



prospectus



Willow Bank
Infant School

Welcome

At Willow Bank Infant School we aim to provide a happy, inclusive, safe and caring environment where all children are valued as individuals. We encourage a strong partnership between the school, parents and the community so that all children, their families, governors and visitors feel welcome and respected at our school.

The school underwent a very successful Ofsted Inspection in March 2012 confirming and reinforcing our continuing committed and professional approach to providing quality education for all our children. Willow Bank is a 'good school' and recognised for the enjoyment of learning experienced by its pupils and their above average attainment by the time they leave.

Ofsted recognised our outstanding cultural development provision and the way in which we promote pupils' spiritual, moral and social education. As part of a safe and caring environment we hope you and your child will enjoy a happy and rewarding time with us.

“All groups of pupils achieve well through the school.”

Ofsted Report, 2012



School aims

Through our whole school learning experience and high expectations we want to inspire children to:

- ✓ Develop a love of learning, both in and out of school
- ✓ Work hard, persevere and achieve
- ✓ Appreciate different cultures, religions and ways of life
- ✓ Explore and develop their own values, beliefs and spiritual awareness
- ✓ Show care and respect to the whole school community
- ✓ Understand that we have a responsibility to our community and to the wider world
- ✓ Develop an awareness of personal safety
- ✓ Develop self-confidence and life-long resilience
- ✓ Develop high standards of personal behaviour and self-discipline
- ✓ Show responsibility for their own belongings, take care and be proud of their environment
- ✓ Work independently and as a member of the team
- ✓ Discover new talents and skills



About our School

We are a small friendly, caring and family-orientated infant school that provides a rich, interesting and challenging curriculum, and caters for all abilities.

In 2012 we were graded good by Ofsted with behaviour and safety of pupils graded outstanding. We are unique in being Woodley's only remaining infant school offering focused Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 expertise.



We offer:

- ✓ Annual 2 form entry
- ✓ A creative, challenging and enjoyable curriculum for all children
- ✓ Care to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our children
- ✓ A newly refurbished large, bright and spacious learning environment
- ✓ Beautiful and stimulating indoor and outdoor areas
- ✓ Access to high quality ICT (ICT Mark Accredited) through our computer suite and iPads in each area
- ✓ After School and Breakfast Clubs
- ✓ An exciting range of other after school activities
- ✓ Access to the newly developed library and group room
- ✓ Visits out of school and visitors into school to further children's learning and understanding
- ✓ Themed days and weeks to enhance a creative curriculum
- ✓ Opportunities for all children to shine

“Pupils enjoy learning and reach above average attainment by the time they leave.”

Ofsted Report, 2012

The Curriculum

Overall Aims

We provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum, which gives opportunities for all children to learn and to achieve, and promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children, whilst also preparing them for the opportunities and responsibilities of life. Our curriculum is designed to encompass all the national requirements, which are delivered creatively, and provide both excellence and enjoyment. It is designed to meet all the individual needs of both Foundation Stage and KS1 children (4-7 years) with the specific aim that they leave us as literate, numerate, reasoning individuals with a sense of responsibility and self-discipline.

“The curriculum, and the way in which it promotes pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, is outstanding. Pupils enjoy a rich variety of activities, within school and outside on visits, which contribute much to their academic achievement and personal development.”

Ofsted Report 2012

In English we teach a variety of skills and strategies to develop children’s speaking and listening, reading writing and handwriting. In mathematics we use discussion and practical exploration to develop number skills and problem solving. All children will also have the opportunity to study science, ICT, geography, history, design and technology, music, PE, art and Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (CPSHEE).

Religious Education (RE)

RE is provided in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1996 and local Wokingham policies. It is approached in the school in a non-denominational manner with suitable stories to reflect the teaching and practices of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in this country. Parents may, if they wish, request that their child be withdrawn on the occasions when collective worship or RE is taking place.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The school has an SEN Policy, which is carefully implemented by the staff and coordinated by the head teacher. All children are given access to high quality educational experiences with equality of opportunity. Any children with SEN and/or disabilities are regarded as full members of the school community and the provision for them is fully inclusive.

Gifted and Talented

We also have a policy for more able, gifted and talented children so that those who excel in many different areas are given recognition and their talents are nurtured. A gifted pupil has the capacity for either an academic or non-academic area.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a thriving cookery club called “Kids in the Kitchen” and other activities such as gymnastics and football and a sports club which includes fencing, lacrosse and golf, as well as more traditional sports. Visits out of school and visitors into school help to enhance our curriculum and achievement. A large variety of special events are also incorporated into the school calendar each year. Recent examples include Bollywood dancing, circus skills, Puzzle Challenge Day, Strictly Come Dancing Day and events in aid of charities such as Comic Relief and Children in Need. There is a Christmas production each year in which all groups of children in the school get an opportunity to shine.

More information can be found in our School Handbook (available on the school website, www.willowbankinfant.com)

Working together with parents

Family Time

On Fridays we have Family Time when both children and parents can come into school from 8.40am to look at children's recent work and engage in tasks together. During this time children enjoy showing and sharing work with their parents and through our 'Pink and Green Marking System' they know what they have done well and how they can improve. It is also an opportunity for informal discussions with your child's teacher.

Reports and Parents Evenings

Teachers keep detailed records of the progress of each child and these will be communicated at regular parent interviews. Parents are issued with written end-of-year reports. Parents may also see teachers and the head teacher at mutually convenient times throughout the year.

Behaviour

To reinforce the existing positive ethos at Willow Bank Infant School, it is important for the whole school community to be collectively involved and aware of the expectations and procedures as laid down in our Behaviour/ Discipline Policy. We believe children should be encouraged and offered the opportunity to develop high standards of behaviour and to develop self-discipline within a caring, positive environment, which values and recognises the importance of raising children's own self esteem.

School Association

At Willow Bank Infant School we have a very active School Association and encourage parent engagement in this organisation. The School Association have regular fundraising events such as school discos and fayres, organise annual events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and pay for many of our visitors into school.

“Pupils' excellent behaviour and positive attitudes contribute significantly to their learning.”

Ofsted Report, 2012



Ethos



At Willow Bank Infant School we are dedicated to developing the 'whole' child, both personally and academically, in a safe, secure, happy and stimulating environment, so that they have a real love of learning, feel valued as an individual, grow in confidence and enjoy coming to school. We have high expectations of all our children's social and academic development and Ofsted agree that our children are courteous, respectful and their positive attitudes to learning are very good.

“Pupils are courteous, respectful and collaborate with enthusiasm. Their positive attitudes to learning are very good and illustrated by the above average attendance.”

Ofsted Report, 2012

School Uniform

Every encouragement is made for the children to wear school uniform. It is based on an emerald green Willow Bank Infant School sweater with grey skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or leggings. During the summer months we recommend a combination of green or white tops with grey shorts or skirts. The girls may also like to wear a green checked or striped school dress. Our active School Association have regular second hand uniform sales.

Gem Power

The children's social development is supported with 'Gem Power' which encourages children to work as a team, to be independent, responsible and resilient, prepared to have a go and be supportive of others' achievement.

“The children are nurtured and supported to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.”

Parent



Willow Bank Infant School

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Healthy School



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE