



# Whaddon C of E First School

## Wisdom Compassion Endurance





A photograph of a classroom scene. A female teacher with blonde hair, wearing a red t-shirt, is leaning over a desk, smiling and interacting with a young child with blonde hair. The child is sitting at the desk, looking up at the teacher. In the foreground, the back of a child's head with blonde hair and a purple hair tie is visible. To the right, the back of a child's head with dark skin is also visible. The classroom has yellow walls, blue chairs, and a wooden desk. A green banner is at the bottom of the page.

## Headteacher's message

*"Thankyou for considering our school. I will try to give you a flavour of what I know to be special about Whaddon Church of England First School. If you wish to come and visit us please make an appointment by telephoning the office and I will be happy to show you and your child around and answer any questions you may have."*

Whaddon School is a smaller than average school. It sits within the picturesque village of Whaddon but is surprisingly close to Milton Keynes. For this reason it is not only used by the children of the village but also attracts families from other local villages and from the outskirts of Milton Keynes.

We provide high quality education for children from the age of 4 until the age of 7.

This means our class sizes remain small and we can offer a really personalised learning experience for every child. We prepare them for the next stage of their education in a gentler environment, using a combination of child-led and teacher guided learning. Our high levels of attainment and progress speak for themselves and by the end of their time here, the children are confident, independent learners.

While parents tell me they love the school and are very sad to leave, when the children are ready to move on, there are plenty of options available, many of which we have strong links with and can support you through the process.



# Our School Day

## Timings

### **Gates open:**

8.40am

### **School sessions:**

8.50 – 12.00

1.00pm – 3:00pm

### **Early Risers – Breakfast Club:**

Monday - Friday

7.30 – 8.40

### **Late Stayers:**

Monday - Friday

3:00 – 5:00

## Wraparound care

Our trained staff run before and after school care from 7.30 in the morning until 5.00pm in the evening. There are a variety of options to suit your families needs, including regular, pre-paid sessions and ad-hoc, pay on the day. The children receive a full breakfast in the morning session and a light snack and drink during late-stayers.

## Uniform

Uniform can be purchased from the school office.

- Grey trousers
- White polo shirt
- Blue, school logo sweatshirt
- Black shoes

### **PE Kit**

- White T Shirt with school logo
- Dark Blue shorts
- Trainers (outside)
- Black Plimsols (inside)

## Lunch & Break

All children are given a piece of fruit at break time and there is the option to purchase milk. (free for 4 year olds).

Every child has a free, cooked meal each day, including dessert. There is always a vegetarian option and we cater for all dietary needs.

*With your hands you made us,  
With our hands we serve you.*

*Our Psalm 119:73*

## A Church School



We are a Church school. Church schools are for everyone!

Visitors to our school can't help commenting on the caring, kind and special feelings they have as they spend time with us. We believe it is because we are a church school. We are guided by our values which every member of our school community had a part in choosing: Compassion, Wisdom, Endurance.

Reverend Gussie is our much loved weekly visitor, leading collective worship and running the 'Hands up for Jesus' club, which the children enthusiastically attend.

The children lead and take part in whole school and village services throughout the year at our church of St Mary's, such as Christingle, Harvest and our end of year celebration.



# Learning to Learn



## Outdoor Learning

We are fortunate to be surrounded by fields, farmland and woodland, which provide rich learning environments for everyone. The Foundation Stage children visit Mia's Wood to take part in Forest School sessions and all of our children regularly make use of our own Forest School wild area at the top of the field. There is free-flow inside and outside all day during the Foundation Stage and outdoor learning is an integral part of the curriculum in all of our classes.

## Great Foundations

During your child's first year in school it is vital that they are happy and confident enough to explore the world around them and learn from every experience. Children have amazing ideas and our highly trained staff know how to make the most of these and to nurture them into valuable learning experiences.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social, Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children develop well while also learning the skills of being learners, such as solving problems, working with others, learning from mistakes and endurance.



After Foundation Stage, the children move to Key Stage 1 where they learn in Years 1 and 2. Here, they begin to follow the National Curriculum.

#### National Curriculum Areas of Learning:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Religious Education
- Art & Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Design and Technology
- Personal, Social and Health education

Although Languages are not compulsory until Key Stage 2, we begin teaching French in Foundation Stage and continue to build on this in Years 1 and 2.

As a First School, the children stay until the end of year 2. This gives them the opportunity to continue to learn in the school they already feel secure and confident in, while they develop their learning even further. Our class sizes are small and this ensures all children feel valued for who they are and all have a chance to shine.

The year 2 children are given more responsibility as the oldest in the school. They eagerly take on the role of prefects and work hard to set good examples to their younger school friends.

## Growing and Achieving



# Inclusion



## Learning for all

We work closely with parents to ensure additional educational needs are identified and addressed swiftly. Expert advice from external agencies is used to guide planning and provision to enable good progress and high levels of attainment can be reached by all. Our highly experienced staff are skilled in understanding the needs of all children and in providing the correct balance of support and challenge for them.

If a child shows greater skill, knowledge or experience in a particular aspect of the curriculum, they will be monitored to ensure the level of challenge and expectation is appropriate for them. We are committed to providing experiences beyond the classroom for children to explore their talent and understand the possibilities open to them.

We welcome and celebrate all differences that exist within our school and beyond. Our pupils are educated and informed about the diverse lives that exist within the locality and throughout modern Britain. Compassion and wisdom are the foundations of our attitudes and relationships.

At Whaddon School, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is for children to enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.



# Extended Learning

## Events

The children are provided with opportunities to take part in sporting competitions and collaborative learning experiences throughout the year. We take part in celebrating important local events such as the village May Fayre, which has been held since 1811; lambing at the local sheep farm; Christingle; carol singing and Arts Fortnight.



## Visits and Visitors

A wide range of visitors give our children experiences beyond their daily lives, such as The Asian Arts company, Diwali visitor, Olympic athletes and even Father Christmas finds a place to park his sleigh! Past trips have included The Sealife Centre, Warwick Castle, Waddesdon, Stowe Manor, Claydon House, the Theatre, the pet shop, the vets, Hindu Temple, Synagogue and many more.



## Clubs

As well as providing wrap-around care, we offer extra-curricular clubs including: computer club, hockey, football, tennis, athletics, Hands up for Jesus, cookery, French, karate and the ever popular Welly club





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# Taking Part

## Governors

Our governing board are vital to us and help to shape our school and ensure it meets the needs of all who attend. They meet termly and can often be found in school as they are keen to play an active part in school life. If you would like to consider becoming a school governor, please ask at the front office for further details and to be notified of vacancies when they arise.



## FOWS

Whaddon school is lucky to have a very supportive, positive community of families. One way you can get involved is to take part in fundraising and social occasions through our Friends Association: Friends of Whaddon School. They put on some great events and work hard, while having a lot of fun to raise money to provide resources and opportunities for the children.



## Volunteers

If you have time to spare, and would like to, your help is always welcome and gratefully received. Parents enjoy volunteering as readers to hear our children read, and training and guidance is given for this type of role. We also love to have parents volunteer their talents. One father who is a highly experienced photographer led a workshop for a class of children and a mother who is a trained chef set up and ran our cookery club, to name but a few.



A photograph of four young children in school uniforms (blue sweaters over patterned shirts) working at a wooden table. They are using their hands to mix or shape a white substance in several white plastic containers. One child is using a small tool. The background shows a modern building with large windows.

# Joining Us

## How to get a place at Whaddon School

Parents thinking of sending their child to the school are invited to attend one of our Open Mornings in the Autumn term. Alternatively, please contact us to make an appointment to see the school in action. Admission to the Reception Class, is through Buckinghamshire County Council (via your local authority if you live outside Buckinghamshire).

The deadline for the first round of applications is mid January for the following September. In accordance with the county's admissions policy, priority goes to children who live locally. Further allocation is made in the Spring and Summer terms.

Our School Admission number is 20 in each year group.





# Whaddon C of E First School

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