



# Hope Enjoy Achieve Responsibility Togetherness

*'Stopsley School is just great. The behaviour of the children is so good and I always feel listened to and valued if ever I need to talk to a member of staff about something.'*

**Parent**

*'Pupils are challenged and well differentiated for. There is a real growth mindset amongst everyone at the school and every lesson has a 'learning without limits' approach.'*

**School Improvement Advisor**



**Stopsley Community  
Primary School**

Hitchin Road, Luton. LU2 7UG

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Headteacher: Mr R Fordham

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*'The level of independent learning  
is very high. Children are keen to  
learn and they take pride in the  
work that they do.'*

**Teaching and Learning Advisor**



# Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Stopsley Community Primary School. We are a thriving and active school community in Stopsley village, situated in the east of Luton on the Hertfordshire border. We provide a secure, happy and stimulating environment in which children enjoy learning and are able to fulfil their potential. We provide a variety of learning experiences which enable our children to make choices, solve problems, become independent and set their own high standards.

We believe that we can achieve the best for your child by having a close partnership between home and school. Therefore, we welcome parents into the school to help, take part in activities and to share experiences. We are proud of our historical building and the wonderful grounds that we have. We are fortunate to be able to offer our pupils the ideal place to learn, explore, play and grow.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child. Should you ever wish to discuss any aspect of the school with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warmest wishes,

**Mr R Fordham  
Headteacher**



*'Children are very lucky to go to this school. It is a  
wonderful place and they are taught by wonderful staff.'*

**Visiting Headteacher**





*'Thank you so much for giving the children such amazing experiences. The school always goes that extra mile.'*

Parent

## Organisation of Admissions

Admissions to the school are controlled by Luton Borough Council. The Admissions Team is happy to advise parents on all aspects of admission to the town's Schools. Though this brochure aims to give you a flavour of the school, you can only truly appreciate the atmosphere of our school if you come and visit in person. If you would like to visit, please call in or telephone to make an appointment.

## School Organisation

We have three classes in each year group from Reception to Year 6. Children start school full time at the beginning of the school year in which they become 5. Timings of the school day are organised to meet the needs of each age phase. These can be found on a separate page which is included at the back of this prospectus. Each year group is overseen by experienced Year Group Leaders who liaise with the school's Senior Leadership Team, including the Headteacher, regularly. There is also Stopsley Village Pre-School on our site which caters for children aged from 2 years and 6 months.

## Safeguarding

Keeping children and adults safe is paramount to everything we do. We pride ourselves on our safeguarding procedures being highly effective. Our Safeguarding team continually ensure that all children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are ever worried and that all families can be supported and helped whenever it's necessary. Our Family Workers continually provide support and training to all members of our school community and they always lend an ear if, at any time, you just need someone to talk to.

As a school we are committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school. We will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents about their children. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with Social Workers and / or the police without parental knowledge (in accordance with the Luton Safeguarding Children Board's procedures). The school will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all families. The school's child protection policy is available on request.

*'The leadership team has established a strong safeguarding culture throughout the school.'*

Ofsted

# Vision & Values

## Our Vision

Stopsley Community Primary School will become the school of choice. It is a place where:

- High standards are achieved in everything we do because barriers to success are removed; we become more than we were before
- We work together and communicate as a whole school team to provide a safe environment where children are confident to share ideas and support each other's learning (staff wellbeing supports pupil achievement)
- No child is invisible
- The wellbeing of all supports pupil achievement and everyone feels valued, heard and appreciated
- All stakeholders are involved in the life of the school both here and beyond the school gates
- Trust underpins strong relationships based on mutual respect, listening and accountability
- Responsibility for achievement is shared, leadership happens at all levels and everyone provides and receives support and challenge
- All that we do is driven by our desire to ensure that we receive and celebrate daily experiences of success
- A calm yet vibrant atmosphere prevails which is focused on everyone learning and achieving
- A warm welcome awaits everyone and parents are encouraged, valued and welcomed into our school

## Our Values

Our values at Stopsley Community Primary School are at the HEART of all we do and drive our vision forward. Our key values are:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Hope</b>           | to instil an optimistic attitude, expecting good and positive outcomes with inner confidence                      |
| <b>Enjoy</b>          | to be able to learn and develop safely and well, enjoying our experiences   |
| <b>Achieve</b>        | to be able to succeed and build individual resilience and perseverance in learning                                |
| <b>Responsibility</b> | to take responsibility for our own actions, property and encourage good choices in others, showing respect        |
| <b>Togetherness</b>   | to learn to work well alongside others, develop positive friendships and to be proud of each others' achievements |



**Stopsley Community  
Primary School**



# The Curriculum

Our school recognises the rights and needs of every child and therefore aims to ensure the highest quality of education and equality of opportunity for each of its pupils. All aspects of the National Curriculum are taught, with much of our work stemming from first hand, practical experiences. Our curriculum is lively and interesting. Interactive teaching methods are used and the use of computing is integrated throughout the curriculum.

We are an Eco school and value the benefits of outdoor learning. Children are stimulated by the outdoors where they can undertake a range of practical activities to support and enhance learning across the curriculum. We regularly plan trips and visits for children in all age groups. This brings learning to life and acts as a rich stimulus to help inspire and motivate. They provide new and exciting experiences.

Stopsley Community Primary School has the International School Award. This recognises our ongoing international work, such as working closely with our partner schools in different continents around the world. We aim to help our children become global citizens.

Teachers and support staff work together to provide work that is appropriate and challenging for each child. They may set different tasks within the same lesson or they may set a task which is open for children to interpret or develop at their own level. Staff use highly effective questioning skills and develop children's thinking skills. Pupils are assessed on a continual basis in school, so that the teacher and the child are both aware of personal achievements and next steps that are needed in order to make progress.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Reception classes work very closely together on the Foundation Stage curriculum in an Early Years' unit. This is overseen by an experienced Reception Leader.

We aim to make the transition from home to school a smooth and enjoyable experience for all children. Through our strong partnership with parents, we are able to work together to develop healthy and happy children who feel confident, safe and have a love for learning. We regularly invite parents in to school to meet the staff. Our Reception staff conduct home visits and will visit children in a current setting, all prior to them starting school.

We are very lucky to have a great outdoor space for the Foundation Stage so much of the learning can take place outdoors.

### The prime areas of learning are:

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional
- Physical development

### The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

To ensure our children make significant progress, we deliver a good balance of child initiated and adult directed learning where lessons and activities are varied, meaningful and stimulating for all learning groups. Through the use of continuous observations, our experienced practitioners are able to identify learning opportunities within play and make decisions regarding a child's next step in learning.

At the end of the Foundation Stage children are assessed in all these areas alongside the child's characteristics of learning. These assessments are shared with the Key Stage 1 staff as part of transition in to Year 1.

## Key Stage One - Year 1, Year 2

Building on the foundations of learning, we continue to nurture children's educational journey. All children are encouraged to achieve high standards in their daily English, phonics and maths lessons. We give personalised targets and useful feedback to ensure children take ownership of their learning in order to make very strong progress.

In addition to this, we provide many opportunities to explore and develop pupils' creative, physical, cultural, spiritual, personal and social skills. We provide a wide range of real and relevant learning experiences through our broad, enriched and differentiated curriculum. Using our continual assessment and reporting procedures, we are able to inform future learning steps to further prepare and develop our children towards the next part of their journey.

## Key Stage Two - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

Moving in to Key Stage Two, children continue to remain engaged, inspired, motivated and sufficiently challenged. Through providing memorable experiences and rich opportunities for high quality learning, children can thrive during these later years in the school. The curriculum is practical but carefully structured, providing a balance of transferable skills to equip our adult learners of tomorrow.

We believe passionately that English, maths, computing and personal development are crucial for enabling children to access a balanced and broad curriculum. As in Key Stage One, every child has a daily maths and English lesson. Much of our teaching is cross-curricular. Teacher assessment is a continuous picture of assessment showing children's achievements during the course of the year and Key Stage. We formally assess the children three times a year in reading, grammar and maths, whilst writing and Science are assessed on a continual basis. We carefully analyse the assessment results and we track each child's progress and attainment and plan any interventions needed. Teachers also use the results of these assessments to inform their future planning and to set targets for individual children.



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*'Pupils engage well and are motivated to learn. Teachers demonstrate high expectations and pupils' work is of a high standard.'*

**Ofsted**



### Religious Education

We follow the Agreed Syllabus of the Local Authority, which is based on the understanding of all faiths and considers the main beliefs and features of other world religions. The syllabus promotes an inclusive and educational approach to RE.

Collective Worship is held daily and makes reference to all religions. Collective Worship and Religious Education also helps the children to think about the part they play in influencing their own lives and those of others, and offers the opportunity to think about feelings and the effects of our actions.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from RE or Collective Worship should state their wishes to the Headteacher in writing.

### Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

SRE is part of the overall provision of Personal, Social and Health Education. It is concerned not only with the knowledge of facts but also with the development of attitudes and values. Children's questions are answered honestly and sensitively, at their own level of understanding. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the parts of SRE which are not covered by the National Curriculum for Science. We would hope that parents would discuss any concerns with us in the first instance.

### Most Able Children

All children are encouraged to be independent and self-motivated and develop their abilities. We believe that the role of the school is to provide a wide range of challenging learning opportunities which will enable each individual, including those with exceptional abilities, to develop their full potential.

We create an ethos which encourages children of all abilities to achieve, to establish a culture where children want to achieve and have high aspirations, and celebrate and reward high levels of performance.

Early recognition of the most able children is extremely important. We keep a register of such children which is continually monitored and updated. When planning work for the most able children, one of our main aims is to encourage mastery and higher order thinking skills.

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We follow the SEND Code of Practice and have our own Inclusion policy. SEND is led across the school by our SEND team who are very experienced and are passionate about inclusion for all. At Stopsley, no child is invisible. The school is fully accessible for any people who have a disability. We have many resources and strategies in place that help children with SEND make significant progress.

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### Extended School and Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a morning and after-school club called FLAG (Fun, Laughter and Games) which runs daily during term time. To find details for this club, please visit our school website or contact FLAG by phoning the school.

There is a wide and varying range of before school, after school and lunchtime clubs which are led by staff and are available to all our children. Our PE Instructors lead on many different sports and fitness clubs and these are always popular with our children. Clubs differ termly and include options such as: cookery, sewing, gardening, art, drama, computing and many different sports. The school has a community focus and is sometimes used by external organisations.



## Stopsley Community Primary School

### Keeping Healthy and Lunchtimes

We aim to ensure that children are encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle by supporting healthy eating, the enjoyment of exercise and taking care of everyone's emotional well-being. We have a pastoral care team who work closely with children and families when the need arises.

Water is freely available throughout the day. All children should bring a water bottle to school. Children are encouraged to drink water regularly and eat fruit at break time. All children are also able to drink milk every day. This has to be paid for in Key Stages 1 and 2 but Reception children receive their milk for free. Break times are a time for children to play and enjoy themselves.

Our school kitchen staff provide the children with a well-balanced meal at lunchtime. School dinners have to be paid for in advance. The children who have a school meal have a choice of three different options and these change daily. The menu can be viewed on the school website. School dinners prove to be a popular part of the day!

We have staggered lunchtimes where the younger children eat first. There is a team of skilled staff who supervise the children in our dining room and a team who interact with the children when playing outside. Lunchtime is a happy, safe and important time of the day.

The school is proud of its Healthy Schools Silver Award.





## Medicines

If a child needs medication during the school day, this must be brought in to the school office by the parent. These medicines must be prescribed by a doctor and be in the original bottle / packaging. The school is unable to administer over the counter medicines. All medication must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name, contents, dosage and date. Parents will also be asked to complete a Medicine Record Form for the school to administer medication.

## Attendance

We reward children who show good attendance at school. The school must be notified if a child is going to be off ill. Adults bringing their children to and from school are welcome on site and can informally talk with members of staff who are out on the playground or who are at classroom doors. Our open door policy really is everywhere! 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 Headteacher will check this. Our attendance policy can be found on the school website.

## Parents Learning Together

There are regular opportunities for parents to come in to school to learn new skills. We work with other agencies to provide adult education in a relaxed, supportive environment. We regularly hold parental workshops in many subjects. Notice of these dates will always be shared with parents well in advance.

## Home Learning

All children receive home learning, which will be related to work in school. Tasks and ideas are provided by teachers and we hope that parents will support their children with this important work at home. We expect all children to read daily. Younger children need to read with an adult whilst parents should question and have a discussion with older children about their reading. We also expect all children to do daily practise of spellings and times-tables. Class teachers will support you with any questions you may have about home learning.

## Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

When a child joins the school, their parents automatically become a member of the PTA. A group of parents meet regularly to organise fund raising and social activities, such as discos and fairs. Should you have any new ideas, or would be willing to give up some of your time to help, we would be delighted to hear from you. Just pop in to school and ask for further details from the office.

## Payments

Where we do ask for payments for trips, workshops and events, parents can only pay online. Our school office is cashless. Details of how to pay the school online are given to parents when a child starts at the school.

## Illness or Injury

Many of our staff are first aid trained. However, should your child become unwell, you will be asked to collect them from school as soon as possible. Children who have been absent from school due to a sickness bug must remain at home for 24 hours after the symptoms have subsided. Should a child have a serious accident at school, a parent will be contacted and medical help sought if necessary. All minor accidents are recorded and these are reported to parents by an accident slip. Parents should notify the school if their child has any infectious illnesses, eg: whooping cough; measles; etc. Should a parent require a child to remain indoors during school break-times for health reasons, then a request should be made in writing, or by telephone, to the school to inform the class teacher.



## Stopsley Community Primary School



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## Behaviour

We believe that good behaviour stems from:

- Positive relationships between children and between adults and children
- High expectations
- A commitment by all staff to the policies and ethos of the school
- A positive relationship between home and school
- Praise and celebration of achievement

We expect that children from an early age behave well and show respect for other people and their property. We have our Golden Rules which all children abide by. These are regularly reviewed by children and the staff together.

Many positive reward systems are used in school, such as special achievement awards, certificates and stickers. All our children enjoy receiving praise! We also believe that behaviour is shown through a child's attitude to learning. We want children to love their learning and have a thirst for knowledge. We strive for all children to show outstanding learning behaviour.

In cases of persistent misbehaviour, we work together with parents to resolve the problem and put matters right. In the case of continuing bad behaviour, a series of carefully staged sanctions exist, the final one being exclusion from school in exceptional circumstances.

*‘The teachers show exceptionally high expectations for behaviour for learning.’*

## Visiting Headteacher

## School Council and Sports Council

At Stopsley, we believe that children's voice is important. We like our pupils to be independent, reflective and to plan for the future. We believe in listening to children and allowing them to have their own opinions and beliefs. Each year, every class votes for their class councillors. These children then join together to form our School Council. The School Council meets regularly to discuss school improvement and to share the opinions of their classmates with school staff. The School Council are also heavily involved in organising and delivering various events throughout the school year. We also have a Sports Council who regularly meet with our PE team to decide on how we continually move forwards with sport and fitness. Both council's raise money for various charities or organisations and along with the House system that we have at Stopsley, they help children gain a real feeling of togetherness and belonging.



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## Stopsley Community Primary School

### Information and Communication

We like to keep you informed and hear your views. This is achieved through:

- Daily contact with your child's class teacher
- Regular weekly newsletters
- Our school website and App
- Our social media - Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Parents evenings twice per year
- Written school reports
- Questionnaires or consultation with parents
- An open door - parents are welcome in school at any time. Just call in or telephone to make an appointment

### Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act requires publicly funded bodies, including schools, to be clear about the information they publish. Details for this school can be found on the school's website and is given to parents when their child first starts attending the school. Also, you may get a copy from the school office at any time.

### Comments and Complaints

We aim to do the best for all our pupils. Any comments you have will be helpful to us to ensure that we achieve our aims. We all like to hear praise about our work and any compliments will be very welcome, but equally if you have a problem or something concerns you, we want you to tell us about it. If you have any concerns about your child's education, you should go to your child's class teacher first and then the Year Group Leader as a second step. You can of course then contact the Headteacher, via his PA, who will be happy to arrange an appointment with you.



*'The positive, caring nature of the staff has definitely rubbed off on my son... He has a very good attitude towards school. We are very proud of his achievement but, more importantly, so is he!'*

Parent



## Stopsley Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr R Fordham

Enclosed with this prospectus, you will find more information about ...

- The times of the school day
- School uniform
- Staff list
- List of Governors
- Our policy on Charging for school visits
- Our National Curriculum assessment results from the most recent year at the time of writing

If there is anything else you would like to know, please don't hesitate to ask.