



Oakridge Parochial School Prospectus 2009/10



**Oakridge Parochial School
Oakridge Lynch
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Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Austin-Harrison

Chair of Governors

Mr Brian Cheeseman

Clerk to Governors

Mr Peter Scott

Status of school

Church of England
Voluntary Aided co-educational

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parent

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of our school prospectus. We hope that you will find it useful as a guide and reference and that you will be encouraged to come and find out more about our school. We would be delighted to show you our school in action and to put you in touch with people who know the school and can give you a personal picture of what we do and how we work.

We think Oakridge School has some very special things to offer:

- a close bond between families, church, community and school.
- an environment that seeks to ensure that all children and adults feel valued, included and secure.
- small classes which provide rich and stimulating education experiences for all pupils.

We believe that a child gets the best possible education if school and home work together and look forward to a positive partnership with you to ensure your child makes the most of the opportunities available at Oakridge School.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher



Introduction

Oakridge is a well equipped, forward thinking school, seeking to work in a close partnership with teachers, governors, children, parents, church and the wider community.

We aim to nurture values, skills and attitudes that enable children and adults to develop and respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of the rapidly changing world in which we live.

We believe that education experiences should be rich and stimulating. The design of our curriculum must therefore be

- broad, so that it offers every child a wide and varied programme of learning experiences that takes account of individual differences in ability, aptitude and experience
- balanced, so that each area and element of learning is given enough time and attention
- relevant, so that it meets the child's present and future needs.

Moreover, staff and governors have built the school framework based on the following vital elements:

- equal opportunities for all pupils to fulfil their potential, whatever their sex, ability, creed, colour, culture or social circumstances
- self respect and respect for other people, creatures and the shared environment
- a positive approach to school life
- opportunities to develop a sense of personal worth, individual achievement, and spiritual and moral development

Oakridge School Charitable Trust

This trust was set up and is run by the governors of the school. Its broad aim is to enhance the educational experience of children at the school.

The trustees of Oakridge Parochial School Charitable Trust have been in the fortunate position of administering the income from the generous gift of Miss Woolley Baker.

The Trust is able to make substantial contributions to the budget of the school. The money is used to provide extra classroom support, educational visits and visitors to the school, and classroom equipment. For example the Trust supports additional music tuition, trips to the theatre, the creation of a mosaic in the village

Accommodation and facilities

The present building was opened in 1872 and combines traditional character with up-to-date modern facilities. It has three classrooms, an ICT suite / worship area, a library, cloakrooms and office. The “Green” outside the school is used as a play area and for outdoor activities.

The school is well resourced with ICT equipment and software. It has digital projectors and interactive whiteboards. Laptop computers and digital cameras are used in the classroom and on field trips.

The school operates as a large family unit, with all adults accepting a pastoral role

There is an infant class with reception children and years 1 and 2 (4 –7 year olds) and a junior class with years 3 to 6 (7 – 11 year olds). Each class teacher has support in the classroom from Learning Support Workers.

We use swimming and sports facilities at Cirencester Leisure Centre for two terms each year. The village recreation ground and hall are used throughout the year for PE, games, drama and dance.

Admissions

Children may be admitted in the September of the school year in which their fifth birthday falls.

Admissions are the responsibility of the governors in a voluntary aided school such as ours. The present admission level for the school is six in each year group; though the governors can, at their discretion, admit a higher number should they feel it appropriate.

The governors have drawn up the following order of priority for admissions:

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children)
2. Children living within the Parish – a map detailing the area is available at the school.
3. Siblings of children who are registered in the school at the time of admission.
4. Children with an authenticated medical reason for attending the school.
5. Children living outside the Parish. Priority will be given to those with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a direct line will have priority. Ease of access to the school or other schools will be taken into consideration.

Parents will be notified at the end of the Spring Term if their application for a place for their child at Oakridge School has been successful. If parents are not offered a place for their child at the school of their preference, they have the right to appeal. In the first instance, appeals for Oakridge Parochial School should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

Within the overall framework of the Admissions Policy, the governors seek to offer equal access to all children for whom the education provision in the school is deemed suitable. Prospective parents should be aware, however, that the structure of the building will restrict movement for children with some physical disabilities.

If you are moving into the district or considering sending your child to Oakridge School, we invite you to contact the Headteacher to arrange a visit. We will give you an Admission Form if you wish to apply for a place for your child.

The Curriculum

Oakridge School follows the National Curriculum, teaching the core subjects;
English Mathematics Science ICT
Foundation subjects;
Geography, History, Design and Technology, Art, Music,
P.E. and Religious Education.

In planning the delivery of this curriculum we are aware of the special nature of the school, namely that

- each child spends three or four years in one class.
- at any one point, only a few children are involved at each developmental stage, and this affords beneficial opportunities to extend or support children on a very individual basis
- exploration, discovery, discussion and co-operative work between children of different ages can, when appropriate, be developed through common themes utilised across the whole school

Details of the individual subject teaching plans, content and delivery are available in school, but a very brief summary is given below.

English We believe that competence and confidence in spoken language, reading and writing are all key components of the English curriculum, and we use the National Literacy Strategy as the basic framework for teaching. Our aim is to help children acquire these skills so that they are equipped to progress and importantly to enjoy our language and literature.

Mathematics Again the National Numeracy Strategy provides the framework for our maths teaching. Engaging children in the practical applications of number alongside learning formal methods and techniques is central core to our approach in this subject.

Science The science curriculum is practically based wherever possible and, through science, we encourage enquiry, experimentation, observation and interpretation.

Humanities Learning about different countries, cultures and beliefs, both past and present, gives the children a greater understanding of our multicultural society. Beside the wider picture, we give emphasis to studying and appreciating our local environment.

Art and Design & Technology We introduce children to a wide variety of media in two and three dimensions, and study the artefacts of other cultures as well as our own.

Music Our children are encouraged to listen to and to create their own music in different forms. The school has produced and performed "David and Goliath" in church at the Leavers Service. Woodwind, keyboard and guitar tuition is available for children in Key Stage 2.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Computer literacy is taught from the reception group onwards and ICT skills are used in all areas of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to become confident with a full range of programmes and, with guidance and supervision, to use computers to access information on a wide variety of subjects.

Physical Education

Children enjoy a variety of sports including swimming, gymnastics, athletics, cross-country, and team sports. We use Cirencester Leisure Centre and facilities at the village hall and recreation ground, and link with other schools in the locality for some sports events. Achievements include children gaining National Swimming Awards up to level 8 and, in the past year, 4th place in the area Small Schools Cross Country event.

Religious Education

Our school is a Church of England Aided School, and Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum. We foster Christian virtues such as caring, love and forgiveness and a sense of the importance of family life and include in our teaching some visits to our church. The children also learn about Hinduism, Judaism and Islam and we believe in encouraging pupils to respect the values and beliefs of other faiths.

All children take part in a daily act of worship organised by the staff.

Parents who might wish to withdraw their children from religious worship or instruction are asked to discuss this with the Headteacher. Children excused from Religious Education are provided with alternative work. However, as this is a Christian school, we should point out that many issues coming under the heading RE occur naturally during the school day, and complete withdrawal is not practically possible. You should bear this in mind if you exercise this right.

Special Educational Needs

We aim to provide a carefully structured and differentiated curriculum, delivered in a positive atmosphere of praise and encouragement, so that all children can achieve their full potential. We involve parents as fully as possible from an early stage in building a home/school partnership where the individual needs of each child are understood, valued and met.

If a child needs educational provision which is extra or different from the educational provision available to other children of the same age in Local Education Authority schools, he/she has special educational needs (SEN). Many children have special educational needs at some time in their school career. They may be exceptionally gifted, more able than their peers, have a greater difficulty learning than other children of the same age or have a disability which hinders them from making use of educational facilities from which other children of the same age can benefit.

If you are concerned about your child's development, come and talk with the Headteacher so that we can monitor the situation and if necessary seek additional professional expertise and support from within the school or from support services outside the school.



Extra-curricular Activities

Instrumental tuition is offered to older junior children in school, with some support from the Oakridge School Charitable Trust.

Cycling Proficiency training is usually arranged on an annual basis.

As we are a small rural church school, we foster a sense of responsibility towards the local community, and children are encouraged to play their part in village life. The school takes an active part in church services such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Carol Service.

Keeping in touch with Parents

We believe that the links between parents and school are very important. All parents are welcome to come in and see the school at work. However, if specific issues arise for discussion, a mutually convenient appointment will be made to ensure that we can give uninterrupted attention to the matter.

We hold parent consultation evenings twice yearly, where you can discuss individually your child's educational progress and individual confidential written reports are sent out to parents each year. Staff keep careful records of on-going assessments of each child's work so that parents can see how progress is developing in different areas. The results of statutory assessments in core subjects are included for Y2 and Y6 children.

These are the more formal routes for keeping in touch, but in addition we like to involve parents whenever possible in school activities, welcoming voluntary help in the classroom, and using any expertise to broaden the children's experience. Please let us know if you are willing to help in any way.

School Association

We have an active Association that supports the school, arranging both fundraising and social activities. The Association holds an annual event in May, which is supported by the whole community.

The Association also generously supports the purchase of extra equipment for the benefit of the children. For example in the past year it purchased a weather station, chairs and soft furnishings for the new learning suite, books, footballs and coaches for various trips.

School Fund

All money raised or donated to the school (other than that given through the Charitable Trust) goes into the School Fund Account. This is spent on equipment and books which would not normally be obtained through the Local Education Authority delegated budget.

School Uniform

Staff and governors encourage the pupils at Oakridge Parochial School to wear a school uniform, details of which are included in the starting school pack. The pack also details the sports wear that children will need.

Starting our school pack.

Before your child starts our school you will be provided with a starter pack where further details about the day to day operation of the school can be found. It also contains more information about dates, the curriculum, school uniform, sports wear, homework, and how you can help children entering the reception year.

Links with pre-school and secondary schools

Oakridge School staff foster good relationships with Early Years providers in the area, including making visits to local groups. Helping children to

move smoothly and happily into the reception class is a crucial part of our planning and integration process. Parents may request half-day attendance initially when their child joins the reception year if they wish.

Similarly, the confident transfer of children to secondary education is something we consider very important. Children from Oakridge have moved on to Thomas Keble School, Marling School, Stroud High School, and other schools in Cirencester, Gloucester and Cheltenham. Many continue to keep their links with Oakridge School and return to tell us about their progress and share their new learning experiences.

Absence Rates

Number of day pupils of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session (under 5's not included)	27
Percentage of pupil sessions (half days) missed through authorised absence	3.4%
Percentage of pupil sessions (half days) missed through unauthorised absence	0.3%

National Curriculum Assessment

In the academic year 2008/9, eight children took SATs at Key Stage 1 and two children took SATs at Key Stage 2.

According to DCSF regulations, no results should be published as individual children could be easily identified.

Ofsted Reports & School Documentation

Oakridge Parochial School was last inspected in June 2009. Copies can be obtained from the school office or the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

You can consult these documents by making arrangements with the Headteacher.

Conclusion

If you have any further questions you wish to ask about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try to give you all the information you need.

