



Welcome  
to  
Whimble  
Primary  
School

Prospectus  
2024-2025





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, our 6Rs - Resilience, Resourcefulness, Respect, Responsibility, Reasoning and Reflection. These values sit alongside our skills which help to 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 philosophy and our curriculum. Lots of information is also available on the school's website at:

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

Whimble Primary School joined the Exe Valley Federation in September 2023. This has enabled the children to access even wider provision through combined opportunities like residential visits.

The Federation consists of seven small primary schools: Brampford Speke C of E Primary School, Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School, Newton St Cyres Primary School, Sandford School, Silverton C of E School and Thorverton C of E Primary School Full information can be found on our website <http://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk>

The school address is:

Whimble Primary School

School Hill

Whimble

Exeter

Devon

EX5 2TS

Tel 01404 822584

e-mail: [admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk](mailto: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 2024

Whimble is a small village on the outskirts of Exeter. The school is situated in the centre of the village. Whimble Primary School has around 135 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 December 2022 and continues to be a good school.

## 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.

Alongside our 6Rs, we have joined the Skills Builder Partnership - a partnership between businesses and education to teach and support the development of the essential skills to succeed in adulthood.

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.



Our 6Rs are known as the **Whimble Wonders** and have named Apple Characters and link to the 8 essential skills:

**W**

**H**arvey - Resilience - Staying Positive

**I**den - Resourcefulness - Creativity

**M**ay - Respect - Teamwork

**P**earl - Responsibility - Leadership

**L**atimer - Reasoning - Problem Solving

**E**lstar - Reflection - Aiming High

The final two essential skills are Speaking and Listening.

Throughout the school year, the children focus on one key skill per half term.

Listening and Speaking are key aspects to learning, so we focus on these alternatively through the year, also half a term at a time.

**Learning Certificates** are awarded weekly in assembly for one of the 6Rs/skills: responsibility, respect, reasoning, resourcefulness, resilience and reflection. At least one of these links to the focus skill for the half-term.

**Team points** are tokens that children can earn for demonstrating one of the eight essential skills. These can be given by any member of staff and they support the language of skill development.





## Resilience (persevere, challenge, commitment, attitude)

**Staying Positive:** The ability to use tactics and strategies to overcome setbacks and achieve goals.



- Children are taught to tell when they feel positive or negative and to tell when others feel the same.
- 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.
- Children encourage others to keep trying too.



## RESOURCEFULNESS

## Resourcefulness (imaginative, curious, question, show initiative)

**Creativity:** The use of imagination and the generation of new ideas.



- Children are encouraged to use their imagination in different situations 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.
- Children generate ideas to improve something.
- 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)**

**Teamwork:** Working cooperatively with others towards achieving a shared goal.



- Children are expected to behave appropriately and have due regard for the feelings, wishes and rights of others.
- Children are encouraged to take responsibility for completing their tasks, respect themselves and have a positive attitude.
- They are polite and show good manners by being considerate and helpful towards other people.
- Children are taught to contribute to group decision making.
- They learn to 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)**

**Leadership** - Supporting, encouraging and developing others to achieve a shared goal

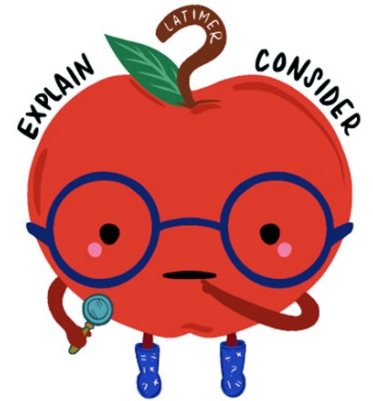


- Children are encouraged to know how they are feeling and how to explain those feelings appropriately, including dealing with things and making good choices.
- They are held accountable for their actions.
- They learn to use their time effectively and share resources.
- They learn to manage discussions and disagreements to reach shared solutions.
- 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)

**Problem Solving** - The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge



- Children learn to complete tasks by selecting from a range of strategies including following instructions, asking for help or finding information.
- 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, thinking about the pros and cons.
- They use inference skills to deduce information and answer questions accordingly.



## Reflection (reflect, listen, consider, analyse)

**Aiming High** - The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them



- Children think about a task before starting and consider what is required to tackle it successfully.
- Children know what doing well looks like for them and work with care and attention to detail.
- They work with a positive approach to new challenges and 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 Elizabeth Easterbrook
Class Teacher:	Miss Juliet Corwood
Class Teacher:	Mrs Samantha Handley
Class Teacher:	Miss Anna Sharratt

### Non Teaching:

School Administrator:	Mrs Caroline Rowe
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Caroline Wall
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Dawn Vanstone
Support Staff (TA/MTA) :	Miss Ellie Atack
	Miss Kelly Burdan
	Mrs Trina Cornish
	Mrs Natalie Crease
	Ms Tasha Davies
	Mrs Lucy Earnshaw
	Mrs Annabel Harrison
	Mrs Kim Pearse
	Miss Chantell Vicary

Kitchen Manager:	Fresha
Caretaker Cleaner:	Mr Billy Bloomfield

# Starting at Whimple 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 Whimple 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.

## The School Day

<b>Hours</b>	Morning session	9.00 - 12 noon
	Lunch	12.00 - 1.00pm
	Afternoon session	1.00 - 3.30pm

*Apple Pressing*



The school day commences at 9am. Children can be dropped off in the top playground from 8.50am. Ideally children should arrive at school by 8.55 am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00 am. Please wait in the top playground behind the rainbow until a member of staff comes out to greet children and send them into class.

Both the main gate and the lower gate by the bridge will be open so children can enter the school from either direction without having to walk along the road. If parents can also encourage older walking pupils to use the gate when open, we can help to minimise numbers walking on the road at busy times. Older children are able to walk to and from school on their own if parents have signed the relevant paperwork.

School finishes at 3.30 pm for all children. KS2 parents wait in the area by the main gates; 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 are able to leave via the bottom gate if they need to walk towards Grove Road/ church side of Whimple, avoiding the busy road. This departure access route is also available to adults and children from other classes as well 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.

When collecting your child please be as prompt as possible. If you are going to be late then please ring and let us know and your child will be taken to wait in reception. You must ring the bell at reception when you arrive and a member of staff will fetch your child. If you are going to be late and want another parent to collect your child then you must let the school know.

## 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.

## Attendance

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances, such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school. It is important for parents and school to work together to ensure pupils get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances.

For more details see the attendance policy at

[https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Attendance\\_Policy\\_.pdf](https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Attendance_Policy_.pdf)

## 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.



*Local Community Arts Project*

## 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**



# 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 Whimple 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 (see School Ethos and Values).

**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 Whimple Church to see the bells*



### **Sanctions**

At all times, we believe that when a child demonstrates unacceptable behaviour, it is the behaviour which is unacceptable and not the child. We believe that pupils should be held responsible for their behaviour. Actions are put in place when pupils do not meet classroom expectations. When pupils do demonstrate unacceptable behaviour, staff will use a number of steps for dealing with poor conduct. This will include using Redirection: -a reminder of expected behaviour. Reminders - a clear verbal warning delivered privately wherever possible, making the learner aware of their behaviour and clearly outlining the consequences if they continue. Sanctions may include moving to another position in the classroom/playground/hall, away from potential distractions, for an appropriate period of time.

[https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Behaviour\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Behaviour_Policy.pdf)

## 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 menu is freshly prepared daily at Sowton, using fresh ingredients from local suppliers, wherever possible, to provide quality home-cooked meals. There is a wide selection of choice each day including hot meals, jacket potatoes and baguettes.

Children are supervised throughout the meal time. Parents need to order and pay (KS2 meals only) for school meals through our online School Gateway App. Meals need to be ordered by Thursday each week for the following weeks meals. Information regarding the school gateway will be available on admission. Price for a school dinner from September 2024 will be £2.85

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](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.

### Break Times

All children across the school have a morning play time between 10.40 am to 10.55am (Elm and Ash Classes) or 10.15am and 10.30am (Oak, Beech and Willow classes). At this time children can have a snack. There are some children in the school with nut allergies so we would please ask that you do not provide your child with any snacks or packed lunch items containing nuts of any sort. Snack suggestions: rice cakes, crackers, cereal bars, fruit, vegetables. No crisps, chocolate or sweets please. Children have access to water throughout the day and they should bring their own named bottle (sports bottle type) for break times and lunchtime.

[https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Healthy\\_Eating\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/docs/policies/Healthy_Eating_Policy.pdf)

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a fruit or vegetable snack at afternoon break, this is provided by the Government Free Fruit & Veg Scheme.

As part of our Health Education programme Whimble School operates a total no smoking policy on the school premises.

## **Before and After School Care**

The Whimple 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.

## **Governors**

Governors act rather like a board of directors, and make decisions about how the school is run. They meet twice a term as a full governing body, and also work within committees. The minutes of these meetings and other information is posted on the website.

## **Complaints**

We hope that you will never need to complain and that any concern is easily resolved informally by discussion with teaching staff or the Head of school. For further information please contact the school office or view our policy on the website

<http://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Key-Information/Policies/>

# Whimble Primary PTA

Contact: [whimble.pta@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## 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.



Rock Steady Music lessons

Forest School session at the orchard

