



Welcome
to
Whimble
Primary
School

Prospectus
2022-2023

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to our school. We are always pleased to meet parents of existing or prospective pupils and are sure that you will find us friendly and approachable. We are a small community school with motivated, happy and caring children and an excellent team of staff. We aim to work in partnership with parents to give our pupils the best education they can receive, and to enable parents to support their child's learning and development.

Everything we do at Whimble is underpinned by values which develop physically and mentally healthy children who are then able to succeed in our broad and balanced curriculum.

We endeavour to have a strong family feel to our school and we work closely with the local community. We have many volunteers who work with the children and we are always looking for more!

This booklet will tell you about our school, our staff and governors, our philosophy and our curriculum. Lots of information is also available on the school's website at:

<http://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk>.

If, after reading the prospectus, you still have unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Shilston - Headteacher

Mrs Linden Best - Chair of Governors

The school address is:

Whimble Primary School

School Hill

Whimble

Exeter

Devon

EX5 2TS

Tel 01404 822584

e-mail: admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk



Apple Picking at 'The Orchard'

History of Whimble Primary School



The first reference to schooling in Whimble appears in 1798 when there were apparently, three or four Dame schools. In 1818, there was a school of 48 children.

The present day school started life in 1848 under the name of "Whimble National School" and was built at the cost of £475. It comprised of a teacher's house and a single schoolroom. In 1870, the schoolroom was enlarged and an infant classroom added. By 1910, the school had been enlarged again with a further room being added.

In 1979, two modern Devon Lady mobile classrooms were placed quite separate from the main school buildings.

In 2000, another single Elliott classroom was craned in over the main building in four pieces. This classroom was refurbished a few years ago.

Further building alterations were made in 2004 where an extra floor was inserted above the original school hall and the spiral staircase was removed and a new staircase constructed. 'The Orchard' or Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) site was purchased by Devon County Council for use by the school. In recent years two compostable toilets and a wooden shelter have been erected to increase use of the site. Over the past year or so, part of the site has been developed for use to implement Forest Schools as part of our Fantastic Friday curriculum.

Whimble Primary School in 2022

Whimble is a small village on the outskirts of Exeter. The school is situated in the centre of the village. In September 2021, Whimble Primary School had 132 pupils based in five classes:

Elm Class - Reception and Year 1

Ash Class - Year 1 and Year 2

Oak Class - Year 3 and Year 4

Beech Class - Year 4 and Year 5

Willow Class - Year 5 and Year 6

The building consists of a Victorian main building and three mobile classrooms. The Village Hall situated next to the school, is used for lunches, assemblies, P.E. lessons and after school clubs. The 'Orchard' site, in Slewton Crescent, is used for outdoor P.E. lessons and other outdoor activities, including Forest Schools. The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2017 and continues to be a good school.

Welcome to Whimble Primary School



School Vision

Whimble Primary School provides a safe environment at the heart of the community where everyone is valued, and which encourages all the children to achieve their potential whilst being caring and aware of the wider world around them. Through a knowledge based curriculum and extra curricular activities we encourage and promote discovery and inspire our children to become positive members of society.

We shall achieve this through:

- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum, which inspires and motivates children to learn.
- Offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities including sport and music.
- Delivering high quality, inspirational and innovative teaching.
- Promoting the 6Rs - Responsibility, Respect, Resourcefulness, Reasoning, Reflection, and Resilience.
- Creating a nurturing working environment where children feel safe and supported in taking risks within their learning.
- Developing core skills in reading, writing and maths.
- Involvement with local community events such as carol services, wassailing, and the Civic Award, as well as supporting charities.
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for themselves and others, and their environment.
- Teaching and encouraging an interest in physical and mental well-being.
- Communicating effectively with stakeholders.

Governors support the school vision by:

- Ensuring the school has a sound financial footing.
- Overseeing the wider curriculum, ensuring it is effective and relevant.
- Monitoring, evaluating and challenging progress and attainment, and benchmarking performance against other schools locally and nationally.
- Monitoring, evaluating and challenging policies, audits, appraisals and safeguarding practices through visits and reports.
- Ensuring continuous improvement by all.
- Employing the best staff and retaining them.

School Ethos and Values

At Whimble Primary School, we believe that children should receive an education which enables them the freedom to choose and make decisions about their own future.

Through a curriculum which supports both academic and wider learning, children become confident and independent in the classroom while exploring and understanding their role in the local community.

All of what we do at Whimble relates closely to the five British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of the different faiths and beliefs.

This is evident through our 6Rs which are celebrated through a weekly certificate assembly.

Our 6Rs are known as the **Whimble Wonders** and have named Apple Characters

Harvey - Resilience

Iden - Resourcefulness

May - Respect

Pearl - Responsibility

Latimer - Reasoning

Elstar - Reflection



Resilience (persevere, challenge, commitment, attitude)

- Children are taught the importance of being prepared to have a go and keep going when things get hard.
- They understand to improve they will make mistakes and that they should use these as a positive learning experience.
- Children develop the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and demonstrate a flexibility in approaches to learning.

Resourcefulness (imaginative, curious, question, show initiative)

- Children are encouraged to use their imagination and to apply their learning in various ways.
- They appreciate that practising regularly is important in any subject and think about how they can do things differently to improve.
- They are taught to transfer key skills and can make connections between different subjects through topic based learning.
- They are flexible in their approaches and are prepared to take risks in order to find an appropriate solution.



Respect (truth, polite, kind, considerate)

- Children are expected to have due regard for the feelings, wishes and rights of others.
- They are encouraged to respect themselves and have a positive attitude.
- They are polite and show good manners by being considerate and helpful towards other people.
- They appreciate and value other people's opinions and beliefs as they realise they are able to learn from other cultures and that it is important to celebrate our differences.



Responsibility (listen, good choices, organised, independence)

- Children are encouraged to deal with things and make good choices.
- They are held accountable for their actions.
- They understand the importance of learning and by knowing their strengths and weaknesses learn what they need to do to improve.
- They are encouraged to plan ahead, help others and work well in a team so becoming reliable and mature citizens.

Reasoning (explain, understand, reason, consider)

- Children learn to think about things in a logical and sensible way so that they can use what they know to help with new learning.
- They make connections and use common sense to consider the best way to approach a problem.
- They use inference skills to deduce information and answer questions accordingly.



Reflection (reflect, listen, consider, analyse)

- Children think about a task before starting and consider what is required to tackle it successfully.
- They look at options, listen to and questions others and use prior learning in order to move their learning forward.
- They are able to evaluate what went well and what could be improved next time.

School Organisation - Who's who?

Teaching:

Headteacher:	Mrs Carole Shilston
Class Teacher:	Miss Zoe Norton
Class Teacher:	Miss Hannah Clarke
Class Teacher:	Mr Matt Brown
Class Teacher:	Mrs Hannah Boyd
Class Teacher:	Miss Bethany Dunsford
Class Teacher:	Ms Juliet Corwood
Class Teacher:	Mrs Samantha Handley
Class Teacher:	Miss Anna Sharratt

Non Teaching:

School Lead Administrator:	Mrs Helen Mitchell
School Administrator:	Mrs Caroline Rowe
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Caroline Wall
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Dawn Vanstone
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Kirsty Sherwood
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Miss Chantell Vicary
Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Heather Triggs
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Miss Katie Yeoman
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Mrs Trina Cornish
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Mrs Natalie Creese
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Miss Natasha Davies
Teaching Assistant/MTA:	Mrs Kim Pearse
Mealtime Assistants:	Mrs Christy Stone
Mealtime Assistants:	Mrs Lucy Earnshaw
Mealtime Assistants:	Miss Kelly Burdan
Kitchen Manager:	Devon Norse
Caretaker Cleaner:	Mr Billy Bloomfield

School Governors

The School's Governing Body is a team drawn from the School and local community (including some elected by parents) who are appointed to oversee the School. The Governors work with the Headteacher to set the School's aims and objectives, prepare its forward plans, and determine its policies, targets and priorities. They work alongside the Headteacher to achieve and maintain high standards across the School. The Governors and teaching staff are held to account on behalf of the local community in general, and parents in particular, for:

- the performance of the School
- the delivery of the curriculum
- the school finances
- a fair and caring regime for pupils

Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for how the school uses its money, for the character of its individual curriculum and organisation and the choice of its staff. Even if it chooses to delegate some tasks which can legally be delegated, to the Headteacher or its own members, the Governing Body as a whole remains responsible. It is also responsible for ensuring that the school gives parents the information they are entitled to by law, and for ensuring fairness to individual pupils and staff in certain kinds of dispute.

Governing Body

The Chair of the School Governors is Mrs Linden Best. There is currently a vacancy for The Clerk to the Governors.

A full list of current governors follows and any one of them may be contacted at any time, via the School Office.

Name	Governor's Category
Mr Digory Smith Mrs Sue Turner	Co-opted
Mrs Julia Green	Local Authority
Mrs Gail Martin-Davies Mrs Vivian Craig	Community
Mrs Sarah Butler Mrs Linden Best (Chair) Vacancy	Parent
Mrs Carole Shilston	Headteacher
Mr Matt Brown	Staff
Vacancy	(Clerk)

Admissions Policy

Parents considering applying for a place for their child at Whimble School are invited to telephone the school (01404 822584) and arrange a visit to meet the Headteacher who will show them around and be happy to answer questions.

All children of school age are welcome in our school. However, in line with all schools, we have a planned admission number which reflects the capacity of the school. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the County criteria will apply.

For more information: (website, About Us tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/safeguarding/186139>

Whimble Safeguarding Officers

Whimble Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all our pupils in school. Our safeguarding officers are **Mrs Shilston**, **Miss Clarke** and **Miss Norton**.



We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

If you have any concerns and wish to speak with one of them please make an appointment at the school office, ring on **01404 822584**

or email

admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk

Year 4 Arts Project



Starting at Whimble School

Beginning school is one of the most significant times in a child's life (and for mums and dads!). We try to make your child's entry to school as happy and smooth as possible. We do this in several ways.

When the admissions form has been completed and it is confirmed that there is a place for your child at Whimble School, the "getting to know us" process will have begun. If your child already attends the local Pre-school then he or she will know a great deal about the school already. We offer a choice of a home or school visit to discuss your child prior to entry.

During the first two weeks of school your child will spend half days only in school. This is to help encourage a smooth transition from home to school.

The School Day

Hours	Morning session	9.00 - 12 noon
	Lunch	12.00 - 1.00pm
	Afternoon session	1.00 - 3.30pm



Apple Pressing

The teaching week (excluding assemblies, breaks and registration) totals 22.5 hours.

Children can be dropped off in the top playground by one adult from **8.50 am** and after sanitising their hands children will go straight into their classroom. The bottom gate will be opened at **8.50am** by a member of staff and parents can leave their children just inside the gate. If for any reason not enough staff are available this gate will remained locked and the top gate will need to be used.

Children should ideally arrive at school by **8.55 am** to be in good time for a prompt start at **9.00 am**. There is a legal obligation for the school to record all instances of late arrival.

School finishes at **3.30 pm for all children**. Adults are asked to collect children from the same area in the top playground for KS2 children.

We ask that parents collecting from Elm wait opposite their class, against the main building and those collecting from Ash wait nearer to the grass side. Please make sure you keep younger siblings with you and not play under the shelter or the equipment; once your child has been handed over, please also keep them with you.

Parents will also be able to leave via the bottom if they need to walk towards Grove Road/ church side of Whimble, avoiding the busy road. This departure access route is also available to adults and children from other classes too to save walking on the unpaved road.

Children are not supervised after school unless attending school clubs. If your child has been in school but is not attending an after school club for which they are registered then you must let the club organisers know. This is your responsibility not the school's.

Absence

No child may be released during school hours unless a request has been made to the Headteacher. If your child is absent due to illness please inform the school as soon as possible by telephone. Registers are checked and if we have not heard why a child is absent by 9.30a.m. we will ring to check for confirmation. If required, we will ring other contact numbers to ensure a child is safe. If your child is absent through illness for more than five days the school may ask for proof of absence e.g. an appointment card, prescription or Doctor's note. It is a legal requirement that the school records the reason for your child's absence. The school attendance policy is available on the school's website and in the school office.

Please make sure that we have at least two emergency telephone numbers where you can be contacted in case your child is taken ill at school.

Holidays other than school holidays

Parents/carers wishing to take their child out of school during term time should obtain permission from the Headteacher by filling in an absence request form which is available from the School Office. Holiday requests during term time can only be granted in **exceptional** circumstances. Reduced cost and relatives visiting are not exceptional circumstances and requests will not be authorised for these reasons.

For more information: Attendance Policy (website, Policies tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/policies/93239>

Medicines

If a child is deemed well enough to attend school, but continues to need medication then a parent should come to school to administer it. If this is not possible, parents must complete the appropriate forms available from the school office. It must be clearly understood that without this authorisation **no medicines** can be given to children. Only medicines in their original packaging and clearly labelled will be accepted.

For more information: Policy for Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and for the Administration of Medicines. (website, Policies tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/policies/93239>



Local Learning Community Arts Project with Killerton

School Uniform

We expect our families to support our uniform guidelines for the following reasons:

- To promote pride in the school.
- To give children an identity related to belonging to the school.
- To present the best image of the school to visitors and the wider community.
- To help parents avoid conflict over dress and reduce cost.

We ask that all our children/families follow the following:

Uniform

- Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt (no jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms please).
- White polo shirt
- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- In the summer, blue and white gingham dresses and black or grey shorts may be worn.
- Black footwear without logos.
- Black, grey or white socks or tights.

PE

- Plain blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Yellow T-Shirt with school logo
- Trainers
- For swimming children will need a swimsuit, a towel and a bag to keep them in.

Optional

- School bag with logo

Please ensure that all clothes are named. If items are lost, please check the lost property box. Unnamed and unclaimed clothing will be washed and then recycled at the end of each term.

Our logoed uniform is available from the school office. Second-hand uniform is available through the PTFA at various events throughout the year.



No jewellery other than wristwatches and plain stud earrings are allowed but, these must be removed or covered for P.E. We prefer hair accessories to be in school colours. Long hair must also be tied up. Make-up, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted.

If there are any concerns about uniform costs, please contact the office.

Good Behaviour and Discipline

At Whimble we take a proactive approach to pupil behaviour management. Good behaviour is an expectation. Classes agree codes of conduct for classroom behaviour at the beginning of each school year. Behaviour is modelled by staff who are polite and considerate to children and other adults, and praise is given to children when their behaviour is good, both to acknowledge the individual child and as a model to other children.

Our school consistently encourages and rewards positive behaviour as follows:

Achievers Assemblies

Two achiever assemblies take place each week:

'Stars' - 'star' assembly allows teachers, teaching assistants and mealtime assistants to nominate children who have been exceptionally kind, polite, considerate or helpful. Children receive star badges in assembly and keep them for the week before passing them onto the next group of children.

Learning Certificates - these are awarded weekly in assembly for one of the 6Rs: responsibility, respect, reasoning, resourcefulness, resilience and reflection. These can also link to promoting positive behaviours.

Team points: All children are in one of the four family teams, Badgers, Hedgehogs, Rabbits or Squirrels. Team points are given to promote good behaviour and are linked to our 6R's and our Skills Builder scheme, these can be given by any member of staff.

Children are encouraged to bring in other achievements and certificates obtained outside school to share in these assemblies.



Visit to Whimble Church to see the bells

Sanctions (Linked to Behaviour Policy - for current version please look on website)

Positive reinforcement is used to encourage pupils to engage and behave respectfully with both adults and their peers. Children who do not conduct themselves in accordance with the agreed class, playground, or school rules are reminded of acceptable behaviour. Inappropriate/disruptive/disrespectful behaviour will work through the following sanctions:

1. Verbal warning given to child specifying the behaviour or action that requires changing.
2. Child moved away from peers to a place where still clearly visible for 5 minutes to enable child to think about their behaviour and what needs to change.
3. Child moved to another area for 10 minutes (Key Stage 1) or 15 minutes (Key Stage 2). If at lunchtime, sent to teacher.
4. Child taken to head teacher.

The school may also use one or more of the following sanctions in response to unacceptable behaviour:

- Redo work until it is a satisfactory standard
- Expecting work to be completed at home, or at break or lunchtime
- Removal of some free time at break or lunchtime
- Loss of privileges - for instance responsibilities, trips, etc
- Letters or phone calls home to parents
- Agreeing a behaviour contract

In more extreme cases, the use of temporary or permanent exclusion may apply (see Whimble Exclusion Policy and Devon Guidance on Fixed Term Exclusions and Permanent Exclusions available from the school office or on the school website).

School Dinners

Hot meals are available at school, and are served in the Village Hall for our younger children and in class for children in key stage 2. All the food on the 'Fresh Start' menu is freshly prepared daily, using fresh ingredients from local suppliers, wherever possible, to provide quality home-cooked meals.

Children are supervised throughout the meal time. The Key Stage 2 Play Leaders are currently working with the Mealtime Assistants to offer a range of activities during lunch time play.

Parents order and pay for school meals through our online School Gateway App. Information regarding the school gateway will be available on admission. Price for a school dinner from September 2022 will be £2.60.

Your child will receive the first option on each daily menu unless an alternative is requested.

Universal Infant Free School Meals are available for all children in Key Stage 1. Pupil Premium Free School Meals are provided for some children, where families are on a low income. Please do not hesitate to ask for an application form if you think your child could qualify.

It is in the school's interest for you to claim your pupil premium free school meal entitlement, whether or not your child actually has school meals, as this puts additional money into the school budget.

For more information: Pupil premium (website, About Us tab)

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/pupil_premium/372954

A packed lunch may be brought if preferred, but please **do not include nuts** as some children have a nut allergy. Children are allowed home for lunch, with parental consent.

Some children need a snack at mid-morning break. The school discourages sweets and chocolate; and chewing gum is not allowed.



Cookery (part of 'Fantastic Friday')



As part of our Health Education programme Whimble School operates a total no smoking policy on the school premises. The Governors of the school have passed a resolution to this effect.

Curriculum Statement

At Whimble School we believe that an effective curriculum should be balanced, wide-ranging and have clearly defined progression. The curriculum includes all the subjects of the National Curriculum and the relationships between them.

Core subjects: English, Maths and Religious Education

Foundation subjects: Science, History, Computing, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music, PE, PSHE, Modern Foreign Language (Yr3+)

We recognise that the National Curriculum, although providing the progression necessary for a child's academic development, does not provide the balance and range necessary for a complete education. Therefore, we endeavour to enhance the National Curriculum with such cross-curricular themes as Health and Environmental Education and extra curriculum activities such as musical events, activity weeks and joint projects with community organisations.

Children have differing learning needs and capacities and therefore we try to match the curriculum to those individual needs, at the same time ensuring that no child is denied access to any part of that curriculum.

'Fantastic Friday'

Our Friday afternoon curriculum was introduced to help promote good physical and mental well-being. It promotes and develops the school's values. Activities may include Forest School, Relax Kids, cookery, art and craft, sport, playing board games, first aid and music and drama.

Our common philosophy here at Whimble School is to encourage pupils to develop lively and enquiring minds within an atmosphere of respect and tolerance for others. We want children to become self reliant and adaptable, capable of actively involving themselves in their own learning.

In order to achieve these aims we recognise and plan for the different demands of each curricular area in terms of flexibility of teaching methods and forms of organisation.



Curriculum newsletters which outline what children will be learning are sent home each term and are available on the website along with our Home Learning Guides. Homework plans are also on the class pages. The teaching staff are happy to discuss the planned curriculum and, from time to time, we hold curriculum-based evenings which we hope you will attend.

For more information: Curriculum (website, Classes and Curriculum tab)

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/classes_and_curriculum/93204

Before and after school care

The Whimble Wake Up Club has been running since September 2014. This is independently run in the Victory Hall, next door to the school. It starts at 7.50 am and runs until 8.50 am when all the children are taken from the hall to the school playground. There is a charge which includes breakfast.

An After School Club is in school every day and is run by Mrs Sarah Batten for children from reception to year 6. This is held in school from 3.30pm until 5.15pm. There is a charge which includes a snack and a drink.

See the website for up-to-date information and charges.

Accidents and First Aid

Unfortunately, accidents do happen from time to time. If your child has a minor accident in school, he/she will be given first aid and you will be given an accident form at the end of the day, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Children in Year 3 to 6 will be given the accident form to hand over to their parents.

If the accident involves a head injury or is more serious and requires professional treatment, a member of staff will contact you by email to inform you unless a child needs to go home, where they will phone parental contacts. Please make sure that we have at least two emergency telephone numbers where you can be contacted. (update regularly on Parent App)

Parking Around the School

We encourage parents who have to bring their children to school by car to park either at The Thirsty Farmer or the village car park (which is free). The village hall car park is for other users, including the doctor's surgery. We want to get along with everyone living in the community, so please park considerately. The safety of our children is key.

Security on site

All visitors to school must report to the main office and register with the reception. Any parent bringing a child late or collecting early from school must sign their child/ren in or out at the main office. No child will be allowed to leave during the school day without the permission of the Headteacher, following a request from their parent/s, and without being accompanied by a known adult. Children are currently collected from an area in the top playground after following a one way system from the hall car park.

Whimble Primary PTA

Contact: whimble.pta@gmail.com

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to the Whimble Primary Parent Teacher Association (PTA). We are very much looking forward to meeting you, be that in person or virtually!



Until September 2020 we were called FoWS or Friends of Whimble School. At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 30th September 2021 it was agreed that we would rebrand.

What is Whimble Primary PTA?

The PTA is your Parent Teacher Association, and our role is much more than simply fundraising. We provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring parents together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It is also a great way to meet new people, make friends and have fun.

We have three main aims, to:

- Support you and your family on your journey through the school
- Raise funds to enhance and enrich the provision of positive learning experiences for the children
- Run a series of events and activities throughout the year to make the school year fun and memorable for everyone

What can the PTA do for you?

Alongside our role of raising money, we are here for you. We can act as your voice to represent your ideas, concerns and suggestions to the school and governors in our official capacity as elected Office Bearers. We can also help signpost you to useful information and resources.

Insurance

The Local Authority is insured against legal liability for any injury, loss or damage caused to pupils/students as a result of negligence on its part or that of its employees, servants or agents.

Pupils/students attending the Local Authority's Schools and Colleges are not insured for personal accident benefits whilst on education premises or taking part in recognised activities outside the school or college.

Devon County Council expects all employees, pupils and students to accept full responsibility for their personal possessions, including money and to consider taking out insurance to cover any risks.