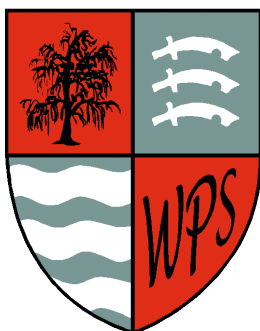


Willowbrook Primary School Prospectus



Willowbrook Primary School

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WELCOME

WELCOME TO WILLOWBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope this document gives you an insight into how our school is organised, and to appreciate the exciting opportunities on offer to children in our care. All schools have their own distinctive 'feel', which makes each one unique. We believe that the 'unique feel' at Willowbrook Primary is to do with our caring, friendly atmosphere. Our school provides an enriching experience for our pupils and continues to develop them in many exciting ways. Over the last few years we have been over-subscribed by local families wanting a place for their son or daughter to start in our EYFS class.

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in January 2019. We were thrilled with the overall judgement of GOOD and especially pleased with our improvements since the last inspection in 2014 which includes; OUTSTANDING for EYFS, Personal Development and Welfare and so many incredibly positive comments which included:

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is 'OUTSTANDING'."

"Pupils are willing to 'have a go' when faced with challenging learning and work effectively with both adults and other pupils. Pupils develop as confident learners. As a result, classrooms are pleasant, organised and orderly environments that fully support learning."

"Teaching over time is effective." "Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning."

"Teachers and teaching assistants have a detailed knowledge of individual pupils. They accurately identify pupils' barriers to learning and work effectively in partnership to help overcome them. Teaching assistants complement the work of teachers to support pupils who they work with to make gains in their knowledge, understanding and independence."

"Senior leaders including governors have an accurate knowledge of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They use their regular checks on the quality of teaching and pupils' progress to ensure that their actions are making a difference and identify any new areas for improvement."

"Leaders have established a truly caring and nurturing culture in the school. Pupils spoke about how the school is a friendly and supportive community."

For more information please read the report on our website .

I am extremely proud to lead a team that is committed to providing the very best opportunities for the children who attend Willowbrook Primary School. Staff, supported by governors, work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to help them acquire the skills and enthusiasm needed to pursue learning for the rest of their lives and to prepare them for future education. The best way to find out about our school is to come and visit, to see us in action and meet staff and children.

A telephone call to the school office on 01277 214662 is all that is needed to arrange this. We look forward to welcoming you to our school, and to a happy and successful partnership with all our new children and families.

Mrs C Branton
Headteacher

About Our School

The school originally opened in 1958 and the current new building opening in November 2011, catering for boys and girls, aged 4 - 11. There are seven classrooms. We also have a hall with indoor P.E. equipment, and a playing field. We have a reference library with a good selection of fiction and non-fiction books. In addition, we have support rooms for music tuition, cooking facilities and special educational needs provision. ICT provision includes two PC trolleys, iPad carrier, iPad minis in classrooms, Hall music system for MP3 players, CDs and laptops, includes 3 wireless microphones. All classes are equipped with smart boards.



There are approximately 212 children on roll. There are seven classes each with a qualified teacher. Children are taught for most of the week by their class teacher although for approximately half a day each week, they will be taught by another teacher. Each class is mixed ability and receives some additional support from our team of learning support assistants at specified times throughout the week. Boys and girls are not separated for any activity.

WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY:

We Love Coming To School.

Our Teachers Make Learning Fun.

Our Core Values

INDEPENDENCE – HAPPINESS – TEAM WORK – CARING – RESPECT - HONESTY

Our Vision

'EACH WORKING FOR ALL'



Our Aims

- To promote high standards in all aspects of school life.
- To deliver an excellent creative thematic approach to the curriculum enabling pupils to make links in their learning and be excited and engaged by what they learn.
- To provide a rich and varied curriculum which enables the pupils to develop physically, spiritually, socially, academically and morally within a multicultural society.
- To use a range of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches to learning which ensure all pupils can learn in the style which suits each individual best, including effective use of up-to-date technology.
- To be imaginative and creative in order to develop ourselves and the school, where all views are valued, considered and people are confident in their own choices.
- To be a centre for the community with a day nursery, after school club, school and community hall on site where the education of the pupils is enriched by the broad mix of community members involved in the school.
- To maintain well-kept resources, grounds, displays and building that provide an effective and enriching learning environment.
- To be a school of partnership, team ethos and excellent communication.
- To be an inclusive school, actively promoting British values, encouraging and celebrating both individual successes and differences for all community members, where learning is viewed as the centre of our aims for children and adults alike.

WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY:

*We do lots of fabulous finish and house days which are very exciting.
We love dressing up.*

Parents in Partnership

Communication with Parents

We communicate with parents and carers in various ways, for example through our weekly newsletter, questionnaires, parent council, workshops, 2 Simple in EYFS and informal social events. Parents are regularly invited to assemblies, Marvellous middles, fabulous finish days and to Parents' Evenings each term. Every year parents and others are invited to attend our Annual Open Day and Sports Day as well as children's performances. Staff will always be happy to meet with parents and carers to share any concerns. The school has a Home School Agreement to support the partnership between home and school, and foster shared dialogue. Parents and others are involved in policy development through consultation and working parties. The School's website has a wealth of information including our weekly newsletter, class pages and copies of key policies.

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA exists to support the life and work of the School and is open to all members of the school community. The Association provides invaluable support to the school through organising many social and fundraising events involving parents and the wider local community. Money raised provides extra facilities and equipment for the pupils. The group holds regular meetings in school, with dates and details published in the school's newsletter. The PTA identifies long and short-term projects for its fundraising; which enables us to buy 'special' extras to enhance pupils' school experience. The PTA needs the support of parents to ensure it is able to continue

to enrich the lives of children. As a new member of our school community we hope you will be able to add your support to the work of the Association.

Helping at School

Parents who can spare the time are always welcome to come into the classroom to help in various ways. If you are interested, please contact the office to arrange mutually agreeable days and times. We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in running a club, be a reading angel, helping with extra-curricular activities or administrative tasks. All helpers are asked to complete a DBS check.

Complaints

We hope that any problems will be dealt with speedily by informal means. It is natural that parents may, occasionally, be concerned about an aspect of their child's education or welfare at the school. The first person to consult is the child's teacher. Appointments with class teachers should be made via the school office. Trying to get the attention of the teacher, at the beginning or end of the school day, is not really suitable as the teacher will be supervising other children or may have other duties. For small informal matters, booking an appointment may seem a bit rigid, but this really is the best method to give full attention to your concern, however small. The vast majority of concerns will be handled by the class teacher or alternatively, you can raise your concern with the key stage lead, deputy head or head teacher.



3PR Parking Scheme

Willowbrook Primary School are proud to be part of the 3PR parking scheme. The 3pr parking initiative was introduced by the South Essex Parking Partnership to make school parking safer and less stressful for children, parents, teachers and residents. A 3PR zone is implemented directly outside the school, where cars should not park. Children who enter this zone on foot, bike or scooter are given a token to take to their classroom. The class with the most tokens at the end of each half term wins the 3PR cup.

We are very pleased with how successful the 3PR scheme has been since its launch on 30th September 2019. The children are very enthusiastic in being able to collect their morning tokens and love meeting the

3PR alien when he drops in for a flying visit. We have a wonderful 3PR parking patrol team made up of pupils, parent volunteers and staff and we are pleased to report that the parking scheme has made Rosen Crescent a happier and safer place for our children and neighbours.



EYFS

Characteristics of Effective Learning

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achieving what they set out to do.
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

The areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years' settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, **the prime areas**, are:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened



and applied. **The specific areas** are:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Our educational programme involves activities and experiences for children, as follows:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Self-Regulation/Managing Self/Building Relationships)**

This area is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm, and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.

- **Physical Development (Gross Motor Skills/Fine Motor Skills)**

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults.



- **Communication and Language Development (Listening and attention/understanding/Speaking)**

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial.

- **Literacy (Comprehension/Word Reading/Writing)**

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy



recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

- **Mathematics (Numbers/Numerical Patterns)**

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers.

- **Understanding the World (Past and Present/ People, Culture and Communities/The Natural World)**

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

- **Expressive Arts and Design (Creating with Materials/Being Imaginative and Expressive)**

It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

Joining the School

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

All pupils start school at the beginning of the autumn term of the academic year within which they are five. Admissions are dealt with by Area Education Office, Essex County Council.

There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admissions area. In the event of oversubscription places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

1. Looked After Children and previously looked after children (as defined in the Primary Education in Essex 2021/2022 booklet).
2. Children with a sibling attending the school.
3. Children living in the priority admission area.
4. Remaining applications.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority. Exceptional medical circumstances (supported by medical evidence) may override the above.



Where parents are unsuccessful in securing a place at their preferred school the following arrangements for an appeal within the terms of the 1996 Education Act apply:

Parents must notify the Area Pupil Services team in writing of their wish to appeal against their child's non-admission, within 14 days of being informed that a place is not available. Arrangements will then be made for the appeal to be considered and parents informed accordingly.

Visits to the school are welcomed by appointment. Please contact the school office.

WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY:

Come to willowbrook we learn new skills every day.

The School and its Organisation

The pupils are allocated a house. We have house mornings and events where pupils across the age range work and play together to create strong relationships across the whole school. This also provides opportunities for younger children to learn from positive role models and older children to develop leadership and support skills. The house names link to our school motto:

E arth	E ach
W ater	W orking
F ire	F or
A ir	A ll

Extended Schools

Willowbrook Primary School has specialist school status because it is a fully extended school. We can offer wrap around child care within the school with our breakfast and after school club.



Although these are mostly voluntary and unpaid, the teachers have organised many activities which take place before and after school and at lunchtime. The school runs netball, cross country and rounders teams which take part in competitive matches and competitions against other schools. As numbers are limited, not every club is available. We do aim to offer clubs across the entire age-range and are always looking for new ideas. If children attend any club it is essential that they do so regularly. We also work in partnership with Wind in the Willows Day Nursery, and Hutton Pre-School, both based at the school. Childcare is from 2 – 5 years. Further details are available through the office.

WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY:

We have lots of fun and exciting clubs to attend at willowbrook.

Our Core Values

INDEPENDENCE – HAPPINESS – TEAM WORK – CARING – RESPECT – HONESTY

Other Information

PE & Games Kit

It is important for pupils to wear correct clothing for physical activities. For PE children require a white t-shirt and red shorts. For games activities outside, children need a white t-shirt, red shorts and trainers. Track suits, preferably red or fleeces (available for purchase from Red Oak Roller) may be worn for games during winter months. All clothing should be clearly labelled. Jewellery must not be worn for sporting activities and long hair should be tied back. We are no longer allowed to provide tape for your child's ears, should they wear earrings these will need to be removed by themselves or not worn in school.

Water

Research shows that our brains need water to stay active and alert. Years 1 – 6 children are encouraged to bring water into school daily, in a spill-proof plastic bottle that they can take home at night to rinse and refill. Children, parents and staff speak highly of the benefits.

Snack Time

You may like your child to have a mid-morning snack. We welcome fruit, vegetables and would ask you not to send your child with chocolate, crisps or sweets of any kind. Children in the Foundation Stage and KS1 are provided with fruit every day as part of the National Fruit Scheme.

Absences

Regular attendance is central to raising standards in education and to ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. The Government issued new guidance on attendance in June 2013, including the taking of family holidays during term time. The current law does not give any entitlement to parents

to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

Attendance

The School's Attendance Policy is available to download on our website. If your child is absent through sickness or any unavoidable cause, please could you inform the school by telephone in the first instance. This absence constitutes an authorised absence. To encourage high levels of attendance, certificates are awarded to children at the end of the autumn, spring and summer.

Lost Property

Naming all items reduces the risk! Any items of lost property are put in 'Lost Property Boxes' in the reception area - if your child has lost something then please check these. We do keep lost property for a reasonable period of time; but it is often difficult to identify items that are not named. Displays of lost property are made at the end of each term.

Healthy Schools

We have achieved the National Healthy Schools Programme. This is an exciting long-term initiative which is making a significant difference to the health and achievement of children and young people. The National Healthy Schools Programme supports the links between health, behaviour and achievement; it is about creating healthy and happy children and young people, who do better in learning and in life. As a part of this we have an established school council, chaired by a Year 6 pupil, who influence the school's development and raise issues or concerns on behalf of the children. The programme is based on a whole-school approach to physical and emotional well-being.



Sporting Aims and Achievements

Our staff arrange a broad and rich variety of sporting activities for the children to participate in over the year within school time. Other opportunities arise through after school clubs and national competitions. Sporting opportunities include football, basketball, netball, cross country, swimming, athletics, rounders, fencing and cricket. At Willowbrook we try to achieve a mix of 'sport for all' in addition to the competitive element that leagues and rallies offer. Outward bound activities are encouraged through our residential field studies.



Music and Performance

At Willowbrook there is a strong tradition of music and performance. Pupils are offered a wide range of musical opportunities including a school choir, orchestra and recorder groups. Within school time a number of children undertake instruction in a variety of paid performance lessons such as piano, guitar and rock steady. Regular concerts take place and pupils are encouraged to develop their talents. Pupils are regularly given the opportunity to share their talents through assemblies.

School Uniform

The Governors of the school expect all parents to support our policy on uniform.

This consists of:

- Red V-neck sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
- Grey skirt/trousers/pinafore
- Foundation Stage/KS 1 White polo shirt
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 White collared button up shirt (Year 2 optional)
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 school tie (Year 2 optional)
- Black shoes of sensible style - no trainers
- Red & white check dresses in the summer (optional)
- P.E. kit consists of a white round neck T-shirt with school logo, red shorts, white socks & black plimsolls or trainers
- Black or red tracksuit without branded logos (optional)



Our school uniform provider is Redoakroller (tel: 01268 725630). They are based in Basildon www.redoak-schooluniform.co.uk

Second hand items of uniform are also available from the school office.

All items of property should be marked with the child's name. There is a lost property cupboard in the office reception area, this is emptied at the end of each term and then disposed of.



Safeguarding Statement

Willowbrook Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The health and safety of all children is paramount. Parents and carers send their children to this school each day with the expectations that we will provide a secure environment in which their children can flourish. The school will therefore aim that this expectation becomes a reality.

In order to do this a wide range of measure are put in place through the implementation of safeguarding policies including the school's Child Protection Policy which is in line with Essex County Council's Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs C Branton.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead are Miss J Cox and Miss J Fenuga

Contact

Address Willowbrook Primary School,
Rosen Crescent,
Hutton
Brentwood
CM13 2TU

Telephone 01277 214662

Email admin@willowbrook.essex.sch.uk

Website www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk

OTHER INFORMATION

Type & Age Range: Primary School 4 - 11 Yrs

Number on School Roll: Full time 212

SCHOOL HOURS

Infants 08.50 – 12.00 1.05 – 3.10

Juniors 08.50 – 12.10 1.05 – 3.15

Please take a look at our website for all of the other information you may need and more. We look forward to working in partnership with you.

Mrs CM Branton

www.willowbrook.essex.sch.Uk