset going to school; they all run into school in the morning," Kelly adds.

A nurturing and inspiring environment

Kelly praises the overall environment at Holly Hill Church School: "It's hard to describe just how lovely a place it is. The children absorb what they've learnt in school and bring it home with them. On the academic side, my children have flourished since they started school. Their reading is ten out of ten. They learn about all these inspirational people, and the things they come home and tell me are brilliant."

Kelly adds: "I'm sad it's only an infant school. Jackson will be leaving soon, and I'm really sad about it. The teachers are amazing. I couldn't recommend it more."

Children say:

Jackson says: "I love doing art. My school is really cool."

Eli says: "I love maths and seeing the caterpillars turn into butterflies. I really like my school."



Curriculum: developing skills and broadening knowledge

Topic based

We deliver the Curriculum throughout Early Years and Key Stage 1 using an aspirational topic-based approach based on significant people, whilst retaining discrete subject teaching.

Nursery and Reception

In Nursery and Reception, children have daily opportunities to develop their skills and broaden their knowledge in the following areas:

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

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, Reading, Writing, Phonics and Maths are taught daily. Religious Education, PSHE (including Community inspired project work) and Physical Education, Art, Design Technology, History, Music, Geography, Computing and Science are taught weekly. Subject content is linked to the termly theme that is based on people who changed the world and made it a better place.

Current and relevant

Our curriculum has been designed to take in to account the specific needs of our children and community. As a staff team, we regularly review our topics and content, considering the views of pupils, through Pupil Conferencing. This ensures that our learning is current and relevant to meet the needs of our children.

Embedding knowledge

Holly Hill has a mastery approach to the curriculum which provides opportunities for our children to revisit learning to consolidate and deepen their knowledge and skills. This allows learning to be committed to long term memory. We also use retrieval practice to recall key information to ensure that learning becomes embedded. Progression is mapped across the Key Stages to ensure fluency and the deepening of learning. This allows children to master and build upon skills over time in a variety of different contexts.



Toby's confidence has grown immensely at Holly Hill Church School

Tina lives with her seven-year-old son, Toby, who is in Year Two at Holly Hill Church School.

A positive start

Starting school can be a daunting experience for many children, but Toby's transition to Holly Hill Church School was remarkably smooth. Tina recalls: "I was expecting his first day to be difficult, thinking he'd cling to me. But he went straight in and wasn't bothered at all when I left him. It was such a relief."

Nurturing a love for learning

Toby has developed a keen interest in various subjects, with a particular passion for maths. Tina shares: "He loves maths. He always says, 'Mummy, give me some quick math questions.' It's wonderful to see his enthusiasm for learning."

In addition to his academic interests, Toby has participated in extracurricular activities that he thoroughly enjoys, supporting both his physical and social skills. "He's done dodgeball in the past and Forest School, which he absolutely loved," says Tina.

Friendly and approachable staff

One of the standout features of Holly Hill Church School is its dedicated and approachable teaching staff. Tina recalls her first impressions: "Even on our first look around when Toby was three, the teachers were really approachable and friendly. Every morning, when you drop your child off, they're willing to talk to you. You're not rushed away; they listen and are very welcoming."

The teachers' commitment to the students extends beyond the classroom. Tina explains: "They have been fantastic in supporting Toby's confidence. He has always struggled with expressing himself, knowing what he wants to say, but lacking the confidence to put his hand up. The teachers have noticed when he's struggling and have gone over to offer a little extra support. One of the older teachers explained it to him in a way that he understood, calling it 'brain soup' when he gets flustered and muddles things up."

Learning to express feelings

Holly Hill Church School also provides exceptional support for students' emotional wellbeing. Tina shares an example of how the school has helped Toby manage change: "Recently, they had an outside agency come in to work with some of the Year Twos who are moving to a new school. They did art-based work around emotions and feelings.

Toby just saw it as art and drawing, but it was really about helping them express their emotions. He came home and talked all about it. It's really helped him to express how he's feeling."

Happy and engaged children

For Tina, the most reassuring aspect of Toby's school experience is his happiness. "The main thing for me is how happy he is there. He enjoys it so much that he's counting down the days until he goes back. That's a massive reassurance for me. If he didn't want to be there, I'd be concerned, but he's so happy and enjoys it. I haven't got a bad word to say about the school. I'm gutted he's leaving."

Living the school's values

Tina is also impressed by how Holly Hill Church School implements its values. "They have a list of values such as honesty, love, respect, and patience. Every Monday, they have an assembly focusing on a specific value, and on Friday, two children from each classroom receive a certificate based on that value. Parents are invited to watch, which is lovely. Toby brings these values home and talks about them with his little sister. It's a wonderful way of teaching the children to live by these values."

Supporting advanced learning

Toby's love for learning is strongly supported by the school. "He's always asking for more work to do at home, whether it's maths questions or other activities. The school recognises his capabilities and keeps challenging him. Even in nursery, he was given Reception books to read. They encourage him to keep progressing to higher levels, which is fantastic."

Children say:

Toby says: "What I enjoy the most about Holly Hill is working with all the teachers and the different people you meet and all the school trips we go on."



Enriched curriculum: visits, clubs, music and PE

Educational visits

We make every effort to provide the children with experiences outside the classroom and regularly organise visits out of school. These include:

- Botanical gardens.
- Cadbury World.
- Bishop's Wood.
- Birmingham Cathedral.
- Local churches.
- Christmas Pantomime at the theatre in Year 1 and 2
- Christmas treats for Reception and Year 1.

Clubs

After school clubs are run on site by our staff. These are subject to change depending on the time of year but typically include:

- Lego.
- Gardening.
- Multi sports.
- Dance.
- Craft.
- Messy church.

P.E. and sport

The children are taught PE by their class teacher and we a specialist trained sports coach. The children are taught a range of different skills during their time at Holly Hill and are also provided with lots of physical activities during playtimes and lunchtimes.



Alisha and Arthur are both thriving at Holly Hill Church School with the exceptional support and dedicated staff

Hayley lives with her two children, Alisha, aged seven, who is in Year 2, and Arthur, aged six, who is in Year 1.

Settling into school life

Transitioning to school can be challenging, especially for children with additional needs. Hayley recalls Alisha's initial days: "Because Alisha has Cerebral Palsy, she was still using her knees now and again to get around when she first started the nursery.

She had Miss Andrews, who was very helpful, and she got on with her really well."

Arthur also adapted well to the school environment. The staff's understanding and accommodating nature have helped both children feel at ease. Hayley says: "Arthur has one-to-one support sometimes, which has been really beneficial for him."

Enjoying school activities

Both Alisha and Arthur have found joy in different aspects of school life. Hayley shares: "Alisha loves the staff and her classmates. Her teachers understand her needs and have helped her a lot, such as teaching her how to tie her laces and allowing her to stay inside with a friend when her legs hurt."

Arthur, on the other hand, thrives during playtime. "Activity-wise, Arthur loves playtime, so he loves going outside. He's undergoing tests for autism and ADHD," Hayley explains. "Even though he hasn't been officially diagnosed yet, the school has already put support measures in place to help him."

Additional support for Alisha

Alisha requires extra support due to her condition. "She uses a wheelchair and sometimes needs help walking because of her poor balance," says Hayley. "The staff also chop her dinner food into smaller pieces to prevent choking, and they adapt their teaching methods because of her global developmental delay, which can affect her ability to absorb information."

The school's personalised approach has made a significant difference: "They've got to know her so well that they can tell when she's struggling," Hayley notes.

Tailored activities and clubs

Alisha and Arthur both enjoy various activities and clubs at Holly Hill Church School. "Alisha loves art, and the school ensures that PE activities are adapted to her needs," says Hayley.

"Arthur struggles to sit still, so for subjects like maths, the teachers let him do a jigsaw puzzle first and then return to his maths work, helping him to focus better."

Supportive and approachable staff

Hayley is particularly impressed with the school's staff and their communication. "You can approach all the staff, and they communicate really well. They're very accepting of children with different disabilities. Alisha wasn't fully walking when she started, but they still accepted her," she says.

The school's commitment to inclusivity extends to the parents as well. "I'm autistic myself, and they communicate with me so well. If I have any worries or questions, they're always there to help," Hayley adds.

Hayley appreciates the personal touches from the staff. "Alisha really wanted to show her teacher her dance costume, so I spoke with Mr Carr, and they allowed her to go in ten minutes early to show her class teacher. You don't get many schools that are like that," she shares.

A welcoming and inclusive community

Holly Hill Church School fosters a strong sense of community. "The SENCo team is amazing, and there's always a member of staff at the gate in the mornings that you can talk to and ask any questions. If they can't answer it immediately, they'll look into it and get back to you," says Hayley.

The school's dedication to providing exceptional support and creating an inclusive environment has made a significant impact on Hayley's family. "I feel at ease knowing that my children are well cared for and supported. It's a wonderful place for any child to grow and learn," she concludes.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

In our school we make provision for pupils with special educational needs. We know that some pupils will have difficulties in more than one area, and we will always do our best to meet their needs. Support will be based on the specific needs of each pupil.

Assessing need

In school we use a variety of different ways to assess whether a child has special educational needs. Some of these ways include:

- Observations.
- School based test results.
- Information from parents and carers.
- Information from the child.
- Specialised assessments carried out by members of the school's support services.
- Information from previous schools or settings.
- Results from end of key stage assessments.
- Discussions with adults who work with the child.

Once a child is identified as having a special educational need, a graduated approach to support is taken. The child or young person's needs will first be assessed, then support will be planned, carried out and then reviewed. At the review any necessary changes will be made.

More able children

Children identified as working above the expected standard in any area of learning are provided with opportunities develop these talents in a range of different ways. Children's attainment at Greater Depth is regularly in line or above the national average.



Corey's speech has significantly improved since joining Holly Hill Church School

Sophie lives in Birmingham with her six-year-old son, Corey, who is in Year 1 at Holly Hill Church School.

Finding the right environment

Settling into school can be challenging for any child, and for Corey, it was initially overwhelming due to his autism. Sophie recalls: "It was a bit of a big environment for him at first because he's autistic. But now he's in the right environment in Blossom Class, where they learn in a smaller group setting." This class has provided Corey with the support he needs to thrive.

Enjoying school activities

Corey has a variety of interests that he gets to explore at school: "He's enjoying his painting, his sensory play, and he loves music and being around his friends," says Sophie. Blossom Class offers a tailored environment where children like Corey can engage in activities that are suited to their needs. "He's made friends now he's in his own classroom with other children like him," Sophie adds.

Favourite subjects

When it comes to subjects, Corey especially loves heuristic play: "Heuristic play is where he's learning to discover things, matching one thing to another and placing them in order," explains Sophie. Additionally, Corey is making great strides with phonics: "He's especially enjoying learning his supersonic phonics," she says.

Supportive and engaged teachers

One of Holly Hill Church School's standout features is its dedicated and supportive teaching staff. Sophie speaks especially highly of Mrs O'Neill and Ms McIlwain: "I speak to Mrs O'Neill and Ms McIlwain if I need any help. They're both very good. When Corey started school, it was a bit hit-and-miss, but he just needed the right support. My partner and I cannot fault them. Corey has come on so much within a year. Before school, we struggled to get words out of him, but now he's talking."

The teachers' commitment extends beyond the classroom: "They even offer courses. I've gone to school three times to do different courses to help me understand my little boy. They offer it to parents of children with additional needs. They have a speech therapist, too, so we've had lessons with the actual speech therapist working with our child as well," explains Sophie.

Holistic support for Corey

The school provides holistic support tailored to Corey's needs: "If Corey is having a day where he doesn't want to go to school, they help with that.

They're not forcing him, and they let him have his little runabout in the morning, which helps," Sophie shares. The school also accommodates Corey's dietary preferences, allowing Sophie to bring in certain foods while still encouraging him to try school meals.

Due to Holly Hill's proximity to the secondary school, they are flexible with Corey's school day: "They let him finish slightly early so he can get home without getting upset," Sophie notes.

A welcoming community

Holly Hill Church School fosters a welcoming and inclusive community. Sophie appreciates the personalised attention from the staff: "The headteacher and assistant headteacher, Mr Carr and Mrs O'Neill, stand at the school gates. Mr Carr knows every child's name, and his understanding of every child is amazing. It's so welcoming."

There's a strong sense of community, as Sophie explains: "You feel so welcomed and get plenty of support. You go in with a problem, and you know they'll help you."

Holly Hill's commitment also extends to supporting families with future planning, including finding additional needs schools for Corey once he finishes at Holly Hill.

Recommendation to other parents

For parents considering Holly Hill Church School, Sophie offers her heartfelt recommendation: "I only know about the Blossom Class, but my niece also goes to the school. Each classroom seems like its own little family; they're all there to support each other."

Children say:

On behalf of Corey, Sophie says: "Through Corey's reactions and excitement, I know playing outside is his favourite thing about school. He also enjoys having attention and being praised by teachers when he's done something good".



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions

We are able to admit 60 pupils to each year group. Children are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year before their fifth birthday. Where the number of applications is lower than the school's admission number, all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, then all applications received by the Local Authority's designated closing date for receipt of applications will be considered, together and one at a time by the Governing Body's Admissions Committee.

This is a Christian school, supported by the Methodist Church and the Church of England, that sets out to serve the whole community. We welcome children from all sections of the community, including those whose families attend a Christian church alongside those of other faith communities or none.

Applications for a place in Reception are to be made by completing an on-line form at: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Applications made outside the normal admissions round (in-year admissions) should be made directly to the school. Parent/carers can apply for a place for their child at any time and to any school.

Transition to Junior School

We have close links with Reaside Junior Academy and children in Year 2 are given the chance to attend assemblies and other visits to the school to introduce them to the next stage in their education. Staff from Reaside also visit Holly Hill to talk to the children and help them prepare for transition.

Getting involved

Governors

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, staff, church and the local community. They work closely with the staff and senior leadership team to support the school and plan and monitor its strategic direction.

PTA

We do not currently have a parent/teacher association. If any parent is willing to set up such a thing, please let us know! A PTA can be of great help in raising additional funds for the school, and to provide extra entertainment and fun activities for the children and families.

Voluntary helpers

We value the contribution of parents, and we actively encourage your help during the school day. Parents and families can help with a variety of activities. We accept all help gratefully and should you wish to help please contact the school office.



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Our values

Our ethos is based on our 12 Christian values:



It is within our Christian ethos that this vision has been developed and will be implemented.