



# Whitton Community Primary School

We aspire, We enjoy, We respect, We collaborate, We challenge, We grow





# Welcome to Whitton Community Primary School

**Foreword: Headteacher, Bridget Burke**  
It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school.

**Aiming high**  
We provide an inspiring, happy and stimulating environment for the children in our school. We want to ignite a love of learning within our pupils, and for them to benefit from becoming lifelong learners. We have high aspirations and aim for all of our pupils to achieve their best.

**Creative curriculum**  
As Whitton Primary is an Academy we do not need to follow the National Curriculum for all subjects. Instead we have designed our own skills and knowledge based curriculum which we feel will be interesting, exciting and relevant to our pupils and give them the skills they will need to be good citizens of the future.

**Dedicated staff**  
I am also very proud of our highly experienced , energetic and dedicated staff, who collaborate as a team to ensure the highest possible academic standards for children. Building good relationships between staff, parents and pupils is very important and we are all an integral part of your child's learning journey. We work to promote positive attitudes and move forward together to prepare our pupils for their future lives in and out of school.

**Parent partnership**  
Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! Our vision is to be part of a strong school community where we celebrate the relationships and contributions of staff, parents,

governors and children as a whole school community. This is evident through extra-curricular activities, PTA events and our parent partnerships during the school day.

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 would urge you to visit our amazing school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please call the school office on 01473 741480.





### Ipswich Primary Academies Trust

We are a member of Ipswich Primary Academies Trust. Initially centred in Ipswich, the Trust is a group of Suffolk schools aiming to make a real difference to education in our local area. Bringing together our skills and expertise, as well as learning from the best practice nationwide, our vision is to create a hub of outstanding practice in teaching and learning, and provide real opportunities for children in Suffolk...that help them to achieve the best outcomes possible!





## School day

The school gates open for the start of the school day at 8.50am. School finishes at 3.00pm for Key Stage 1 and 3.05pm for Key Stage 2.

Morning sessions in nursery start at 8.45am and finish at 11.45am. Early week block sessions 8.45am - 2.45pm (Monday and Tuesday) and 8.45am - 11.45am (Wednesday).

### Wraparound clubs

We have a Breakfast Club which runs from 8.00am each morning.

### Uniform

We expect to see all children in a school uniform. This ensures the children look smart, which in turn, encourages them to take pride in their school and approach learning in the right frame of mind. A school uniform helps promote a sense of belonging and community. Jumpers, book bags and PE bags with the school logo are for sale in the school office.

### School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of a hot or cold nutritious meal from the on-site kitchen or bringing a packed lunch into school. Free school meals are available for Reception and Key Stage 1 children, and to those older children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

### Break-time and drinks

Children throughout the school have a free piece of fruit each day which they eat at morning break time. Children are encouraged to bring a plastic bottle into school that can be filled from the water fountains provided and used throughout the day. It has been proven that if children have regular access to water during the day they are more able to concentrate.

Milk is provided free to pupils at lunchtime.



# Kelly and Laurie appreciate the way Whitton Primary School is **effectively** and **sensitively** supporting their family's needs

## Immediately impressed

Kelly and Laurie moved to Ipswich two years ago and were immediately impressed by Whitton Primary School. "It was so green with great facilities and looked really child friendly. As you came into the school, it had a very nice feeling and was welcoming. The fact it was the closest to us was a bonus. We couldn't have asked for a nicer school for Louie and Mia," says Kelly.

## Attentive to children's needs

Kelly has found the teachers very attentive to her children's needs. "They linked Mia up with another girl so she had someone to spend time with at break time, which really helped her to settle. Within a week, Mia loved school and was glad we had moved, which was great."

Kelly has also been impressed with the dedicated staff and their caring, patient nature. Louie is on the autistic spectrum and when he first started in nursery at Whitton Primary School he wasn't speaking at all. "He started talking within the first six months and has really come out of his shell during the short time he's been at the school. They're always looking at ways of getting around Louie's struggles, which I really like."

## Dedicated staff

According to Kelly, Louie has created strong bonds with some of the teaching staff. "One of his old nursery teachers gives up her lunch time voluntarily to help Louie with the lunchtime routine. I think it's wonderful she wants to support him through his Reception year."

## Identifying needs

Louie is high functioning so the school is working on building his confidence without a full time one-to-one teaching assistant. "It would be wrong to go down that route with Louie because he doesn't need it and he would become dependent on that person, so I feel the school are working in his best interests."

"Louie has sensory issues and will have emotional outbursts; the school has a room which contains lots of soft things like bean bags and soft toys and is a safe, calming place where he can go. Staff have worked very closely with me so that they know what he likes most and how to work with him to calm him down."

## Excellent support

Kelly adds; "We've seen some really positive changes in Louie whilst at Whitton. His teacher is excellent in supporting the work of the speech language therapist and his speech is now progressing."

"I feel they're very good at staying one step ahead of Louie in terms of his needs and his behaviour, which is exactly what he needs."

## Someone to talk to

Laurie was diagnosed with Leukemia shortly after moving to Ipswich. To help support Mia, Kelly asked the school for someone Mia could speak to. "Without family close by, I felt it was important for her to have an adult outside of the family that she could talk to about how she was feeling. They were very approachable and Mia visits a dedicated staff member each week. I think it's a friendly, relaxed, supportive environment which is helping her to deal with and to understand the emotions she has surrounding her dad's health."

## Working together

Regular Common Assessment Framework (CAF) meetings are held at the school to support the family. "We get together and talk about the children and what we can do to make their lives better. A lot of communication takes place, which I love. I think it's so important because you're handing the care of your children over to the school each day."

## A school you can trust

Kelly adds; "We're incredibly grateful to the school for the time they have set aside for us. I trust them with my children, which is a reassuring and a lovely feeling."

Kelly Waters and Laurie Scowen live in Ipswich with their children Louie, 5 in Reception and Mia, 11 in Year 6.



## Children say:

**Mia says:** "I was impressed by the way I was integrated into the school. I felt at ease within a week! I also like how school tries to make every child feel equal and how very quickly they recognise bullying and act upon it."





# Creative curriculum

To help pupils further engage with learning, and absolutely enjoy discovering about the world around them, we have developed our own curriculum. 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

## Jigsaw words

The content of our curriculum is loosely based on the national curriculum, but introduces a broader array of local, national and international study and encourages pupils to build study and work-place skills. We put the six 'jigsaw' words at the top of the page at the heart of everything we provide in our curriculum.



## Topics and themes

In each year group, children's learning is organised under a broad topic or theme, and we immerse our classrooms in the theme to make them absorbing and stimulating places to learn. We try to link as much learning together as possible to make school time a fun and interesting experience. English and Maths as well as reading/phonics are likely to be taught as stand-alone lessons although will be linked to the topic/theme as much as possible. We use 'letters and sounds' for our phonics and use a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction for our reading - these are grouped into coloured 'bands' for pupils beginning reading.

## Accelerated Reader

Once children are more confident, books are grouped into Accelerated Reader bands and each book has an online quiz to complete at the end to help children to improve their comprehension skills.

## Philosophy

We also provide opportunities for children to develop their skills creatively, for example in drama and philosophy.

## Languages

We study two Modern Foreign Languages - French in Years 3 and 4 and Spanish in Years 5 and 6. Children learn basic vocabulary and simple rules through a combination of taught units and by using across the curriculum from Year 3-6.

# Changing schools can be a **big step**, but Kirsty and Julian have **no regrets** in moving their children to Whitton Primary School

## The right school

Kirsty and Julian moved to the area in January 2015. Whilst a different school is closer to their home address, they chose Whitton Primary School for their family after doing lots of online research and receiving positive recommendations from family members. "The Ofsted report impressed us and we have nieces at the school who have both done very well. When we viewed the school, we were really impressed with it. It just felt like the right school for our children."

## Warm, welcoming and friendly

Whitton Primary School has shone for Kirsty from the very first day. "Both children have settled in very well. For Sienna, moving to a new school could have been very daunting but the staff at Whitton Primary School are very warm, welcoming and friendly. Imogen's teacher buddied her up with another girl on her very first day, so that she had someone who would take her under their wing, show her how everything worked in the school and look after her at break times. I think it really helped Imogen to feel welcome and for the environment to feel less intimidating," says Kirsty.

## A positive move

Delighted, Kirsty feels Imogen is thriving at Whitton Primary School. "Imogen had a large group of friends at her previous school so we always felt it was going to be a big move for her. We knew the school was what we were looking for, so we felt it was worth taking the risk and are thrilled at how well she has settled in. The children have the same caring ethos the teachers do and she felt welcomed immediately. It's been an incredibly positive move."

## A faultless teaching team

Kirsty believes the teachers at Whitton are brilliant. "I really can't fault them. You feel that they really care about their students and their education. Sienna was dipping a little in terms of where she should be with her phonics. They came and spoke to me about her progress and we've been given some extra work to do at home with some flashcards which have really helped. I think the staff

have been excellent at identifying any possible issues early and addressing them quickly; we've really appreciated that. They guide the children and ensure they're heading in the right direction."

## A caring ethos

Kirsty believes the smaller class sizes at Whitton Primary School are a real positive of the school. "Imogen's class is much smaller than what she was used to. I think it gives teachers the chance to get to know the children really well. You get a real sense that they genuinely care about the children and their education. Smaller classes gives them a proper opportunity to identify individual strengths and to work with those. Imogen has been given extra homework to help stretch her further and to challenge her, which we think is really good."

## A receptive, approachable team

"If I've had any concerns about anything, I've always felt very able to discuss them. They're an approachable team who are very receptive to parent involvement and suggestion, which is really important when your children spend so much time at school."

## No regrets

Kirsty adds: "We've absolutely no regrets in moving to Whitton Primary School. It's such a friendly, welcoming school with an approachable team of staff. As a parent, I have felt welcomed into the school community in a way I've not experienced before. It's an inviting place for all of us and it really feels central to the local community. It's been a really positive experience for all of the family."

Kirsty Smith and her partner Julian Elliss live in Ipswich with their children Imogen, 9 in Year 4 and Sienna, 5 in Year 1 and Rhys, 3



## Children say:

Both Imogen and Sienna say: "We really like our teachers. They're friendly and very caring."





# Enriched curriculum: trips and visits

## Trips

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits which are connected with work in the classroom. We make visits locally and further afield and invite visitors into school from the wider community. Parents are encouraged to accompany us on these trips and all children should take part in them. Previous trips have included:

- Ipswich Town Football Club
- London
- Sutton Hoo
- Transport Museum
- Farm visits
- Orford
- Sea life centre
- Africa Alive Zoo
- Ipswich Museum
- River Deben
- Felixstowe



## Residential

Year 6 children have the opportunity to go on residential trips during the school year. These experiences can help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others. Children learn independence and develop confidence. Visits are generally financed through family contributions though low income families can apply for grants from the Northgate Foundation. The cost may be spread over the school year.

## Visitors

We arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists, musicians etc.



# Behaviour and self-development

## Support

We have high expectations of the children academically, socially and emotionally. We expect children to behave well and work hard within a supportive framework, which will help them to develop skills at the right level and as a foundation for their future lives.

## Confidence

We help the children to become confident and independent learners by talking to them about how they learn, creating a culture of 'having a go' and by encouraging their participation in setting their own targets.

## School rules and rewards

The whole aim of the behaviour system is as a positive approach and promoting good learning attitudes. Children can be awarded daily privilege cards for outstanding behaviour in the classroom or around the school. A maximum of one card can be awarded on any one day. Privilege time takes place on a Friday afternoon and is organised by class teachers or within teams. We also have bronze, silver and gold awards which the children can earn daily for excellent learning.

## School rules

- Be Responsible.
- Be Safe.
- Be Kind.

## Attendance

Evidence shows that children who attend well (96%+) are more successful at school. We monitor children's attendance very closely and have lots of rewards for individuals and for classes with great attendance records.





# Inclusion: a curriculum for all

At Whitton Community Primary School we are proud of our diverse community and are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and racism. Our school roll includes children with Special Educational Needs.

## Special Educational Needs

Whitton Community Primary School values the abilities and achievements of all of its pupils and is committed to providing each pupil the best possible environment for learning. The school aims to meet the individual needs of all children and to provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum. However, not all children learn in the same way, or at the same pace, and some children will need extra help and support with their learning.

### Extra support

If a child is identified as possibly having a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) then the child's class teacher or SEND Co-ordinator will discuss this with you. It may be that, in partnership with the school, you can help us to overcome the difficulties. If more help is needed, the school may ask for the advice of the Learning Support Advisory Service and other external agencies.

### Individual targets

In collaboration with the child and parents, the class teacher will set individual targets for the child based on their specific area of SEND. No decision about the special educational needs of a child, at any stage, is made without the knowledge and consent of the parents/ carers. The SEND Co-ordinator or class teacher is always pleased to discuss any concerns that you may have about your child's learning or progress.

### Access

Our school is on 2 floors and has some internal steps, however the building is fully accessible as we have a lift, external ramps to the building and mobile internal ramps for the steps inside.

## 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.

# Stacey is grateful to Whitton Primary School for their **nurturing** approach to **supporting** additional needs

Stacey Sadler lives in Ipswich with her children Martell, 18, and Connor, 9 in Year 4.

## Family connections

Stacey chose Whitton Primary School for Connor after remembering her own experiences fondly. "Both my brother and I went to Whitton Primary School as children. As we live local to Whitton, I thought it would be nice to continue with the family connection for Connor."

## So much to offer

Aside from family tradition, Stacey believes Whitton Primary School offers lots of strengths. "It's obviously close to home so is very convenient, but I like lots of what it offers. The security is very good; I know Connor is safe whilst he is there which is reassuring. The teachers are nice, the leadership team is great and the school offers really good support to those children who are less advantaged than others."

## Support for additional needs

When Connor first started nursery, Stacey and the staff noticed he was experiencing some difficulties interacting with other children. "The staff got him involved in 'Nurture Group'. Essentially, it's a group which teaches children how to mix with others and how to see things from other people's perspectives. It teaches them about emotions and generally nurtures them," explains Stacey.

## Dedicated staff

Connor suffers from epilepsy and was experiencing a number of absence seizures per day, which could often make him forget things. "When people remind him of things he can get embarrassed and frustrated. He was given a card and a password which provided him with access to the Nurture Group whenever he felt necessary; it's a dedicated area of the school where there is always someone who can support some time out. It would help Connor feel less frustrated and calmer, until he felt able to return to the classroom," explains Stacey. "He's now able to manage his emotions independently - I feel certain the Nurture Group has helped him to do this."

## Recognising when intervention is needed

As well as his epilepsy, Connor has Irlen Syndrome, a perceptual processing disorder which means he finds it difficult to undertake fine

vision tasks such as reading; the syndrome produces print distortion and rapid fatigue when reading. "The school was instrumental in recognising the difficulties Connor was experiencing and in getting him diagnosed. He wears glasses and has a special card, which the school has provided, which he puts over print to stop the words moving around. It's a new intervention but I think it's helping."

## A helpful, caring team

Stacey has always found the teaching staff to be very helpful. "They're really very good. They always write down any seizures he's had and the details that I need to know about them. They're fantastic and incredibly supportive. I think Whitton's very lucky to have dedicated staff who are trained in additional and special needs; it's meant Connor has received the level of support he has."

"And I know that Connor loves his teacher and finds him a very calming influence."

## A proactive approach

Stacey adds: "They approach any sort of problem with a can-do attitude, which I really like, and they're always quick to respond. Connor will happily approach staff himself now with any issues, which I think really shows how comfortable he feels around everyone."

## Positive changes

According to Stacey, she has seen a lot of changes in Connor during his time at Whitton Primary School. "He's definitely learned to manage his ups and his downs and he is learning to work with others, which never would have happened before the Whitton team stepped in."

Stacey adds: "I have no hesitation in recommending Whitton Primary School. The teachers are nice, friendly and really helpful. They offer lots of support and feedback and are very eager to work together, which I think is really important. I think it's a great school!"



## Children say:

**Connor says:** My favourite lessons at school are maths and english because I can see that I am getting better at them now!"



## Clubs

There are a wide variety of lunchtime and afterschool clubs for children to enjoy. Recent examples include:

- Football
- Netball
- Spanish
- Drama
- Coding
- Origami
- Dance
- News team
- Art
- Recorder.



### Sport

Whitton Community Primary School values the importance of PE very highly, with enjoyment in learning being our key aim and aspiration. We aim to incorporate breadth and balance within the PE curriculum and in this school.

#### Variety

Pupils enjoy a wide variety of sporting activities, games and clubs in many different sports. Children develop the sporting skills that they need now, and for the future. We use sports premium funding to enhance curricular and extracurricular opportunities. During Key Stage 2, Years 4-5 children are given the opportunity to learn to swim 25 metres.

### Art and music

Art is well resourced at Whitton and we are proud of our dedicated art room.

For children interested in music, we have a selection of percussion and tuned instruments which the children can use in activities such as composing, instrumental work, singing and listening. We also have access to the wider opportunities scheme enabling class groups of children to learn an instrument for a whole year. In the past the children have accessed guitars and flutes.

# Zoe believes Whitton Primary School is doing an excellent job of stretching children through the use of innovative and fun learning challenges

## The obvious choice

Zoe and her sister both went to Whitton Primary School so it was a school Zoe was very familiar with. "It's just around the corner from where we live and I'd continued to hear positive things about it, so it seemed the obvious choice for my family."

## Many strengths

Zoe has three children currently at the school and her eldest recently left for secondary school; she's also a parent governor, so she has lots of experience with Whitton Primary School. "I think it's a school with many strengths. Communication is certainly a strong point. They're very approachable and have an open door policy. It's very friendly and welcoming and somewhere the children are happy to be, which is so important."

"I think the thing that stands out most about school for my children, are the teachers. They all comment how much fun learning is at Whitton."

## Getting children involved

The Chilli Challenge is a system in place in Maths and English lessons to help the children participate in setting their own learning challenges. Zoe thinks it's a great idea and something her own children really enjoy getting involved with. "The children are asked to rate how they feel about the lesson, and how ready they feel for being challenged, from mild to spicy to hot. It's a good way for the teachers to understand how the children feel about the lesson and a great way for the children to communicate their understanding and comfort levels."

## Rewarding hard work and achievements

Zoe adds: "There's a lot of praise and encouragement within the Chilli Challenge from the teachers but ultimately it's about the children feeling comfortable and feeling able to move up to the next challenge in the following lesson."

There's also a house point system in place at Whitton which Zoe has found her children really like. "I think children are quite competitive and enjoy working for the benefit of their team. They're able to gain house points as part of a reward system and the House with the most points at the end of the term gets to enjoy a non-uniform day. The children love it and I think it's a good way to mark their achievements and hard work and to teach them about working together!"

## Making homework fun

Whitton Primary School's 'homework take away menu' is another innovative tool Zoe believes the school uses well to engage children in their learning. "It's a clever way of ensuring children are enthusiastic about continuing their learning at home. They're given a menu with numerous homework tasks listed, each with a monetary value attached. The children are required to spend a certain amount of money each week by undertaking a collection of homework tasks from the menu. It's a really fun and interesting way of structuring homework, in a way that makes the children feel like they are in control of their learning."

## A positive and progressive school

Zoe adds: "I believe Whitton Primary School is a positive and progressive school. It's somewhere my children want to go, which is brilliant, as I believe being happy at school helps to ensure they are motivated to learn. I think their enjoyment of school has a great deal to do with the warm and friendly staff and the way the teachers ensure learning is interactive and constantly engaging and fun."

Zoe and Anton Smith live in Ipswich with their children, Unique, 13, Harmony, 11 in Year 6, Angel, 8 in Year 3, Kingston, 4 in Nursery, Precious, 2 and Eternity, 1.



## Children say:

**Harmony says:** "I like the teachers at Whitton Primary School because they're always setting new challenges."

**Angel says:** "The teachers are always happy to go over the work with you to ensure you understand it."

**Kingston says:** "I really like my school because the teachers make everything fun."





# Admissions

## Admission to nursery

It is very important for parents to register their children with our nursery as early as possible, even before their first birthday, if a place is required. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate with you.

## Admission into reception

All children in Suffolk can attend full-time education in the September following their fourth birthday. However, children do not have to go to school full-time until the term after their fifth birthday if their parents or carers do not want them to, as this is the compulsory school age. Parents are asked to complete and return a form stating when they would like their child to take up their place, and if this will be full time or part time and which term they

would like them to start. At Whitton Community Primary School, the majority of children start full time in the Autumn term.

You are invited to register your child at the school well before this time. We want your child to enjoy the first days in school, making the transition from home or nursery to school as smooth as possible. We like to meet all parents of new children prior to them starting so that we can discuss general problems and anxieties. We also like children and parents to make various informal visits to school.

## Admission into other year groups

If you are considering our school for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show you around our school.

## Applications

Please ask about applications at the school office. Forms can be downloaded via the Suffolk County Council website. Entry to Reception will need to be made directly to the County Council.

Tel: 0345 600 0981

Email: [admissions@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@suffolk.gov.uk)

Web: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/applying-for-a-school-place/>.



# Getting involved

## FOWs (Friends of Whitton School)

Friends of Whitton School (FOWs) is an established group of parents, carers and staff with an objective of raising funds to enhance children's lives, and improve their life skills through the provision of new learning experiences, making a positive contribution to their education.

FOWs work with the school in searching for resources for projects needed by the children, but would not necessarily come under the school budget. We are always looking for parents and carers and community members who are able to spare some time to join the FOWs group to build a stronger community spirit.

### Do you want to join the FOWs?

We welcome any ideas for fundraising and encourage parents and carers to share these with us. Information about meetings

are shared with parents, and you can find more information on the school website. Please come and share your talents with our school!

## Voluntary helpers

We value the contribution of parents and family and we actively encourage your help during the school day. Parents and family help with a variety of activities which include reading with our children, helping children to choose a library book, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pairs of hands on educational visits. We accept all help gratefully. All volunteers must have a DBS check before they commence work in school.

## Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff, the local

authority and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement including setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school's finances, making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.

### 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 Governor, please contact the school office





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### Core principles

The Whitton Primary School ethos is built around our core principles that we give all pupils opportunities and experiences which help them to Aspire, Enjoy, Collaborate, Respect, Challenge and Grow. In this way we hope that our pupils will develop into life-long learners who are equipped for a future in an ever changing world.

### How do we achieve this...

We aim to achieve these things by providing a broad and creative curriculum in a nurturing, safe learning environment where we challenge ourselves, support risk taking, believe in our potential and celebrate the achievement of all.

### Respect

Developing respect is a cornerstone of our provision; self-respect, respect for the environment, empathy and respect between all members of our community. We value the diversity in our school and the range of ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families. We celebrate and teach about a variety of events and cultures across the year, this not only enriches our curriculum but encourages understanding and therefore unity in our school and British society.

