



St Andrew's

Church of England (VA) Primary School & Nursery





Perseverance

Respect

Honesty

Koinonia

Compassion

Ubuntu

Justice

Friendship

Thankfulness

Forgiveness

Peacefulness

Welcome to St Andrew's

– a very special place in which to learn

Starting school is an exciting time for both child and family. Your child, who is unique and precious to you, will be welcomed into St Andrew's with care, love and support. We are committed to ensuring that all children have a stimulating, challenging and fun learning experience. We help them to develop the skills they need to be the best they possibly can in a rapidly changing world. St Andrew's pupils are supported in developing a moral and spiritual awareness of the society to which we all belong, a community in which we have not only rights but responsibilities.

We aim to inspire all children to see learning as a journey, a route to experiencing enjoyment and fulfilment. We want them to develop a love of learning, to feel passionate about discovering new things and to have real ownership of the outcomes of their learning.

Our school is a place where everyone is included and valued. We believe that every child has a voice and should always be listened to. We are proud that our children enjoy coming to school and that they know their education and care are at the centre of everything they do.

With a focus on excellence, creative thinking and challenge, we nurture and celebrate individual talents and interests, emphasising high expectations and the importance of always trying one's best in every situation. Our Christian values underpin our approach and provide our children with a clear understanding of how to become lifelong learners – something we are passionate to instill.

Primary education is pivotal for capturing an interest in learning that will continue onto the next stage. We value the need to play and have fun, and we provide a stimulating learning environment that celebrates childhood. We therefore aim to create an atmosphere of enjoyment, where everyone – pupils, staff, parents and friends – feels able to take a risk, try something new and achieve success.

I am proud to learn alongside my pupils and staff and lead this very special school. I look forward to welcoming you and your child to St Andrew's.

L Murphy
Headteacher

Koinonia

The heart of our school

Our mission

All our children are given the opportunity to become the best they can be in a friendly, safe and nurturing environment. Christian values and spirituality are at the heart of all aspects of life at our school. Our commitment to learning ensures that our dedicated and caring school community reflects and is attentive to the voice of our children. Learning is exciting and challenging, and our pupils pursue excellence through curiosity and questioning.

Our vision

Every school should be a special place, a safe place, a place of learning, and a place of nurture and of exploration. St Andrew's actively seeks to uphold and encourage Christian values. A school must demonstrate openness and acceptance, tolerance and forgiveness. Here, values and attitudes are formed and every individual

is celebrated as unique. At St Andrew's we communicate at all levels by working hard to ensure that every member of our school community has a voice. We believe that children are born with a natural ability to learn from their surroundings and experiences, and this underpins our approach.

St Andrew's promotes six ideals:

- Exemplary learning and teaching
- Positive self-image
- Academic achievement
- Enabling environment
- Joyful spiritual experience
- Collaborative leadership

Our values

At St Andrew's the following values are central to how we work and learn together: Thankfulness, Justice, Koinonia, Courage, Forgiveness, Honesty, Compassion, Respect, Ubuntu, Peacefulness, Friendship and Perseverance.

Perseverance
Respect
Koinonia
Justice
Compassion
Honesty
Courage
Thankfulness
Friendship
Peacefulness
Ubuntu





Perseverance

Here to learn, learning for life ...

Our curriculum aims to inspire our children to develop a real love of learning. We offer learning opportunities that engage our children and foster curiosity, inspire questions and challenge from within. We follow the national curriculum but ensure that this also promotes the intellectual, physical, spiritual, cultural, social and emotional development of our children. We believe that the curriculum is not only about the necessary learning of facts and skills, but that it also involves developing a range of learning skills so that children can approach new problems confidently and develop a range of strategies that can be applied in different situations.

Learning is presented in numerous ways throughout a child's time at St Andrew's. Our curriculum actively promotes an investigative and exploratory method of learning, delivered in a thematic approach. In the early years it is primarily based upon children's interests, then progresses onto linking through themes,

enabling children to confidently apply previously taught skills in a purposeful context and encouraging children to make links across subjects. We also enrich the curriculum through a range of learning weeks and activity days, as well as residential trips in Years 4 and 6. By acquiring the tools, aptitude and attitude to move their learning forward, children learn to take responsibility for their own learning process.

Beyond the core curriculum of English, Maths, RE, Science and IT, particular emphasis is given to PE, Music and The Arts. This is reflected in our school productions, music concerts, creations with local artists and successes in local sporting events.

Our aim is to achieve:

- Equal entitlement for all our children
- Broad and balanced coverage of the national curriculum subjects

- Clear consistency across the school
- Continuity and progression

We are ambitious, always, for the children to achieve their very best. Our high expectations of learning and behaviour are shared by parents, and we work together to ensure that standards are consistently high.

A vital part of the learning process is assessment, and children at St Andrew's have regular feedback to enable them to understand the next steps in their learning. Pupils' progress is constantly tracked and shared with parents, and provision is adapted to ensure that pupils continuously develop and progress. We value the input parents give to support their children as learners and we work together with them to help children maximise their full potential during their time at St Andrew's.

A photograph of a group of young children in school uniforms, looking attentively and clapping. The children are in the foreground and background, slightly out of focus, creating a sense of a large group. The image is used as a background for the left side of the page.

Spiritual development

As a Church of England school we place a high priority on the spiritual development of our children. Our school's life and work are based upon Christian ideals and principles. We have strong links with Hitchin's Holy Saviour Church, which children regularly visit to attend services and worship. We also strongly believe in developing tolerance and understanding of the varying beliefs that exist in our multicultural society. In addition to the exploration of Christianity, pupils undertake learning of other faiths.

The children are also encouraged to explore the spiritual dimension of their personality. This is achieved through:

- Ensuring a values-based education
- Arranging activities that help them develop respect for and understanding of the views of others
- Encouraging children to philosophise and ask the big questions in life
- Providing opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder of the world around them
- Engaging children in exploring a range of issues about the world, and what their responsibilities and roles are in the greater dimensions
- Providing reflection and meditation experiences

Peacefulness



Pupil voice

We champion the right of every pupil to have a voice and for that voice to be listened to. Pupils at St Andrew's are valued as individuals. We recognise that it is important to listen to children, and to ensure that they have real choices and make real decisions. Our staff members share a responsibility to promote and encourage pupils' participation in their own decision making, as appropriate within the context of children's individual levels of capability and maturity.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to develop children who accept their roles and responsibilities as citizens. As part of this process we provide opportunities for children to become independent from the very beginning and to have specific roles within their class and the school. We encourage our children to ask challenging questions and provoke discussions.

As children progress throughout the school, these roles become more demanding and children learn how to fulfil their responsibilities as part of a team. We actively encourage our children to express themselves and

voice their opinions, and we teach children how to do this appropriately and effectively. We use Philosophy for Thinking as a tool for children to learn that it is fine to disagree with others but important to value others' opinions. As children learn to voice their opinions, they are taught how to plan and manage effective change, to engage stakeholders in the process and to speak to a variety of audiences.

Care and concern for others is at the centre of all we do and is embodied in the way in which we actively encourage children to care for and respond to one another. Our children take on many key responsibilities in terms of pastoral or leadership roles, including school council member, worship ranger, eco-warrior, ambassador, play leader, digital leader, house captain, buddy and spiritual ranger.

This approach has a strong link with behaviour expectations. We pride ourselves on the outstanding behaviour of our children within and outside of the school. Good behaviour is essential for successful

learning. As children are taught and trusted to take on responsibility and to communicate effectively, they appreciate that they are respected and listened to. We actively encourage all our children to be honest, to apologise when appropriate and to work with other children to move forward. St Andrew's has a code of conduct, developed by the children, staff and governors. Every staff member has a role and responsibility to ensure that our code of conduct is upheld, and communication is vital between all members of staff to ensure that matters are dealt with consistently, fairly and effectively. Expectations and boundaries are clearly outlined and understood, and there is a common and consistent approach to sanctions.

We believe it is important for children to grow into caring, responsible people with a high degree of independence, self-discipline and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Honesty

Thankfulness

Our learning environment

We are very fortunate that our school is set in an extensive site, with tree-edged grounds and considerable outdoor learning spaces, including our eco-plot, pond, spiritual garden, Forest School area, Silver Birches woodland, swimming pool, Mediterranean quiet area and purpose-built climbing structures.

The governors, staff and parents at the school work closely together to ensure that the quality of the outdoor facilities is matched by the quality of the indoor learning environment. All classes have extensive IT equipment. Our music room and design and technology room enable our children to work in smaller groups and to have access to specialist equipment and teaching. Our library, which houses a wide range of books, is home also to many learning groups and various clubs.



Courage

Enriching the learning

By recognising various learning styles, different interests and individual talents, we aim to provide extensive learning that enables all children to excel.

Enrichment

At St Andrew's we have developed an enrichment programme, which gives our children a chance to develop their learning in a broader context. The programme comprises structured activities that enrich children's experience and ignite a love of learning. The activities are designed to raise self-esteem and confidence, and develop skills in team building, independent learning, respect and working with others thus raising standards in the school. Children often develop interests and talents in areas they may have never experienced before, and the enrichment programme also enables staff to find out more about the abilities of the whole child. The children have the opportunity to access six different activities over the full academic year and in mixed age groups, giving them the chance to develop friendships out of their class. Younger children are able to learn from older role models, and older children have a chance to mentor and support their younger peers. This reinforces the caring and nurturing ethos of our Christian school.

Extra-curricular activities

Our children have a vast array of opportunities before school, during lunchtime and after school in which to develop specific interests and skills. We change these terms and provide clubs for all ages.

Visits

We value the impact a school visit or visitor has on broadening our children's learning. Each class bases its learning each term on a specific theme, and we arrange trips away from school to reflect those themes and to increase the children's engagement and understanding.

Creative arts

Creative arts are very important to our school. We have contact with local artists, who work on specific projects with each class. We pride ourselves on our commitment and the value we place on music, with over 75% of our children learning a musical instrument within the school. We participate in the Music First Programme and every child will have a year's tuition,



as part of their whole class, learning an instrument. We have a strong school choir and are in the process of developing our school orchestra.

Sport

We are passionate about sport and competition and deliver high-quality sporting opportunities. We focus on developing team spirit and teamwork, and value the contribution of every child at sporting events. We pride ourselves on the number of inter-school, regional and county events that we participate in. St Andrew's has positive links with coaches and with local secondary school ambassadors, who lead specialist provision within the school.

Swimming

We are privileged to have a school swimming pool. Every summer the children have lessons led by specialist swimming coaches and delivered in small groups. Older children have their lessons at the local swimming pool, and Year 6 children are taught water polo.

Justice

Everyone counts – equality and diversity



St Andrew's is committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for pupils from all backgrounds and needs. We have developed a culture of inclusion and diversity, in which children are able to participate fully in school life. The school seeks to promote awareness, understanding and respect for the diversity of cultures within our world. We aim to continuously reflect on, review and improve the ethos and climate of St Andrew's, along with the physical environment, which provides full access, respect and consideration for everyone.

Inclusion

We know that each pupil has individual and unique needs, and that some pupils require more support than others to achieve their full potential. As the development of the individual is prominent in our approach to teaching, children with special educational needs are identified at an early stage in the teaching process. We have a Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) who works with staff to ensure that individual children's needs are met. Where it is felt that specialist support is needed, the school will liaise with outside agencies

such as speech therapists, educational psychologists, or the Behaviour Support Teams. Our overriding aim with such pupils is to develop their confidence and self-esteem through recognising, celebrating and positively reinforcing their achievements.

Gifted, talented and more-able

Children who show particular gifts or talents are recognised and may require specific additional provision to meet their needs. Gifted pupils are those who display a significant strength in a curriculum area. More-able are children who are working well above the expected level and need regular challenges in their day-to-day experiences. Talented pupils are those who are more-able in subjects such as the arts or PE. Any specific needs are met through provision within groups or additional support. This will sometimes, if deemed appropriate, take place outside the classroom setting. We nurture children's gifts and seek opportunities for extending our provision wherever possible.

Working together

We pride ourselves on the quality of relationships at St Andrew's. We have a community of respect that extends to all members – children, staff, parents, governors and visitors. We are determined to create an inclusive culture of learning where all children will be challenged in their thinking, to achieve to the best of their abilities and strive to become lifelong learners.

We will empower our children to become respected citizens to enable them to make valuable contributions locally, globally and to contribute to our world's sustainable future.

This can be done most effectively when all staff, parents and children understand their responsibilities and work together towards the same goals, as detailed in our Home/School Expectations.

Ultimately, we have the same ambitions that you have for your children: that they are happy, listened to and safe, and that they achieve their full potential.



Thankfulness

Forgiveness

Friendship

Peacefulness

Justice

Ubuntu

Perseverance

Respect

Koinonia

Compassion

Honesty

Courage

Respect

Ourwider community

Governors

Wraparound care –
Play Aloud

St Andrew's School
Association (SASA)

Compassion

Being safe

Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated in any form at St Andrew's. Children are taught about unacceptable behaviour and about what constitutes bullying, including cyber bullying. The ways in which bullying is handled are explained in more detail to children as they mature and progress through the school. Bullying is dealt with by the headteacher and parents are fully involved in the process. In any instance of bullying, the parties on both sides are supported by the headteacher and other members of staff in resolving the issue effectively.

Child protection

We have worked hard to create an atmosphere in which children feel secure and valued, are listened to and are taken seriously. We work in partnership with parents to support children in every way possible. All schools have a clear responsibility to safeguard

the welfare of their pupils, and work with extended agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. As a result, if safeguarding concerns are raised by the school, child or parent, we are not able to guarantee confidentiality. In line with Government and Child Protection Policy, the matter would have to be referred to social services.

eSafety

We take the safety of our pupils seriously when engaging with computers and using the internet. Children are taught the eSafety rules in school and how to keep safe when using various websites out of school. Parents are invited to attend an evening talk on eSafety to ensure they are aware of their role in safeguarding their own children. Parents are requested to sign an acceptable use policy on behalf of their children.



Safety and security

The safety and security of all children at St Andrew's is paramount. Access to the school during the school day is restricted to the office area at all times when children are present, and we ask all parents and visitors to the school to respect this and sign in accordingly.

Volunteers

We welcome many volunteers – from secondary schools, community and parents – as they bring many skills and experiences to enrich opportunities for our children. We do, however, have strict induction procedures to ensure all parties are aware of the health & safety requirements and child protection process. As part of our safeguarding procedure, all regular volunteers that may at times work unsupervised must follow the government's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process.

