



Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

GROWING TOGETHER IN LEARNING AND LIFE





Welcome to Hillesley School

Hillesley is a thriving small school at the heart of the village. It has a family feel as the staff get to know each child well and value getting to know their families. An effective partnership between home and school is fundamental to making sure that every child receives the best possible education. Pupils at Hillesley make very good progress.

The school is a Church of England school and we apply Christian values to the way that we work. We welcome children of all faiths and those with no faith.

We are committed to giving our students the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve highly in life and to value the achievements of others. Former students are very positive about their time at Hillesley and hold the school in high regard.

The pupils enjoy a broad and challenging curriculum with many extra-curricular activities. Our school belongs to the Tyndale Cluster of six broadly similar schools who work together to enhance opportunities for the children. We have a good relationship with our closest secondary school – Katharine Lady Berkeley's (KLB) and the District Sports Association.

Above all we aim to engender a love of learning and a rich sense of curiosity that will enable each pupil to be well equipped for life.

To fully appreciate our ethos and atmosphere, you need to experience our school life for yourself. You will get a warm welcome at Hillesley School.



GOOD OFSTED report (July 2018)

"Staff have created a vibrant and nurturing environment. Each pupil is known, well cared for and supported."

"The school's clearly defined values underpin its work and this is demonstrated in the way pupils respond to each other."

"Leaders are proud of their inclusive philosophy and place great emphasis on promoting pupils' emotional well-being."



GOOD SIAMS report (May 2019)

"The highly-regarded headteacher and other school leaders have embedded a vision in which every person is thoroughly known and genuinely cared for, enabling all to flourish."

"An exciting and innovative curriculum reflects the vision's strong focus on growth. It meets the needs of all pupils, enabling them to flourish both academically and personally."

"Highly supportive relationships embedded in the school's nurturing Christian vision promote the way the school interacts as a loving family community."



Mission

We welcome all pupils and strive to provide excellence in education and personal development underpinned by positive care and Christian values.

Our vision for your child

At Hillesley Primary School, children learn in a safe, caring, stimulating and joyful environment. Experienced staff provide the highest possible standards of education and enthuse pupils with a love of learning.

Through our creative, broad and balanced curriculum we inspire confidence and celebrate each pupil's individuality and their successes.

Christian values underpin our community and these, alongside a culture of mutual respect, ensure the happiness and personal growth of each child.

By working closely with parents, our local community and our cluster schools we nurture the whole child and provide a firm basis for our pupils to develop into responsible and fulfilled members of society.

At Hillesley School, our aims are to:

- strive to be the best learners and teachers we can be
- be safe but willing to take risks
- care for each other through understanding Christian values
- create an engaging learning environment
- ensure each pupil can flourish in life skills and confidence – with an enthusiastic outlook on the world!

1. ABOUT HILLESLEY SCHOOL

School and Church facilities

Hillesley is co-educational for pupils aged 4-11 years and can accommodate 56 pupils.

The school day runs from 8.45am to 3.15pm with a Breakfast Club from 7.45am. Lunchtime and after-school clubs are run on a termly basis.

Hillesley opened in 1875 as a Church of England Voluntary Aided school which means that the building belongs to Gloucester Diocese and the School Governors are responsible for funding 10% of any improvements.

Within the school grounds is a multi-surface playground and a grassed play area. Sports activities take place on the nearby playing field while swimming lessons are provided at Dursley Leisure Centre. The surrounding village, woodland and rural areas are used for science and geography projects. The school rents an allotment and has a Forest School.

The Diocese acquired and renovated the former Hillesley Baptist Chapel close to the school. It opened as the Old Chapel Hall in June 2006 and today provides additional space for various school activities and the wider community.

How the School is run

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, general management of the school is the responsibility of the School Governors.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school in line with the policies decided by the School Governors.



The Tyndale Cluster

The school belongs to a cluster of six broadly similar schools which enables us to share teaching expertise alongside broadening activities and resources for the pupils.

The six schools are:

Coaley C.E. Primary School
Hillesley C.E. Primary School
Kingswood County Primary School
North Nibley C.E. Primary School
Slimbridge County Primary School
Stone with Woodford C.E. Primary School.



2. ETHOS AND VALUES

At all times we endeavour to consider the wellbeing of pupils, staff and others in the school community. We attach great importance to safeguarding children and child protection.

Your child will benefit from a high teacher-to-pupil ratio: staff at Hillesley know each child's individual abilities and his or her potential to achieve within the National Curriculum and across a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

From day one, we aim to make your child's education a happy and stimulating experience, encouraging natural curiosity and a sense of adventure. We aim to provide exciting classrooms where children are keen to learn.



We are a well-ordered, purposeful and lively community. As role models, staff encourage pupils to be considerate and helpful, to share and show sympathy with others.

Pupils are encouraged to work independently and together in groups. As pupils progress through the school, staff enjoy helping them to grow in confidence and maturity.

We praise pupils who show effort and improvement in work and attitude. Successes are shared through certificates, team points and assemblies.

We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We aim to create an environment in which they feel good about themselves and have a high level of self-esteem and self-worth. Each pupil is valued and contributes in a positive way to the life of the school.

Pupils are expected to work and behave in a way which leads to high standards. Any incidents of bullying, bad language, unkindness or bad behaviour will be dealt with in a fair but firm manner.

Worship

Our aim is the rounded development of the growing child. We also help our pupils to prepare to take their place in the world as caring and responsible individuals.

Daily worship plays a central role in the development of the school's strong community spirit. It is used to introduce pupils to a variety of situations and experiences to help them develop their own beliefs and personality.

Local clergy visit the school to conduct worship on a regular basis and also sit on the governing body.

Each term we hold a Celebration Worship where achievements, events and other activities, both inside and outside school, are recognised. Parents, prospective parents, Governors and local supporters of the school are welcome to attend.

On discussion with the Headteacher, parents have the option to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship.



3. WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN?

We place great importance on providing a broad and balanced curriculum so that the pupils grow, not just physically and academically, but also by developing a thoughtful moral and spiritual aspect. We aim to prepare them for secondary education and the experiences, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. This is achieved through the subjects of the National Curriculum, religious education and the strong ethos of the school.

We use a wide range of teaching methods appropriate to specific learning objectives. All work is carefully planned and structured and the progress of every child is continually monitored and recorded. Hillesley School is committed to understanding each individual child's needs, whatever their learning ability. This means we are able to identify and respond to a need for extra help or to provide more challenging work.

We value learning through experience and whenever possible will bring classroom work alive with practical activities and educational visits.

Years 5 and 6 have a short residential trip which is an experience in living and co-operating with others, and meeting challenges in situations vastly different from those met at school.

National Curriculum

In England, the Primary National Curriculum consists of 13 subjects, which all children must study in school:

English
Mathematics
Science
Design & Technology
Computing (IT or ICT)
Geography
History
Music
Art
Physical Education
Religious Education
Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

English, Mathematics, Science and Computing are the core subjects.

The Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged three to five years is a framework for learning under the following headings:

Personal Social & Emotional Development (PSE)
Communication & Language (C&L)
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World (UW)
Expressive Arts & Design (EA&D)
Physical Development (PD).

We provide curriculum information to parents six times a year so you know exactly what your child is studying. This information is also on the school website hillesleyprimary.com



Computing

The school is well equipped for teaching computing (information communication technology) with up-to-date computer software and hardware. Pupils are introduced to computers and programmable toys from the moment they join the school.

Computers are used for learning across the curriculum, for communication, handling information, research, control and the preparation and presentation of work in text and graphics.

Juniors are given the opportunity to access web-based educational sites and to e-mail other schools and friends.

All classrooms extensively use interactive whiteboards for computing and other teaching subjects. Listening centres and TV are also used.

Science

We encourage pupils to think and work as scientists. We encourage them to ask questions and formulate hypotheses in a form which can be tested.

We develop knowledge and understanding through practical activities and investigations, sometimes working in groups and sometimes alone.

Geography

The pupils are taught geographical skills and how to use these in developing their understanding of places; locally, nationally and throughout the world. They learn to use first-hand experiences and how to research and investigate topics such as rivers, weather, environmental change and settlement e.g. the development of building.

The Early Years outdoor area is designed to stimulate curiosity and risk-taking.



History

The pupils are taught facts about the past and become aware of how it may have felt to live at other times. The Infants study the past within and beyond living memory, while Juniors are taught a variety of study units that include British History from the Stone Age onwards.

All pupils are made aware of different interpretations of events and their causes and consequences. They record their findings in a variety of written, illustrative and graphic ways.

Art and Design Technology

Pupils express themselves creatively using a variety of tools and media. They will become aware of shape, pattern, colour and design in two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. A variety of artists and aspects of the local environment are used to enrich the curriculum.

In Design Technology pupils are taught how to design, plan, make and constructively evaluate their work. They learn the skills needed to use a wide range of tools and materials. They are also made aware of health and safety aspects.

Physical Education

Pupils grow in confidence through a variety of physical activities and in developing individual and team skills. Friendly matches and tournaments are organised with other schools for football, netball, cross-country running and rounders. We take part in the annual District Sports Athletics Event at Katharine Lady Berkeley's, our local secondary school.

The school is actively involved with the KLB Sports Partnership which provides opportunities for pupils to experience a wider variety of sports.

Religious Education

As a Church of England School, Religious Education has a special role to play in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. These elements are an intrinsic part of the life of our school.

The ethos of the school supports the moral and spiritual development of every child. We also teach 'values for life' such as compassion, hope, courage, truthfulness and perseverance.

Music

Pupils are introduced to music through a variety of enjoyable experiences. They have opportunities to listen, sing and create music using a wide range of instruments.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

Each child's own experiences provide the foundation upon which we build, centred upon the principles of caring for others, honesty, consideration and tolerance.

The school achieved GOOD from OFSTED for their progress in equipping the children to develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their wellbeing.





Pupil Voice

The children vote for their own school council which is made up of pupils from Year 2 onwards. They regularly discuss school issues which contribute to whole school planning.

Green Issues

Hillesley School achieved the top Eco Green Flag Award and it continues to inform our 'green agenda' today. All the children get involved with looking at environmental issues, thinking about renewable energy and other ways people can choose to live.



Clubs and Activities

In addition to the National Curriculum PE requirements, pupils at Hillesley can join clubs after school and during the lunch hour, e.g. sports, cross-country, dance, art and craft, computer, engineering, chess, go-karting.

Some clubs are run on a voluntary basis by staff, parents and members of the community. No charge is made unless an external coach is employed.

Mixed Age Classes

In common with many small schools, the classes at Hillesley School are made up of more than one year group. This means that teaching and learning is structured in many different ways so that it is appropriate to the individual subject and specific activity. This allows greater opportunity for personalised learning.

At times it may be beneficial to have groups of mixed ages and abilities working together collaboratively, for example in Art or Design and Technology.



4. LOOKING AFTER YOUR CHILD

Happy Children

We take positive action to ensure that pupils' behaviour is in harmony with the ethos and values of the school. Strategies include Circle Time, an open forum when pupils can discuss any issues in a safe situation, and Golden Time when pupils can choose any activities that they would like to do.

Good behaviour is promoted by leading by example; Circle Time, celebration worship, assemblies, values for life, religious education, drama and role play. Rewards include praise, reward stickers, team points, certificates and Golden Time.

We constantly look for and reward good behaviour. However, if undesirable behaviour occurs we have clear and consistent ways of dealing with it, such as the loss of Golden Time or moving the child to work in a different place or class. This tried and tested approach is very effective.

Healthy Eating

Hillesley School was one of the first schools in Gloucestershire to be awarded Healthy School status.

KS1 pupils are provided with healthy snack which consists of fruit or vegetable. Infants are given time for school milk and snacks before morning break. We take note of any dietary requirements and allergies.

Lunchtime

Hot meals are provided by the county suppliers. Hot meals are available five days a week in line with the government's School Meals Initiative. Meals are chosen and paid for online by parents.

Packed lunches can be provided from home – please supply in a named box (no sweets or glass bottles). Midday assistants encourage good table manners.



Uniform

There is a simple uniform which encourages a sense of belonging and responsibility whilst helping pupils to feel 'dressed for work'. Pupils should be neatly and suitably attired at all times.

5. KEEPING YOU INFORMED

How we keep in touch

While your child is at school, the Class Teacher will normally be your first point of contact. The Headteacher is also available to meet and talk with parents.

Regular parents' evenings give you the opportunity to talk about your child's progress. A written report is produced in the summer term.

Newsletters and other information, such as forthcoming clubs, are sent home via pupils each week.

There are occasional evening meetings to keep parents informed of any developments.

The Headteacher holds informal meetings during the year to give parents opportunities to discuss current issues.

The school website holds most of the information you will need as well as fun news and events.

hillesleyprimary.com



Friends of Hillesley School (FOHS)

The Friends of Hillesley School is a well-established association, made up of parents and friends of the school whose main objective is to raise money to purchase educational equipment, services and facilities not normally provided by the Local Education Authority.

FOHS liaises closely with teaching staff, governors and parents and maintains strong ties in the community. It has a closed Facebook page and WhatsApp group.

Helping in School

The school benefits from voluntary support from parents and other members of the community. This may be to help with reading, computer skills, wellie walks, allotment, swimming or with 'life skills' and 'job talks'.

Many people have talents that can be put to use in a small primary school. If you can help the school, we would be pleased to hear from you. All helpers are required to be DBS checked.



6. JOINING THE SCHOOL

Get to know us

To help you make your decision and to help your child become comfortable with the school, you will be invited to attend:

- an open evening in the Autumn Term
- the Christmas Fair and Christmas Production
- Sports Day (Summer Term)

Your child will be able to join in 'taster' sessions in the Summer Term before they start school in September.

A New Parents Evening, also in the Summer Term, is useful for asking any remaining questions and to be briefed on how to prepare your child for starting school. There is a guide for new parents.



Starting school life

Reception pupils begin on a part-time basis to allow them to adjust to the different parts of the school day. We are able to be flexible and only extend to a full day when each child is ready.

Term dates

Term dates are available from the School Office.

The school year is based on 195 days, 190 days open to pupils and 5 days allocated for staff professional development and training. In-service days are generally notified at the beginning of each term.

Daily timetable

7.45am	Breakfast Club
8.45am	School opens
8.55 - 9.00am	Registration
9.00 – 9.20am	Worship
9.25 – 10.25am	Lessons
10.25 - 10.40am	Break
10.45 - 12.00 noon	Lessons
12.00 - 1.00pm	Lunch break
1.00 – 1.05pm	Registration
1.05 - 1.30pm	Quiet reading
1.30 - 3.15pm	Lessons
3.15pm	End of school day

Moving on to other schools

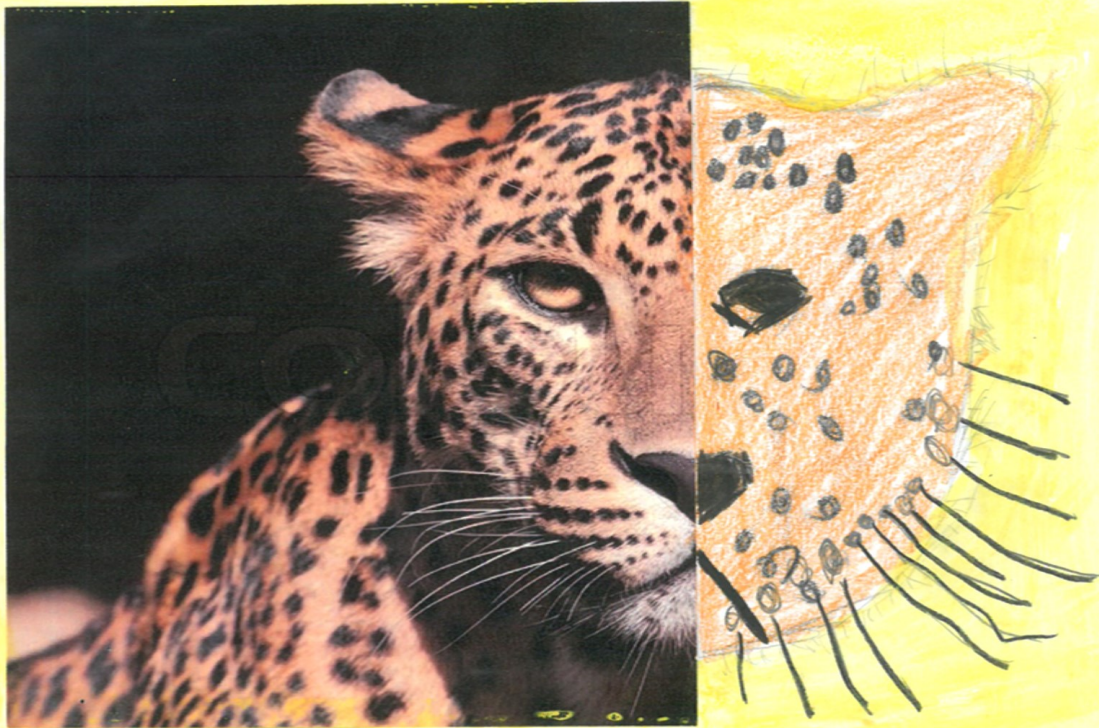
Great care is taken to ensure that transfers to other schools are made as smoothly as possible.

At the end of Year 6, the majority of our pupils move to Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge. There is a close pastoral link between the two schools.

Pupils also transfer to other schools in the area including Sir William Romney's, Castle, Rednock, Stroud High, Marling and Pates.

Throughout Years 5 and 6, opportunities are provided for children to take part in activities that are designed to help the transition from Primary to Secondary.

We find that Hillesley pupils handle this transfer very well. The confidence and self-awareness they develop here equips them with the positive self-esteem to succeed at the next stage of their 'learning for life' journey.



For your notes:

[illegible]



photographs © Paul Groom Photography Ltd.

We would be delighted to arrange a visit for
you and your child to meet the staff and pupils
and answer any questions you have.

Hillesley Primary School
Kilcott Road, Hillesley, Gloucestershire GL12 7RH
01453 843551
admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk

hillesleyprimary.com