

Gildersome Primary School

Life as a parent or carer at our school



“An aspiring caring, forward thinking school with traditional values at its heart.”

Achievement of pupils is good - From low starting points, almost all pupils reach the levels expected for their age at the end of Year 6 and overall their attainment is above average.

Quality of teaching is good - The quality of teaching and learning is good and some is outstanding and as a result, pupils make good progress overall during their time at the school.

Behaviour and Safety of pupils is good - Pupils are friendly towards one another and they feel safe in school. One pupil commented on the respect adults and pupils show one another.

Leadership and Management is good - Leaders and managers have had a strong impact on improving teaching and pupils' achievement.

(OfSTED 2013)

If you choose Gildersome Primary School for your child, you will be choosing a school which prides itself not on just academic achievements, but on the development of the whole child – socially and emotionally, to help prepare them for life as successful, rounded, respectful and well-mannered young people.

At the heart of our school ethos is the belief that families should be at the core of school life. We hope you agree that supporting your child at school is a really important aspect of their development. For this reason, in addition to the traditional opportunities such as regular parent evenings, invitations to sports events, local church services and annual musicals, we have introduced lots of different ways in which families can share and support their children's learning.

Busy lives make it hard for some families to stay in touch with all that happens in school. To help you, we produce:

- A regular newsletter
- Weekly news through our website in the form of a 'What's on Guide'
- Regular updates via our Twitter feed and Website
- A text messaging service for more urgent news.
- A "You Tube" channel that we use to regularly publish videos of children participating in events and learning activities during school.

Many of the improvements we have made have come into being through families having a say in how school is run. As well as our annual survey, we involve parents and carers as much as possible in important decisions. Recently, we have consulted on nursery provision and school reports. Working together we can ensure that your children are supported, safe and nurtured in our school. Our website also provides many opportunities for you to comment and discuss events and activities at school; we find this a valuable source of opinions that we can learn from.

We have an 'open door' policy – staff are available briefly at the start and end of the day and we encourage parents to contact us wherever they feel the need. By working together we can support your child more effectively.

We do encourage children to attend school regularly – we have tight procedures for monitoring attendance – every day that a child does not attend school can affect their progress, confidence and friendships. We hope that you will support us with this.

As our children develop, we understand that adults may find the modern methods of doing things by which they were taught at school can be different to those which children use today. To provide support we hold "Open Days" and information evenings. These will be posted on our website. We have Open Days once per term – these are invaluable in giving parents an insight into what happens in school on a normal day – parents who attend these, comment very favourably.

The best thing about working in our school is the satisfaction of watching the children having fun whilst they learn. Staff plan exciting, engaging lessons that often involve visits or visitors. To share this with you at home, our teachers incorporate into their planning ways that parents and carers can become involved in the learning such as through homework projects and information and videos on the blog.

For parents wishing to spend more time in school there are also lots of opportunities. Our PTA organise fundraising events throughout the year and new members are always made welcome. Many parents also provide valuable support by helping deliver our Friday activities. Recently, for example, parents in Year 2 came to talk to the children about their jobs. We also welcome parents on many of our school trips. Opportunities also exist for parents to contribute to the running of school through our strong and focussed governing body.

We are proud of the contribution which families make to the life of our school. It confirms our belief that it is not about sending your child to Gildersome Primary, it is about becoming a part of the school community.