

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that you are interested in our Primary School and Nursery. Our school was founded in 1886 and we have been in our current school building since 1971. We are a Church of England Primary School and have very strong links with St Andrew's Church.

Avonmouth Church of England Primary School welcomes children from nursery age through to Year Six.

Our school places the child at the centre of all we do. We offer a warm, welcoming, friendly and supportive environment in which Christian Values are central to the school and its teaching.

In our school community, children are encouraged to do their best across all areas of the curriculum. We have high expectations for all the children in our school, both academically and behaviourally. We strive to provide a wide range of enriching activities to make the curriculum relevant and exciting and to meet the needs of every child.

At Avonmouth Church of England Primary we are very proud of our school and we strive to help children develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Our School Vision is: "Inspired happy children, learning for life" which we feel encapsulates what the staff, children, governors and parents work towards in our school. We work especially hard to make sure that children feel safe and happy at our school and to provide children with a stimulating and exciting environment in which to learn.

All of the staff at Avonmouth Church of England Primary School & Nursery look forward to welcoming you and your child to the school and to working in partnership with you, to help your child to fulfil their potential and to prepare them for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. McMahon  
Head Teacher

If you would like to find out about our most recent Ofsted inspection please read it at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/109140>



## **OUR VISION**

Our vision statement is:



**Inspired, Happy children, Learning for Life.**

This vision underpins all we do here at Avonmouth CE Primary School.

### **Curriculum**

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum which takes accounts of the academic, personal and social needs of all of our pupils. This curriculum is delivered through a range of teaching and learning styles within an exciting and active learning environment.

### **Recognising Achievement**

We recognise all forms of achievement. We encourage and strive for the highest standards of attainment for all pupils and develop high aspirations in our children.

### **Parent and Community Partnership**

Parents and the local community are encouraged to support the school and children's learning. We have a Home/School Learning agreement and hold regular open mornings and afternoons to support with parent's finding out about their children's learning and to share in their learning. We also have a Parent's Forum who meet with School Senior Leaders and Governors each term and a newly established Parents' Association.

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

Pupils' expertise and interests are extended through a range of extra activities within and outside of the classroom. We also offer a wide range of after-school activities to further extend children's opportunities to extend and enhance their learning.

### **Admissions to Nursery**

Children are eligible to be considered for a part-time place in our nursery in the September, January or April after their third birthday. All children are entitled to a minimum of 15 hours per week at our nursery. Children attend our nursery for either morning or afternoon sessions.

Children may be offered full time places in line with the Local Authority's Admissions Policy. The Nursery Admission Policy is on the School website.

We remind you that a **nursery place does not guarantee a place in the primary school.**



### **Admissions to School**

Children are eligible for admission at the beginning of the school year in which they become 5 years old. We can admit pupils into other year groups only when places are still available. Our standard number is set at 30 pupils in each year group.

### **Class organisation**

We are just the right size to enable us to have one class for each year group throughout the school. We still take great care to differentiate the work appropriately for all abilities and we provide a high level of support for children with special educational needs.

### **The school day**

The school day begins at 8.50am when the children arrive in school and registers are taken.

A member of staff is on the playground from 8.40 am. Children should not arrive before this time as there is no supervision before this time. There is very limited parking outside the school and we encourage parents and children to walk to school.

We have a successful Breakfast Club that is run by the Learning Mentor – Mr Barlow – where a nutritional breakfast is available for a nominal cost. The Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am until 8.45am and parents are invited to come to Breakfast Club with their children.



Breakfast Club is open to all children in the school. Children in Key Stage 1, Years 3 and 4 must be accompanied by an adult. If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and you would like them to come to Breakfast club without a parent/carer, this can be arranged in advance with the Mr Barlow.



At 8.50am the bell rings in the playground and children line up in their classes. Classes are collected from the playground by class teachers who are always available for parents to pass on a quick message. If you require a longer conversation, we ask that you arrange to meet with the class teacher at the end of the school day. Children should come into school on their own unless there is a special reason for being accompanied. This is

to avoid congestion in the corridors but also to encourage the children to be independent.

Children in Nursery class are taken in to class by their parents.

All primary aged children have a morning break. They may bring a piece of fruit or vegetable as a snack. (Fruit is provided free for Key Stage 1.) Sweets are not permitted in school. Break time milk is provided for children under 5 and for all children who receive Free School Meals. Milk is available to buy in the dining hall at playtimes at a cost of 10p per day.

We encourage everyone to drink water throughout the day and your child may bring a named water bottle to have in class.

Lunchtime is:

12pm to 1pm for Reception and Key Stage 1 children

12.05 – 1pm for Key Stage 2 children

Children choosing a school lunch have a choice of a cooked hot meal, jacket potato, or salad bar. Alternatively, they may bring a packed lunch.



### **School dinners**

Payment for school dinners should be made **in advance on the first day of each week**. Dinner money should be brought to school in an envelope marked with your child's name, class and the days being paid for. Parents whose children may be entitled to Free School Meals should contact the Office Manager. Our school meals are provided by Chartwells.

School meals are free of charge for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

### **Packed lunches**

These should be brought in plastic container, clearly marked with the child's name. Hot drinks must not be brought into school. Cold drinks must not be fizzy and not in a glass container; we do prefer children to drink water with their lunch. We recommend healthy options for packed lunches.

In the afternoon only Reception and Key Stage 1 have a break and this takes place from 2.15 – 2.30pm. This may not take place if the weather is bad or the children are just too busy to stop!

School ends at 3.15pm. If you are delayed for any reason, your child will wait with their teacher or outside the school office. If someone else is collecting your child, we will need to know in advance. We ask Parents not to come too early to collect their children as this can disturb the children's attention from their work if they see you.

The end of the school day is a good time to see you child's teacher. If you need a longer discussion, please make an appointment to see them.

### **Nursery Class**

The Nursery morning starts at 8.45am and finishes at 11.45am. Afternoon Nursery starts at 12.30pm and finishes at 3.30pm.



## **HOW YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION**

Home and school are the two most important influences in a child's life and it is important that there is liaison between us.

At Avonmouth C of E Primary & Nursery , we start this process with home visits before your child starts at Nursery. This is a valuable way of starting to get to know your child.



Before transfer to Reception class, we meet with parents on several occasions but particularly at an induction meeting to ensure that a smooth transfer takes place.

We hold parents' evenings during the year which are a formal opportunity for you to come and discuss your child's progress and well-being with their class teacher. However, we are always happy for you to come in and talk about your child informally, particularly if you have any concerns. Teachers are always available after school and an appointment can be made to see the Head teacher or deputy head teacher.

On Thursdays, we hold a Class Celebration Assembly where parents and carers are invited to attend and see what the children have been learning that term. Each class does three class assemblies per year.

We will keep you informed about news, activities and events by weekly newsletters, by email, text messages, and posting information on our school website.

If you have any concerns about your child's education or welfare, please come and talk to us about it. These can usually be dealt with quickly. If you have a complaint against the school there is a formal complaints procedure which can be obtained from the office and is available on the school website.

### **Parents Teachers Friends Association (PTFA)**

If you wish to help the school with events and fundraising, you may wish to consider joining the PTFA. All parents of children attending the school are already honorary members. The PTFA will be pleased to receive your support. Please contact the school office for further details.

### **Our Curriculum**

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum aiming to help your child develop the skills they will need for life. The subjects we cover in our curriculum are: English, Mathematics, Computing, Art and Design, Physical Education (PE), Religious Education (RE) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE). We also teach French and Spanish in Key Stage 2.

Some of these subjects are taught individually and some are integrated into topics.

Further information about our curriculum is available on the school website.

In Nursery and Reception the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This is planned around four themes:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development,

and seven areas of Learning and development:

Prime Areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development;
- Physical Development;
- Communication and Language,

Specific Areas are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Children learn about many things within topics, and much of their learning will be through play. Children in Nursery and Reception classes will learn early phonics in order to prepare them for year 1.

### **Reading and Phonics**

We want all our children to be confident readers and writers who are able to read with expression, understanding what they read and gain enjoyment from it. It is a vital skill which enables the reader to gain information, learn new knowledge and enjoy new settings, characters and plots.

Learning phonics (the sounds of letters) helps children to read and write confidently. We use the "Letters and Sounds" programme at our school with carefully planned and teacher delivered whole class lessons. These sessions are held daily and follow a structured routine.

We begin teaching children to listen and hear sounds in our Nursery Class through fun and carefully planned activities, such as listening walks and playing with instruments. We aim to give children the skills to be able to distinguish between the sounds they hear in words so that they are ready for learning phonics in Reception Class.

### **Homework**

The school has a homework policy which outlines a variety of activities which children can be asked to do such as: topic research; regular reading at home; learning spellings/tables. This is done on a regular basis and we hope that you will offer as much encouragement to your child at home as you can.

We also have Home Learning Projects that are set at the start of term and children work on at home for 3 or 4 weeks. These give an opportunity for children to find out more about an area that they are learning in class and may be topic based, Computing, Food technology, Design Technology, Art based. These are shared in school at the end of each term.

Reading challenge:

We have a Whole School Reading Challenge which aims to support and challenge children with developing their reading, particularly focusing on children's reading at home. We strongly believe that regular reading at both home and school has a big impact on children's attainment and achievements in both Reading and Writing.



We ask that all pupils read at home with an adult at least four times per week. They each have a reading record book for this to be recorded by parents and carers. Children are given bookmarks in their Reading Logs to record each time they have read. When they have filled up their book mark they share it with Mrs McMahon who presents them with a certificate and a leaf for the School Reading Tree. The class with the largest number of leaves on the tree each term wins a prize and is celebrated in assembly!

### **School Trips**

We believe that the curriculum is greatly enhanced if pupils are able to visit people and places in the local area and further afield. They are linked to the topics studied in class and are carefully followed up back at school.

Each year, Year 6 attend a residential camp. The children take part in a wide range of activities and teachers and staff come back absolutely exhausted! This camp is a very important opportunity for the children to extend their learning in a different environment, build their confidence and bond with their class mates. It is a wonderful end to their time at primary and an important part of their transition to the next phase of their life. We try to ensure that every single child can attend.

For all these visits you may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport, entrance fees, materials, etc. Children whose parents do not pay will not be disadvantaged in any way, although it may be necessary to cancel an activity if insufficient contributions are received. If you are not able to make a contribution for any reason, please contact the Headteacher. Your enquiry will be dealt with in confidence

### **Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place every day and is an important part of school life. Collective worship may be whole school, key stage or class based and is led by different members of staff and visiting speakers. Collective worship is broadly Christian in nature, and we give the children the opportunity to participate in prayer and reflection times.

You have the right to withdraw your child from collective worship but as we aim for our worship to be inclusive of all children whatever their age, background, culture and religion we would ask you to come and talk to the Headteacher if you are considering withdrawing your child, and alternative provision will be made.

## **HOW WE CARE FOR YOUR CHILD**

Although we have a strong focus on our children's learning, we believe that the pastoral care we give to our pupil underpins their school life.

We treat the children with respect and value their contributions. We take an interest in their development and find time to sort out any problems or worries. We teach them to be assertive where they can, and to take some responsibility for their own problem-solving.

Where a child needs more time than we have a dedicated Learning Mentor who works with a number of children across the school to support them as appropriate. Good liaison between home and school ensures that we can all support your children whenever they need it. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

## **Behaviour**

We pride ourselves on the good behaviour and manners of the children here at Avonmouth. To help us to maintain this, we encourage children to:

- Show respect for everyone at all times
- Be honest
- Listen well
- Be gentle, kind, polite and helpful
- Try their best
- Look after property.

We have a positive approach to behaviour and reward good behaviour with praise, house points, stickers and certificates.

Where we have to use sanctions, they usually comprise short detentions during lunch times or, on occasion, 'time outs' during lesson times. If a child does not respond to this approach, we will contact you to request your support.

On rare occasions we need to use more formal sanctions which may involve exclusions from school. We ensure that we communicate fully with parents in all cases.

## **Medical care**

We have several members of staff who are qualified First Aiders. You will be contacted if there is a need for medical care beyond that which our First Aiders can deal with. Please ensure we have up to date contact details for you. If your child has a specific medical need, please contact us or our School Nurse.



## **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

We have a duty of care to the children in our school and if a member of staff has any concerns about the welfare of any child in school, they have a responsibility to report these concerns to the designated teacher for child protection who will then follow the Local Authority child protection procedures.

If you have any questions or queries regarding our approach to safeguarding children, please feel free to ask for a copy of our policies.

The Safeguarding Leads for our school are Mrs McMahon, Mr Land, Miss Tector and Mr Barlow.

### **Absence**

If your child is absent from school **please telephone the school office on the first day**, following up with a letter on their return, letting us know the reason for their absence. We have to maintain registers and authorise absence.

We are working hard to encourage all pupils to have high attendance, and pupils should only miss school if they are ill, or have a medical appointment. Good attendance is very closely linked to pupil achievement.

### **School Uniform**

To develop a school identity we have a school uniform which we would like all children to follow:

A school sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece (royal blue with our school logo)

White or blue shirt or polo shirt

Grey or black skirts, shorts or trousers

Blue and white check or stripe dresses

Plain black shoes or trainers with black, grey or white socks

Please note that unsuitable or unsafe clothing, such as heeled, slip on or backless shoes must not be worn.

Please mark all items of clothing with your child's name.

Children must always have their PE clothes in school: T-shirt, shorts and daps or trainers. Long hair should be tied back, especially for swimming.

No make-up, including nail varnish, should be worn.

For safety and security reasons, children must not wear jewellery. If ears are pierced, only small studs should be worn. These need to be taken out for PE and swimming lessons.



## **Staff**

### **Senior Leadership Team:**

Head Teacher	Mrs N McMahon
Deputy Headteacher	Mr J Land
Business Manager	Mrs E Armstrong

### **Wider Leadership Team:**

Key Stage 1 &2 Leader	Mrs A Wood
Early Years Leader & SEN Lead	Miss K Tector
Acting Early Years Leader	Miss P Pearman
Learning Mentor	Mr J Barlow

### **Teachers:**

Mrs E Parrott	Ms S Beatty
Mr M Marshall	Ms P Pearman
Mr M Plenty	Mrs Alison McAndrew
Mrs A Appleton	Mrs S Jarrett
Miss L Swinhoe	Miss K Judge

### **Higher Level Teaching Assistants:**

Key Stage 2	Mrs T Webb
Key Stage 1 & Early Years	Mrs J McNab

### **Learning support assistants:**

Mrs S Solway	Mrs C George
Mrs T Symes	Mrs J Sweet
Mrs J Giles	Mrs K Ryan
Mrs S Murray	Ms C Knowlson

### **Admin Team**

School Administrator	Mrs K O'Connor
Finance Assistant	Mrs M Webber
Site Manager	Mr P Giles

### **Kitchen Staff:**

Cook in charge Mrs Wendy Williams

### **Lunchtime Supervisors: (S.M.S.A.s)**

Mrs C George	
Mrs E Parrott	Mrs J Sweet
Mrs S Rogers	Ms K O'Connor
Mrs B Templar	Mrs A White

## **The Governing body consists of the following people:**

Headteacher	Mrs N McMahon
Chair of Governors	Ms V Sachs
Vice Chair & Parent Governor	Amy Paddock
Foundation Governors	Rev. Andy Murray & Sam Hands
Staff Governor	Aimee Appleton
Co-opted Governors	Keren Durant Jane Johnson Ellie Armstrong
Parent Governor	Abbie McDuff
Associates	Jeoff Land
Clerk to the Governors	Sue Burns

## **General Information**

Address:	Avonmouth CE VC Primary School Catherine Street Avonmouth Bristol BS11 9LG
Telephone:	0117 9030280
Email:	<a href="mailto:avonmouth.p@bristol.gov.uk">avonmouth.p@bristol.gov.uk</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.avonmouth.p.co.uk">www.avonmouth.p.co.uk</a>
Status:	Avonmouth is a Church of England Voluntarily Controlled school teaching children from 4-11, with a 30 place nursery for children from the age of 3

Our normal number on roll is 210 (plus 72 part time places in the nursery)

