



Twineham

CE Primary School

Prospectus

2015-16

The best of both worlds

Twineham School stands next to the village church at the end of a Sussex country lane. We have four classrooms, together with a library area, small hall, shared working areas and offices. Outside are a full sized sports playground, a smaller playground and a large field with a trim-trail, tyre garden, a small pond and garden.

Although our school is small by modern standards, we've come a long way since its opening in 1864 when one teacher taught children of the local farming community. These days children come to us from a much wider area, attracted to a small village school combining traditional values with a modern curriculum, where every child is an individual, taught in a loving and family atmosphere.

Ofsted inspectors who visited us reported that:

"The school is a happy and harmonious community."

"Parents greatly value the "caring", "friendly", holistic education which the strong staff and excellent leadership provide in an efficient and loving environment."

"Central to the pupils' excellent enjoyment of learning is the exciting well planned and lively curriculum."

"Personal development is outstanding."

Pupils also have the opportunity to work with larger groups of children of their own age through the Network of Eastern Area Rural Schools (NEARS), whose ten member schools hold regular shared events such as music, technology and sports fixtures.

Twineham Primary School is a Church of England Controlled School and two of the governors are appointed by the Diocese of Chichester



Activities in school . . .

The key aims of the school are the personal development of the children and the establishing of positive attitudes of mind. We aim to develop self-esteem, a positive image of others, co-operation, open-mindedness, tolerance and a sense of justice. We believe strongly in equal opportunities for all.

As you would expect, we cover all aspects of the National Curriculum. English, maths and science are all strong in the school and we forge links between the other subjects. We also have a well established strength in music. All classrooms are well supplied with computers and we have a suite of laptops with wireless network connections and have recently purchased some Learn Pads. Around the school you will also see evidence of our other wider interests such as colourful art work and our 'celebration area'.

As a Church of England Controlled School we have strong links with St Peter's Church, which is adjacent to the school, and the Rector regularly joins us for assembly.

A wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs is offered, usually run by staff and parents, but also with the help of professionals such as Sussex County Cricket Club.

. . . and out

We were one of the first schools in the county to establish a partnership with a neighboring farm. The children visit the farm for a wide variety of project work, and we expect this to play a growing part in our curriculum.

School teams regularly compete against other small schools in football, athletics, netball and cross-country running, and in recent years we have won a variety of certificates and trophies.

The school has a homework policy in which children are asked to share books at home and are set other tasks, particularly in maths and literacy. All children have a book to record their homework.



Special educational needs and able pupils

We attach great importance to the correct identification and support of children who need extra help. Throughout their time at school we keep detailed records of each child's progress and regularly assess their level of understanding. We can quickly identify children who may have a special need and provide help through our Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and Learning Support Teachers, or the external provisions of the Local Authority (LA).

We recognise that some children are extremely able or have talents which should be nurtured or extended, and we adjust our lesson plans to meet these needs. Such children may also be invited to join others with similar talents at enrichment activities.

Therefore every child, whilst being a member of the class or group, is treated as an individual. We believe that close partnership and collaboration with parents is of fundamental importance in ensuring their children's needs are met.

Partnership with parents

Education is a partnership between home and school. Twineham is an "open" school which builds on the care and learning taking place at home and offers many new opportunities for children to develop and prepare for the future.

We strive to achieve a supportive family atmosphere where any issues can be raised and resolved at an early stage. Most problems are easily solved if they are brought to our notice early on.

Parents are always welcome in school and can help on an occasional or regular basis in a variety of ways: offering transport to sports fixtures, helping within the school, joining in educational visits, counting vouchers for free books and numerous other activities which all help towards the successful running of the school.

We encourage parents to take an active interest in the life of the school. The Friends of Twineham School (FOTS), is a thriving community and an excellent way to become usefully and enjoyably involved.



Our aims

Twineham School will enable each child to discover and realise his or her full potential within a caring Christian community by:

- striving towards the highest standards while developing the school as a centre of excellence;
- creating a happy, purposeful, well-ordered and safe environment;
- delivering a broad, balanced and appropriately challenging curriculum, while developing a love of learning by encouraging an imaginative and enquiring approach;
- ensuring genuine equal opportunities for children of all abilities, including those with disabilities;
- encouraging awareness of the individual and collective worth and needs of others;
- giving access to the Christian heritage of this country while recognising the need for awareness of, and respect for, other faiths;
- preparing each child for the next stage of his or her education and future in the wider society in which we live.

Our ethos

The spirit of Twineham School reflects the commitment of staff and governors to its Christian foundation; to loyalty, integrity, justice, equality, respect, courtesy and enthusiasm; and to the expectation of the highest standards from all members of the school community in all aspects of school life and beyond.

The headteacher, staff and governors are committed to working in partnership and to the expectation of strong leadership. They believe that they, together with pupils and parents, should be proud to belong to Twineham School.



Twineham curriculum statement

Twineham is a small rural school that aims to enable each child to discover and realise his or her full potential within our caring Christian community by:



- Striving towards the highest of standards and the development of the school as a centre of excellence by:
- Creating a happy purposeful well -ordered and safe environment;
- Delivering a broad, balanced and appropriately challenging education while developing a love of learning by encouraging an imaginative and enquiring approach;
- Ensuring genuine equal opportunities for children of all abilities including those with disabilities;
- Encouraging awareness of the individual and collective worth and needs of others;
- Giving access to the Christian heritage of this country while recognising the need for awareness of, and respect for, other faiths;
- Preparing each child for the next stage of his or her education and future in the wider society in which we live.

At Twineham we teach the statutory requirements of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum and RE. Through equal opportunities and inclusion we will ensure that all learners in the community will have a valuable educational experience.

Twineham C of E School provides a curriculum that is broad, balanced, flexible, relevant, inclusive and well planned: it is well matched to individual needs, providing the context for in-depth learning. Our curriculum enables children to make a significant contribution to their school community and the wider world and supports and develops effective transition.

We strongly value creativity in the curriculum. Fundamental to the curriculum is the quality of teaching and learning. We continually look for ways to improve the quality of teaching based on agreed qualities, standards and a reflective collaborative approach. To improve the quality of learning we promote independence and to take account of the preferred learning styles and needs of our children.



Sport

Following the National Curriculum we aim to develop a wide range of skills to enable children to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. We employ a specialist PE teacher who works alongside the teachers. Much of our Physical Education is taught outside, using our large playground and field. Early skills practice develops into activities including netball, football, basketball, cricket, athletics, rounders, gymnastics and dance. Additionally, all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a ten-week series of swimming lessons at The Triangle in Burgess Hill.

A balance is carefully monitored and maintained between healthy competition, fitness and the importance of co-operation and good team spirit.

Religious Education

As a Church of England controlled school we seek a Christian ethos which is to be found throughout the school's endeavours and leads naturally to Christian learning, prayer and worship. We have strong links with St Peter's Church and the Rector regularly joins us for assembly. He is often invited to talk to the children and we make regular use of the church. Every day we have an Act of Worship and we endeavour to make these meaningful and enjoyable.

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the West Sussex Education Authority's guidelines and, while the syllabus is mainly Christian, it recognises the multi-faith aspect of our society. If parents wish to withdraw their children from religious worship or education, the Headteacher will make alternative arrangements.



School times

8.45am - 12 noon

1 - 3pm

3 - 3.45pm (after school clubs)

Total lesson times excluding registration, assembly/collective worship, morning and lunchtime breaks are:

21hrs 40mins at Key stage 1

22hrs 55mins at Key stage 2.

Equal opportunities

Twineham is committed to providing equal opportunities and there is a separate Equalities Policy. Reasonable adjustments to the curriculum will be made to maximise opportunities for all children to access learning and the curriculum. In school every opportunity will be taken to explore equality and the impact of discrimination.

Complaints procedure

While we would hope that concerns would be resolved quickly in discussion with the class teachers, Headteacher or governing body, there is a formal procedure if parents are still unhappy, details of which may be obtained from the school office.

Safeguard of children

The safeguarding of children is paramount at Twineham. Specific policies relating to this area are kept in a file in the School Office as well as in the general policies files. All staff are required to read these policies and commit to the high regard safeguarding has at the school and fulfil all safeguarding duties. All visitors supporting the school curriculum will be DBS checked or never left alone with the children and will be supervised by a member of staff (who will be DBS checked as a matter of course). Children are reminded about safety and keeping themselves safe and opportunities are provided in the curriculum to reinforce this.



Charging and remissions

During the course of the school year, various activities and visits supportive to the children's general educational development are arranged by the teachers.

Parents are invited to make a voluntary contribution towards any additional cost which these visits and activities incur for the school. Some activities may well prove uneconomical without voluntary contributions, and the governors and headteacher reserve the right to cancel arrangements if necessary.

Personal development/sex education

In general we aim to answer children's questions as they arise and at an appropriate level. As personal awareness increases and children gain a wider perception, work on health education will include a programme of sex education. Parents are asked for their consent beforehand, and invited to view the CD which forms the basis of the lessons for children in Years 5 and 6, led by the class teacher.

Liaison with other schools

To ease the transition when children start school our Reception staff try to visit all new children in their pre-school groups. We also invite all Reception children to join their new class on a number of occasions before they start school. This gives them the chance to meet their teacher and other children in the class, to get used to the classroom and playground and feel that they belong to Twineham.

At the end of their primary schooling, our pupils transfer to a variety of local secondary schools in both the state and private sector, including Warden Park (Cuckfield), Downlands (Hassocks), Steyning Grammar and Hurstpierpoint College. Our links with all these schools are good. During the summer term teachers from the secondary schools visit our Year 6 children and the children are invited to spend a taster day at their chosen school.

Access to information

The school is happy to provide information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) on request. Please ask in the office.

