



High Bickington C of E Primary Academy



Welcome to Our School

Welcome to High Bickington C of E Primary Academy. Our school booklet aims to give you an idea about the life and work of our school. It will also answer any of the questions you may have about our day to day routines.

We pride ourselves that High Bickington is a happy and friendly place, where children learn in an enjoyable, caring and purposeful atmosphere. We work hard to ensure that every child is treated in a fair and considerate manner. We promote high levels of security and safety.

We recognise that all children have individual needs and we will strive to ensure your child achieves well. In our school personal and social development are as important as academic attainment. We therefore encourage every child to develop their talents and abilities and, most importantly, enjoy their primary years.

We are always here to meet with you, so if you should have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team





School Aims

Our aims are to:

- Encourage a sense of awe and wonder for the world around us.
- Nurture each individual to achieve their best.
- Aspire to the highest standards of teaching and learning within a creative curriculum.
- Provide a safe environment.
- Accept each other within a caring and loving community.
- Understand the world in which we live.

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School Site

Our school is sited in the Mid Devon village of High Bickington. The school is split across two sites with Years 1 – 6 in the main school building in the village centre and Early Years a short walk away at our new site. The school is looking to develop the new site in the short term to provide brand new class room for all year groups.

High Bickington School was opened in 1858 in former almshouses and is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Exeter. Since that date the original building has been enlarged and modernized, but still remains, in essence, a Victorian building that includes a slate-flagged archway leading to the adjacent church. The school became an academy in 2017 when it joined with Brayford, Witheridge, Umberleigh and Pilton Bluecoat Academies.

All class rooms are equipped with modern hi-tech facilities including laptops, tablets and interactive whiteboards. Children have access to ICT equipment throughout the day including the use of a secure internet system.

The school is able to offer a diverse curriculum with specialist provision in physical education and music. There are a range of after school clubs and off site activities



School Trustees

The Trustees are a group of people who have one thing in common, the desire to help the school be the best it can for our children and staff. They are made up of members appointed by the Diocese of Exeter and representatives of the local community.

Our Trustees oversee all strategies of the school including monitoring the school budget and appointing staff. The day to day management of the Trust is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the school leadership team.

Trustees visit the schools regularly. They are also committed to ensuring we have a safe environment and work with the Head of School, and school leaders to ensure there are established rigorous procedures for the safeguarding of children, in the recruitment of staff and in ensuring all adults working with children receive the appropriate clearance checks.

The Trustees annually review the school staff and monitor standards to ensure the school has a rigorous agenda for continual development.

Admissions

In line with statutory requirements, our admission policy is reviewed annually, the detail of which can be found on our website. As a multi-academy trust, the school Trustees are the admission authority. However, applications for the Reception Year are currently made via Devon Local Authority.

We have a comprehensive induction programme for parents and children entering school. Parents are invited to view the school during the day and meet staff. Later, they are able to attend a meeting to discuss how they might prefer their child to start, with arrangements being flexible to meet individual needs. Alongside, children spend as much time as possible in the school and visit on special occasions as well as induction days. Most children transfer to Chulmleigh Community College at the end of year 6.



School Organisation

There are generally about 80 children on roll at the school. They are organised into four classes Reception, Years 1 – 2, Years 3 -4 and Years 5 -6. Each has its own class teacher and teaching assistants.

Throughout the day pupils experience a range of teaching approaches including whole class and small group work and individual intervention. As far as possible we strive to provide a personalised curriculum for each child.

School Uniform

We have a smart and practical uniform that can be purchased from various outlets. The badged sweatshirt is available from the school office.



For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery except for a wrist watch and plain ear studs. Studs will need to be removed or taped for games and PE.

The uniform consists of:

- Purple sweatshirt with school logo.
- White polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirts
- Purple and white striped or check dress in summer
- Flat black shoes (closed toed sandals for the summer)

For inside P.E.

- Blue T-shirt
- Black Shorts

For outside P.E.

- Trainers
- Blue T-shirt
- Track suit for colder days



The School Day

School Opens	8:45am (9:00 Early Years)
Registration	9:00am (9:15 Early Years)
Session 1 KS1	9:00 – 10:30am
Session 1 KS2	9:00 – 10:45am
Morning Break	
Session 2 KS1	10:45 – 12:30pm
Session 2 KS2	11:00 – 12:30pm
Lunch Time	12:30pm
Session 3	1:30 – 3:0pm (3:15pm for Early Years)

Being away from school

Our school curriculum is very full and varied and therefore we hope that parents will make every effort to take holidays which coincide with those of the school.

Requests for holidays during school time will not normally be authorised, particularly if the child's attendance is below the national average. This will help to ensure that their child's education is not compromised. Inevitably, children do need time out for unexpected sickness and medical appointments. In these instances, parents should contact school as early as possible on the day of absence.

Partnerships

As a church school we have close links with a range of organisations in our immediate locality. Further afield we have fostered a range of partnerships within our Multi-Academy Trust to include partners in Europe and India. This brings the culture and spirit of these countries into the classroom.

We are continually looking to foster links within our Trust and there is a lot of sharing of opportunities between the schools, including residential visits and staff expertise. Our schools benefit from our work together and each school's local distinctiveness.



Parents in School

We actively encourage the involvement of parents in the life of our school. Parents give direct help through a range of activities such as listening to children read, helping on school trips and in sharing their expertise in the classroom.

We regularly invite parents to assemblies, special events and school productions. Every term a parent forum is held with the Head of School for parents to share informally any thoughts they have on the wider issues of school life.

Parents are encouraged to participate in our PTA, who regularly meet to raise funds and organise social events.





Working with You

We recognise that we are partners with you in providing the best education we can for your children and we want you to feel welcome and included in our school life. We are always willing to hear any concerns or issues you have about your child.

The class teacher or the school leader are normally available at the end of the day but should you need a more formal discussion an appointment can be made through the school office. The Head of School is also available and is able to meet with parents at short notice.

We send out a weekly newsletter and once a term parents also receive a curriculum newsletter that outlines what your child will be learning during the term and how you can help.

Parent/Teacher meetings occur twice each year and these are supplemented with two written reports in March and July.

Both you and your child are invited to comment in the planner and they offer an additional link between you and your child's teacher. We also have a website that includes lots of additional information about the Trust.



Curriculum

Our curriculum provides a broad and balanced experience that promotes active and interesting learning alongside personal, social and spiritual development.

We put a great deal of emphasis on achieving high standards in the basic skills and ICT. All pupils have daily reading, writing and numeracy sessions and regular access to computers. We encourage these skills to be used in a creative and real way through our BIG EVENT curriculum.

This provides a memorable experience, mostly through visits out, that are linked to a termly theme. This is used as a starting point for work across a range of subjects including RE, history, geography, art, technology and science.

Alongside, we promote social skills development through our Forest School and personal development programme. We also employ specialist teachers in music, French and physical education and children have the opportunity to visit local sports facilities including the Leisure Centre swimming pool and tennis centre.



Homework

We have a homework policy that is available on our website. It gives a focus on children practising their basic skills in numeracy, spelling and reading.

In addition, we would encourage children to pursue interests within the context of the school topic for that term and prepare pieces of work to share with their class and year group. This type of contribution will be highly valued by teachers and other adults.

Children in Year 6 will receive more formal homework tasks to help prepare them for secondary school. Much of this will be to consolidate basic skills and should take no more than two hours each week.

All children have personal access to 'My Maths' and 'Linguascope' via the internet. The school subscribes to these websites which are designed to be used in the classroom and at home.



Enrichment

We work very hard to ensure the curriculum for our children is enjoyable, relevant and active. We regularly invite artists, musicians and theatre groups into school to work with us.

We are committed to a programme of outdoor education that includes day and residential trips for each year group. These are designed to promote their social skills and independence.

At present we offer the following residential visit:

➤ ➤ KS2: 3 nights at St. George's House Christian Outdoor Centre,

We ask parents to contribute towards the costs, but charges are normally voluntary and contributions are requested in the context of the school's charging policy as published on our website.

We also offer our children the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities that take place at lunchtime and after school. When these are run by our school staff there is no charge. Activities vary according to the interests and expertise of staff and available coaches.

Religious Education

In our religious education lessons children learn about the Christian faith and are also taught about other world religions.

There is a daily assembly when the whole school gathers to sing and learn together. Our themes are varied and are related to current topics in the news, world events and our School Values.

Major Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter are celebrated at the school and our local Church.



Assessment

We encourage children to value their own progress and develop an understanding of how they can improve.

Working in partnership with their teacher, children will regularly review their achievements and set their own learning goals. Children are assessed regularly across all aspects of the curriculum.

Information from these assessments are used to ensure that children are developing a secure understanding of their work and that they are being appropriately challenged as individuals. Outcomes of assessments are shared with parents in reports that are sent out in the Spring and Summer terms.





Success for all children

Across the TEAM Academy Trust, we aim to provide the best education for each child regardless of race, disability, gender or ability. Every child has individual needs that we identify and respond to in our day to day educational provision and there are a range of intervention and support groups for pupils of all abilities. The Trust works closely with families who have children with additional needs. We ensure each pupil has equal access to all activities that take place in our schools.

The school recognises that some children are particularly able or talented. Provision is made to ensure these children are challenged in class and, throughout the year, special events are organised to provide extended curriculum experiences.

Behaviour

We aim to create a caring, family atmosphere in our school based on our school values and aims. Our children are encouraged to help each other and live in a context of consideration and mutual support. We have high expectations of behaviour from all our children.

Children are encouraged to see the school community as their own and are given a range of responsibilities. They can also earn merit points that lead to certificates and badges of commendation.

Children whose negative behaviour impacts on others may be sanctioned by their class teacher or the Head of School. Their behaviour will be discussed with them, and this will often be shared with parents. We want children to learn from these experiences and will give lots of support to ensure they do better next time.



Fitness & Health

Our school aims to provide our children with the knowledge and activities needed to promote good physical health. Children take part in a variety of sports with qualified coaches including swimming, football, cricket and athletics. PE is an important part of our curriculum and includes dance and gymnastics.

Healthy snacks and fruit are encouraged at playtimes and water is provided in all classrooms.

Our school's meals are prepared on site using fresh local ingredients. A healthy meal with a vegetarian option is prepared each day and menus are sent home each week. Meals can be paid for in advance via the school office.



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