

# ELVINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Working together we can all achieve success*



## WELCOME

Welcome to Elvington Church of England Primary School.

Elvington is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, catering for children aged between 4 and 11, situated on the eastern side of York. There are approximately 150 pupils on roll, with the majority of pupils coming from the village of Elvington, with a smaller minority coming from other rural villages.

Our main aim is to provide the best possible education for all our children. We are a successful and happy school, with a strong reputation within York for achieving high levels of academic success. Elvington has a fun, happy and vibrant atmosphere where our children thrive in a supportive and collaborative environment.

We strive to provide a dynamic learning environment in which children have the scope to succeed through meeting their diverse needs and ensuring that their learning is built on firm foundations. Our school is set in extensive, attractive grounds that provide our children a wonderful place to not only play but learn about the world around them. We encourage our children to become confident lifelong learners and to achieve high standards in everything they do. Children who leave Elvington are well rounded, motivated, knowledgeable, independent individuals prepared for an exciting future on their educational journey.

Working together as a partnership, both with yourselves and the wider community, is key to developing a successful and happy school and we hope that you will work with us to ensure the best possible education for your child. We firmly believe that we can achieve greater things by working in partnership.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child and would encourage you to come and visit us to find out more about what makes this school so special.

*You and your staff have created a caring and nurturing ethos that places pupils at the heart of the school. As a result, pupils are happy and safe and achieve well.*

*(Ofsted, 2018)*



# OUR CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES



**Respect:** Do for others what you want them to do to you.

*Matthew 7:12 Genesis 1:26-28*

**Friendship:** Be thoughtful and kind in all that we do and help those less fortunate.

*Luke 10:25-37*

**Perseverance:** Work hard with whole-hearted commitment and resilience always seeking to improve and achieve our best.

*Mark 2:1-12*

**Hope:** Prepare for the future with great ambition in a bid to reach our full potential.

*Luke 23:32-43*

**Trust:** To speak with honesty, building strong loyal relationships with confidence.

*Genesis 6:9-22*

**Thankfulness:** Show gratitude for all that we have.

*Luke 17:11-19*

These reflect our Christian foundation as a Church of England School and provide the basis for everything we do.



## OUR ETHOS

Recognising its historical foundation our school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and its partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. Our school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all pupils.

## OUR VISION

Our school looks to develop and nurture the Christian values upon which it was founded by fostering a welcoming, caring, and stimulating environment ensuring attitudes of tolerance, care and forgiveness <sup>(1)</sup>. We challenge and encourage pupils and staff to strive for the highest standards, not only academically but also in the fullness of life <sup>(2)</sup>. We seek to help our pupils become confident, creative and curious individuals. Through a dynamic and creative approach to the curriculum, we inspire a love of learning in children and encourage everybody to discover something they love. We encourage self-esteem and spiritual development in each child; celebrating success, a spirit of respect, partnership and collaboration, in a framework of world diversity <sup>(3)</sup>.

1) "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

*Matthew 11:28*

2) "I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness."

*John 10:10*

3) "The gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard."

*Matthew 7:14*



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# TRULY GREAT TEACHING AT ELVINGTON

...the quality of  
teaching across the  
school is going from  
strength to strength.

*(Ofsted, 2018)*



- Behaviour for Learning is well managed so that all children feel safe, secure and are active learners.
- Teachers have high expectations of children. Lessons are appropriately challenging, encourage risk taking in a safe environment; they foster curiosity and inspire creative thinking.
- Teachers have excellent subject knowledge. Time is invested in researching current thinking and good practice.
- Assessment is used to progress learning. A range of feedback strategies is used which pupils act upon to make or exceed progress.
- Teaching and Learning strategies are used to ensure teaching is engaging, relevant and purposeful. Time is managed expertly and progress is effectively reviewed.
- Teachers know the children in front of them. They are flexible and the needs of different groups of children are planned for so they can all achieve great outcomes.
- A 'Growth Mindset' is encouraged in all children and staff. We aim to develop independent learners, intrinsically motivated by the reward of achievement.
- High standards in English and Maths are promoted by all and underpin learning across the curriculum.
- Questioning is effective and develops thinking. Open questions and thinking time are planned to deepen understanding.
- Staff work in partnership to make a positive contribution to school life and live by the school's core values. They demonstrate a range of personal qualities and skills: encouragement; humour; emotional intelligence; creativity, reflection; effective communication.



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# EXCITING AND SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Collective worship forms an integral part of the daily life of our school community and takes place on a daily basis. We have close links with the parish and visit the church for services and other related curriculum activities. Members of the church, staff, and visitors from the wider community lead our collective worship. We promote the importance of R.E. through the curriculum, acts of worship and the teaching of broader social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. Christian values underpin our approach to both our work and life in school. All Religious Education is of a broadly Christian character but in recognition of the importance of other faiths, we also explore other beliefs, such as Hinduism and Judaism. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the collective act of worship and from religious education, and alternative provision will be made for these pupils.



## CURRICULUM

At the heart of Elvington CE Primary School is the commitment to ensure that all students make the best possible progress, regardless of their ability, in all subjects during their time with us.

The National Curriculum consists of three core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science. There are a further seven foundation subjects: Design Technology, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education and Modern Foreign Language (only KS2). Religious Education, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education are also taught throughout the school to children aged five to eleven.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (the term used to describe the phase of education from birth to the end of the reception year) follow six areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Mathematical Development, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Physical Development and Creative Development.



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## OUR SCHOOL DAY... AND BEYOND!

The school day starts at 8:55am and finishes at 3:15pm. Lunch is held from 12noon to 1:00pm. All children have a 15 minute break in the morning, and EYFS and KS1 pupils have a 15 minute break in the afternoon.

*As one parent commented, "This is a lovely nurturing school. The emphasis on values shines through in the children. It's lovely to see smiling children at the beginning and end of each day."*

*(Ofsted, 2018)*



### EDUCATIONAL VISITS

During the school year class teachers organise a number of educational visits, locally, regionally and nationally. This may include visits to our local church or studying our locality in history or geography in order to enrich and enliven the curriculum, while from time to time, children may also have the opportunity to visit other schools. Children in Years 5 and 6 are also invited to take part in residential visits.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are proud of the valuable contribution that clubs make to children's learning. The range of clubs that are held in school varies each term, with recent examples including football, rugby, netball, newspaper club and many more. Teaching staff usually volunteer to run such clubs, however as part of our commitment to extending the quality and range of children's activities, we do also engage professional organisations to run some clubs, for which there is a charge. Peripatetic wind, brass, guitar and keyboard music lessons are also available via the York Music Service or by independent peripatetic teachers, for a fee.



*"I learn more at this school because my teacher expects more of me."*

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# STRONG SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

## GOVERNORS

The Governors work together as a team in close partnership with the Headteacher to ensure that high standards are maintained and to support the day to day decisions that ensure the effective running of the school. School Governors are appointed for up to four years and each will be eligible to seek re-election when their term is finished. The full governing body meets termly. It is subdivided into four committees: Staffing, Finance and Premises; Achievement and Curriculum; Pay; and Health and Safety which meet regularly and report back to the full governing body.

## PTA

We have an active Parent Teacher Association. As parents you are encouraged to join. If you wish to participate more fully any member of staff will be pleased to pass your name to the current chair of the PTA.



## BEHAVIOUR

There is a strong pastoral element to our work in school and we strive to make your child feel happy and secure. Good behaviour and thoughtfulness towards others is necessary to support the aims of our church school, and therefore all children are expected to behave in a responsible manner, both to themselves and by showing consideration and respect for others. We believe that good manners are important and enjoy being courteous to all members of our school community.

**Respect:** We listen to all adults and respond the first time.

We always treat others and property with care and respect.

**Hope:** We have a positive attitude and approach each challenge with energy and optimism.

**Perseverance:** We always try our best and keep going even when things seem hard.

**Friendship:** We look after one another. We care for others and always use kind words.

**Thankfulness:** We are thankful and appreciate all that we have.

We are polite at all times.

**Trust:** We look after our school environment. We move around school safely and quietly.

*Pupils behave exceptionally well in lessons and want to make progress.*

*(Ofsted, 2018)*



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