



EBCHESTER
Church of England
Primary School

Shaw Lane
Ebchester
Consett
Co. Durham
DH8 0QB
Tel/Fax: 01207 560349
Headteacher:
Mrs Rachel Clasper

Dear Parents,

Whether you are considering making an application for a place at Ebchester School, or your child is soon to start our school, I can assure you that we make every effort to help all children to "feel at home".

We strive to provide a caring and stimulating environment where each child is valued and supported so that they can reach their full potential. A Christian ethos permeates school life and we are proud of our close links with St Ebba's Church.

While all subjects of the National Curriculum are studied, we have developed a creative curriculum so that children experience learning in an exciting way. We have high expectations of academic work and behaviour and offer a wide variety of opportunities in order to ensure that the children receive a broad and balanced education.

As parents you are always welcome in school as we firmly believe in a close home-school partnership.

I hope that this booklet is useful and answers any questions you may have. However, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any further information you may need.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Clasper
Headteacher

A Message of Welcome from the Bishop of Durham, Bishop Paul Butler

It has been my privilege over many years to visit schools in many different places. This has been across England but also in some of the very poorest countries in the world, like Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. It does not matter where I see schools at work, I am always impressed by the dedication of teachers and the longing of parents to want the very best for their children. As a parent I know you want the very best for your child. The Church of England is engaged in schools because it too wants the very best for every child.

Every child matters because every child is special. Naturally they are special to you, their parent or carer, and to grandparents. They are also very special to the school. This is particularly true for us in church schools because of what we believe about the value God places on every child.

Jesus' friends were arguing one day about who was the greatest in God's kingdom. Jesus took a small child, stood him or her amongst the group and told all the adults that unless they became like this child they could never enter God's kingdom. I often wonder just how very special that child felt that day. We want that sense of being loved, accepted and valued to be at the very heart of our schools, and of your child's education.

Education matters because it provides building blocks for life now and into the future. We seek to offer the very best education we can in every school. This is not simply about the important matters of reading, writing, numbers and the like. It is also about the values by which we behave, and the kind of people we want to be. We believe our church schools offer great all round education for every child.

I love being able to visit schools and meet children. They are always enthusiastic, welcoming and brilliant at asking tough questions. Their zeal for learning is inspiring.

So welcome to one of our wonderful church schools. I trust your child will find they grow and develop well throughout their time here.

+Paul





School Brochure

2019/ 2020

EBCHESTER CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

A Christian ethos lies at the heart of the Ebchester School community with particular emphasis being placed on links with St. Ebba's Church.

We would like our school, which reflects British values, to be at the heart of the community, sharing, supporting and learning together with everyone as equals thereby encouraging respect and mutual trust between children, staff, governors, parents and all members of our local community.

Our children have the right to high quality learning experiences to help them to be the best they can be. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

At Ebchester School, we strive to create a stimulating environment which encourages an awareness and respect for self and others.

We believe in teamwork and collective responsibility. Documentation reflects our child-centred approach and we aim to have clear lines of communication throughout the school.

Our school fosters links with the wider community through civic, sporting, musical, environmental, religious, educational, business and social ties.

STAFF

Headteacher

Mrs Rachel Clasper

Assistant Headteacher

Mr Chris Carr

Reception

Mrs Helen Aspell

Year 1/ Year 2

Miss Rachael Edmunds

Lower Juniors (Year 3 and Year 4)

Miss Stephanie Rogers

Upper Juniors (Year 5 and Year 6)

Mr Christopher Carr

SEND/CO/ Forest School Leader

Mrs Hannah Stavers

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Claire Crawford (0.8)

Mrs Vicki Atkinson

Miss Kirsty Willis (0.5)

Ms Lorraine Hall

School Administrator

Mrs Claire Phillips

Caretaker

Mr Steven Bell

Cook

Ms Emma Thompson

After School Club Leader

Miss Kayleigh Salmon

GOVERNING BODY

Foundation Governors	Mr J E Heatherington
Community Representatives	Mr G D Gibson (Chair)
Parent Representatives	Mrs S Kitchener Mr I Ridley Mrs K Parkin
Co-opted	Mrs A Bell Mrs J Williamson Mr T Lowery Mr C Johnson (Vice Chair)
Staff Representative	Mr C Carr
Headteacher	Mrs R Clasper

The full Governing Body meets each term to discuss all matters relating to school. Sub Committees also meet to discuss specific matters.

ADMISSIONS

Any parents considering making an application for their child to attend our school may arrange a visit by contacting the Headteacher. Admission forms are issued in the Autumn term prior to starting school the following September.

In the event of over-subscription, places are allocated in accordance with Durham Local Authority's admission criteria. These criteria, in order of priority are:

- 1) medical reasons
- 2) siblings already attending the school
- 3) distance of parental address from the school.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

All parents of children of compulsory school age are under a legal duty to send their children to school regularly and risk prosecution if they fail in this duty.

i) Absences

Medical: We are obliged by law to report all unauthorised or unexplained pupil absences. All absences must therefore be accompanied by a written explanation or, preferably, a telephone call. Where a child needs to be absent from school to attend hospital or the dentist, please notify the school in advance and let us know whether the taking of a school meal will be affected. In these cases, children must always be collected from school.

Holidays etc: We ask parents to consider seriously the implications of taking holidays during term time especially leading up to and during Key Stage 2 tests. It should be noted that, except in exceptional circumstances, that a pupil cannot be granted leave of absence.

ii) **Accidents/illness in school:** In the event of an accident or illness whilst in school, your child will receive immediate attention. We have two named First Aiders who will assess the situation. All support staff are qualified First Aiders. In an emergency, parents will be informed at once. For that reason, we ask you to complete an emergency contact form when your child starts school. This gives us details of your contact number(s) and those of a close friend or relative who could be contacted if you are unavailable. Please inform the school of any changes to this information. (No child will ever be sent home unescorted during school hours.)

iii) Attendance figures for the last academic year:

Our overall attendance for the last academic year is 95.7%

Uniform can be ordered from from Moette (www.moette.co.uk/ebchesterps). Children are usually expected to wear uniform for educational visits. All items of clothing should be appropriate for school wear (e.g. no denim, high heeled shoes or polo shirts with a logo other than the school logo). Coloured hair, nail varnish, make-up etc. are only allowed on party days and for special events.

Children are allowed to wear a watch for school but for health and safety reasons it is school policy that earrings and other jewellery must be kept at home. It is also for health and safety reasons that those children with hair long enough to be tied back must do so for all PE lessons and at any other times that the teacher considers untied hair to be a risk.

We expect children to have traditional hairstyles - i.e. no lines or patterns drawn in hair. This reflects our high standards and is considered to be part of the uniform so only children conforming to these standards will be allowed to represent the school in events.

BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS



High standards of behaviour are maintained at our Church school and children are both expected and encouraged to develop self-discipline based on respect and caring for others and their property. Courtesy, good manners and acceptable speech are required at all times.

We believe in positive behaviour management. The school has a strong praise culture, where success in all forms is celebrated. Rewards, in the form of stickers and house points, are regularly used. All children work to gain house points and the captains of the winning house (elected from Year 6 pupils) are presented with the

House Points Trophy in celebration assembly each week.

Each week, teachers nominate pupils for a Headteacher's Award and one child in each class receives the Star of the Week award. This is awarded for children whose behaviour and attitude have been exceptionally good.

Sanctions are used when necessary in order to deal with incidents of unacceptable behaviour. These are the same in each class so that the children have continuity throughout the school. Parents are invited to visit school to discuss serious or recurrent problems. Our Behaviour Policy is available on the school website.

CURRICULUM

We provide an exciting and creative curriculum where subjects are linked wherever possible. This topic based curriculum, we believe, makes learning more meaningful for the children. Where possible, English is also taught in a cross-curricular way. Environmental education forms the basis of many of our lessons and we use our outdoor facilities as much as possible. This includes a Forest School programme. The Programmes of Study for all National Curriculum subjects are covered, ensuring the children receive a broad and balanced education.



Work is differentiated and appropriate to the individual abilities of children. Various teaching styles and methods are used so that children will have experience each year of working individually, in pairs, as part of a group or as part of the whole class. Children's preferred learning styles are also considered and children will be offered visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning experiences.

Children are assessed both formally and informally throughout their time at school and work is set according to these assessments.

A regular information sheet written by the class teacher is issued to help parents to see what their child is studying.

Foundation Stage

Children of Reception class age are part of the Early Years Foundation Stage and as such follow the Foundation Stage curriculum. This involves learning through play, and incorporates the teaching of phonics.

Children work towards Early Learning Goals in seventeen areas. Further information about Reception class and how parents can help their children when they first start school is provided at a meeting in the summer term before the child starts school and in an information booklet provided by the class teachers.

Special Educational Needs

All children at Ebchester School receive an education suited to their own needs and progress is carefully monitored by the class teacher. Children who have additional needs are recognised at an early stage and relevant intervention is given. If necessary, children are referred to outside agencies for specialised help. Progress is monitored at review meetings to which parents are invited. Parents are always notified if additional

support is being given. They are also consulted and asked for agreement if we feel that their child might benefit from support from outside agencies such as an educational psychologist.

More Able and Talented (MAT) pupils are also considered to have Special Educational Needs and their targets are set appropriately.

Sport

All children in our school have the opportunity to experience and develop skills in athletics, dance, gymnastics, games and swimming. P.E. is provided in an atmosphere of equality, regardless of age, gender, ability or disability (exceptions being made only in the interests of safety).

Children must have PE kit (shorts, house colour T shirt only and appropriate footwear) which they change into for all PE lessons. T-shirts in house colours are available from Moette (www.moette.co.uk/ebchesterps). These look very smart and are very reasonably priced. All children are expected to take part in P.E lessons and any child unable to take part should provide a note of explanation from parents. (In the event of long term absence, a medical note is required.)



In the interest of safety, children may not wear any jewellery (including watches) for P.E. Those with long hair should tie it back for all PE lessons.

We are fortunate to have an excellent sports hall as well as a small football field and a netball pitch on the school yard. As part of our partnership with Durham Local Authority and Leisureworks, staff access training in all areas of sport. In addition, children receive coaching from specialists from Leisureworks. These coaches develop existing skills and offer new experiences to the children.

Music

Music is an important part of the curriculum for the children in our school. We also provide opportunities for pupils to be involved in the performing arts through curricular and extra-curricular activities.

All children in Key Stage 2 learn to play the recorder and many children sing in the school choir. In addition, upper junior children all have clarinet lessons. We are able to offer specialist tuition, provided by the peripatetic music service, for brass.

R.E. and Collective Worship

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in line with statutory government regulations. The Christian content of R.E is taught in each year group and forms the basis of our teaching. However, in order to promote knowledge, understanding and tolerance, multi-faith teaching is included in the syllabus.

Collective Worship is held daily and is led by the Headteacher, members of staff, children and the vicar. Different forms of worship are held including whole school, individual class and Key Stage. As a Church of England school, we are closely linked with St. Ebba's Church. Our Collective Worship reflects many of the features of Anglican worship and a Christian ethos permeates school life.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship. Requests to do so must be made in writing to the Headteacher. However, withdrawing a child from Religious Education or Collective Worship cannot guarantee exclusion from the Christian character of the school and the Governors hope that in choosing a church school, parents are committing themselves to their child's participation in the religious life of the school.

Homework

At Ebchester School we view homework as a means to further develop standards of pupil achievement and, as children progress, to develop their confidence and self-discipline, enabling them to study on their own. This, we hope, will encourage them to enjoy learning for its own sake and to become lifelong learners.

It is hoped that children will read at home each night. All children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are given spellings to learn each week. They are also set one maths and one Literacy task each week. Junior children are also often asked to research information for their topic.

Parental support and supervision of work done at home ensures that children obtain maximum benefit from the home-school partnership.

Sex Education

Sex education is not taught as a separate subject but gradually introduced through the science and PSHE elements of topics. Individual questions are always answered honestly and at a level appropriate to the child's age and understanding. Each year, the school nurse talks to Year 6 children about the changes which take place at puberty. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons.



Extra-Curricular Activities

A wide range of extra-curricular activities is offered to children at various times throughout the year. Some are offered free by members of staff and others incur a small charge to cover the cost of coaches and tutors.

LIAISON

Church

As a Church of England School we are closely linked to St. Ebba's Church.

Services are held each half term, either in church or in the school hall. Special services, to which parents are invited, are held at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the summer term. We hold Eucharistic services each term, to which parents and parishioners are warmly invited.



Messy Church

Messy Church is held in our school hall once a month. It usually includes some creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a celebration time which might involve story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a meal together. Everyone is welcome. All pupils under the age of 8 must have an adult with them.

Links with other schools

Our staff work closely with staff in other schools and nurseries to ensure the smooth transition from one setting to another.

We are a primary partner of Consett Academy to which most of our children transfer at the age of eleven. Visits take place in both Year 5 and Year 6 and staff from the school come to our school to talk to the children and our staff prior to transfer. Parents have the right to choose a different secondary school and should approach the chosen school direct if they wish to make a visit.

Parents

Parents are always very welcome in our school and we value the special relationship we have with parents. If you are at all worried, you should come and talk to us as soon as

possible. The Headteacher is occasionally available to see parents without an appointment but we ask that you contact school by telephone in order to arrange a meeting with any other members of staff.

At intervals during the year, you will be invited to school to discuss your child's progress. Parents are also warmly invited to special assemblies, fundraising events and school productions. Adult helpers play a vital role in our school life, so if you are able to offer a few hours to help out, please do not hesitate to let us know.

PUPIL VOICE

Our school has a very effective School Council which meets weekly. We believe that pupils should have a say in curriculum matters as well as the more usual areas of discussion. Members also bring items suggested by children in Class Council which is also held weekly. Representatives from the School Council meet with regularly the Headteacher to discuss matters arising from the meetings.

Children in Years 5 and 6 can choose to be Buddies. Buddies help other children on the school playground and use peaceful problem solving techniques to assist other children to make friends after a quarrel. Year 6 children all act as individual buddies to Reception class children. This special relationship lasts all year and is of benefit both to the Reception children and to the buddies.

COMPLAINTS

Any complaint should be made to the Headteacher in the first instance. If attempts to settle the complaint informally fail or the complaint should be dealt with by the Local Authority, the Headteacher can provide details of how to take the complaint further. Details of the School Grievance Procedure can be found on the Durham County Council website.

MEDICAL

If your child has a medical problem, we need to be informed. Children who are unwell should not be sent to school but if your doctor has advised that your child needs medication during school hours, please complete an Administration of Medication form, and hand it, along with any medication, to the office so that the medicine can be put in a secure place. Forms are in your child's planner or available from the school office. Please ensure that medication is clearly labelled with the child's name. Children with asthma keep their inhaler in the classroom but should have no other form of medication in their possession.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked on the premises and children are offered a choice of menu. There is also a healthy eating option (e.g. a salad or jacket potato) each day. Vegetarian meals and special diets can be catered for. Such requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher, with details from the child's doctor or dietician where

appropriate. All infant children are entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

Children may bring a packed lunch. As a healthy school, we request that children drink only water. Chocolate bars and sweets are not permitted in school. Please do not allow your child to bring any food products into school which contain nuts.

To maximise playtime over the lunch period, we operate a 'sitting' system in the hall. Infants are served their meal at 11:55 a.m. and juniors at 12:10 p.m. Our Buddies assist infant pupils both in the dining room and on the playground.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In order to enhance our curriculum, visits (usually linked to the topic being studied) are arranged for children at intervals throughout the year. Costs for such visits are kept to a minimum and subsidised from School Fund where possible. However, there is an often a need to ask parents to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of a visit.

Costs are always calculated on the assumption that all children in the group will be participating and the cost is shared out equally. All children would be included in a visit regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to contribute but where the school is unable to raise sufficient money from voluntary contributions, it may be necessary to cancel the visit and return any monies paid.

All children are offered at least one residential visit during Key Stage 2.

SCHOOL FUND

Weekly contributions of £1 per week towards the school fund are collected each Monday morning. This money helps offset the cost of extras that are bought for the children and to subsidise educational visits. All children at Ebchester School are given an equal opportunity to take part in field trips as part of their learning programme. Those parents who have paid school fund will receive a discount on educational visits.

CAR PARKING

With the limited access to the school, it is not possible to allow parents to bring their cars onto school premises **at any time**. There is, however, parking in the Community Centre car park at the entrance to the school. We ask that parents observe the yellow zigzag lines and do not obstruct the school entrance.

Again, please feel free to contact school to discuss any questions you may have.