

Birdwell Primary School



Prospectus 2006 / 2007

Welcome to Birdwell Primary School

Introduction

This booklet has been written to introduce you to our school, to describe our aims and objectives, and to inform you about some of our ways of working.

We welcome your visits to school; please call and see us at any time. Our overall aim is to help your children feel happy and secure during their time at Birdwell. We can only do this if we work as a partnership with you, the parents.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

1. The school is seen as a learning community and that strong links are further developed in the wider community.
 2. All children fulfil their learning potential and achieve a high level of attainment through providing the opportunity for independence and creativity.
 3. The children leave Birdwell School with values of citizenship. They demonstrate care for each other, are well behaved and have a record of their achievement.
 4. Together we create a purposeful, enjoyable atmosphere in school.
 5. There are high expectations from all, parents, children, staff and the community so that children can pursue their ambition.
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1. We are here to learn
 2. We do our best.
 3. We are kind and well behaved
 4. Together we try hard and enjoy ourselves
 5. We expect the best and follow our dreams

Birdwell School is recognised, locally and nationally as a “good” school.

Inspectors' View of the School (March 2002)

This is a good school. The quality of teaching and learning has been maintained at good levels since the last inspection. This leads to good standards being achieved in national tests at seven and eleven. The very good learning relationships encourage pupils to have positive attitudes to their work and to behave well. Almost all pupils, including those with special educational needs, make good progress from entry to leaving school.

Pupils' personal development remains good. Relationships are strong and make a significant contribution to the quality of education provided. Pupils are polite and friendly and generally work well together in lessons, when asked to do so.

Teachers use the format of the literacy hour well to teach the basic skills of reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Support staff help small groups or individual pupils who need further guidance effectively. A strength of the curricular provision is the increasing skill with which staff link subjects together to make best use of time and to strengthen pupils' learning.

The contribution made by parents to their children's learning is good and this has a positive impact on the standards achieved.

Children in the reception class make good progress because the experienced teacher and classroom assistant have high standards and teach them well. The children work in a rich classroom environment, where literacy and numeracy skills develop strongly. (A summary of the Inspection report is available on request from the school)

Pupils Views

I like this school because I like learning.

Olivia Cawthorn

Our School is colourful.

Calum Tinker

I like this school because they are friendly.

Lucy Cowley

I feel safe.

Sam Atkinson

I like this school because we have nice teachers.

Taylor Morton

Birdwell Primary School always has happy faces.

Robyn Ball

I like this school because you keep doing harder work.

Joseph Glover

We have nice books to read.

Rosie Faver

General Information	Birdwell Primary School, Sheffield Rd., Birdwell, Barnsley. S70 5XB. Telephone: 01226 742957 Co-educational Community Primary School
Age Range	5-11 Infants & Juniors
Head teacher	Ms. J. Gilmour
Deputy Head	Mr. S. Walker
Teaching Staff	Miss J. Wroe Mrs. J. Bruck Miss. H. Couzens Miss. P. Ellis Mr. A. Ralph Miss. C. Stringer Miss J. Cameron Mrs. S. Priest
Clerical and Financial Assistant	Mrs. D. Sykes
Support Staff	Mrs. H. Addy Mrs. B. Bradley Mr. G. Sykes Mrs. M. Mason Mrs. D. Richardson Mrs. S. Atkinson Miss J. O'Neil
Chair of Governors	Councillor A. Schofield
Vice-chair	Mrs A. Edgar
Education Authority	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Chief Education Officer	
Address	Education Offices, Berneslai Close, Barnsley. S70 2HS.

The particulars in this handbook were correct at the time of printing. The Head and the Governors reserve the right to change the curriculum or organisation to meet the changing needs of children and society.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The admission arrangements are those of Barnsley L.E.A. and there are two points of entry, September and January. Children whose fifth birthday falls between:

- a) 1st Sept. 2006 and 31st Dec. 2006 are admitted at the beginning of the Autumn Term (September)
- b) 1st Jan 2007 and 31st Aug. 2007 are admitted at the beginning of the Spring Term (January)

In the past, the school has offered entry to children on a part time basis. Under the agreed LEA policy this no longer happens, although the situation is under review.

It helps the school to plan effectively for a child's education, if parents of pre-school children who are likely to send their children to our school can let us know as soon as possible. We can then ensure that the appropriate information is sent to you.

Application forms for a school place for 2006/7 can be obtained from the school in Sept. 2005. These are then returned to the school and passed to the Education Offices. They deal with all the admission arrangements for the school. The closing date for applications is 18th Nov. 2005.

We try to make the child's entry to school as happy and trouble free as possible. We invite parents and children into school in the term before they are to be admitted, to see the school and meet their new teacher. Following this visit, children are invited to spend a morning each week in school during the final half term before they start school.

SCHOOL HOURS

Morning Session	8.55am - 12 noon.
Afternoon Session	1.00pm - 3.30pm.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please let us know. If possible contact the school by phone on the first day of absence otherwise a note explaining the child's absence must be given to the class teacher when they return. We are required to publish our attendance rate and the number of unauthorised absences in the last school year.

The total number of registered pupils of compulsory school age on role in the 2005 summer term was 149. The percentage attendance for the year was 95.2% Of the absences 0.4% were unauthorised, these were due to children having in excess of the permitted holidays in school time.

The governing body wishes to draw parents' attention to guidelines on school attendance from the Department for Education particularly with reference to family holidays. To quote from the document: "Permission for family holidays is granted in accordance with arrangements made by the governing body of the school. Only in exceptional circumstances may the amount of leave granted exceed (in total) more than two weeks in any one year. No parent can demand leave of absence for the purposes of a holiday as a right."

Leave of absence for holidays will not be considered:

- during the first half term of the academic year
 - In between Feb. and May half terms for pupils in Y2 and Y6 (for SATs preparation)
 - If the pupil has internal exams or assessments near or during the time of the proposed absence.
 - If the pupils attendance rate is poor and falls below the national average.
- Copies of the full guidelines are available in school.

CURRICULUM

Our aim is to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. The school curriculum is based on the National Curriculum. All children must study the Core Curriculum, which includes English, Mathematics and Science.

They also study the Foundation Subjects, which covers the subjects of Design/Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, P.E., I.C.T., R.E. PSHE and Citizenship.

English is taught using the National Literacy Strategy and Mathematics through the National Numeracy Strategy. The children in the Reception Class follow the Foundation Curriculum, which is started in Nursery or Playgroup.

Children at ages 7 and 11 will be assessed using the Government's standard assessment test, (SATS). These are a mixture of teacher assessment and statutory tests. The results of these tests are sent home with the child's annual report. Regular testing takes place in other year groups and this is used to help the school set targets. Further information about the curriculum and school policies can be obtained by asking the school staff.

Wherever possible we use first hand experience as a starting point for our teaching. We strive to provide learning experiences that are appropriate for your child's level of ability. We plan activities, which lead to new learning, so that we can build on prior learning. We aim to provide challenge through organising work in a variety of ways, encouraging children to use their initiative and become more responsible for organising their own learning. We aim to give equal opportunities to all children.

We are constantly striving to improve the delivery of the curriculum to ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We try to teach subjects through mini topics or link subjects together in a thematic approach to make them relevant in order to motivate learning. Practical activities in all areas of the curriculum help to improve skills, understanding and development of ideas. We actively seek out new initiatives to promote learning e.g. Gifted and Talented project, Dinosaur School, the Accelerated Learning model and Assessment for Learning.

We have a Residential Environmental Studies Programme in which we encourage all older children to participate. This year the Year 5 children are going to Castleton and the Year 6 children to Winmarleigh Hall.

Computers

Computers are widely used across the curriculum through our well developed ICT system. All children have the opportunity to develop ICT skills and use appropriate software to enhance their learning. We have a network of computers that have access to the Barnsley intranet. This gives the children an opportunity to use the internet through a protected system. We use wireless linked lap tops enabling all children to use them in a cross curricular way and the interactive whiteboard is used as a teaching aid for further developing ICT skills. Kirk Balk School has Technology status and supports us in the delivery of ICT.

Physical Education

Children have a P.E. lesson at least twice a week when they are asked to bring a suitable P.E. Kit. (a T. shirt and shorts). Also, children will need footwear for outdoor games (trainers or pumps). It is an Education Authority ruling that children are not allowed to wear any jewellery while taking part in a P.E. lesson. This means ear rings must be removed.

Swimming

Children in Year 4 attend swimming lessons at Hoyland Swimming Pool for two terms. At the end of last year almost all children had reached the standard required by the National Curriculum, many were far beyond this standard.

Sex Education

The Sex Education Policy is incorporated into our school Health Policy. The Y6 children are taught Sex Education through a school's T.V. programme and parents will be notified in advance if they wish to withdraw their child from the lesson.

Religious Education

We offer Religious Education as an integral part of the curriculum, following LEA guidelines. Children will learn about Christianity and use this as a basis to compare with Judaism at Key Stage 1 and Islam and Buddhism at Key Stage 2. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from RE lessons, but this must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

Daily Collective Worship

School assemblies have a Christian basis and emphasis is laid on our responsibilities as members of a caring community. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective acts of worship and this must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

Sport

All children take part in sport as a part of their P.E. lessons. We offer children in Key Stage 2 after school activities in sports. At the moment football is offered for the older children and we run a school football team for those who wish to take part.

The schools' sporting aims in line with the National Curriculum are:-

1. To provide physical activity and healthy lifestyle
2. To develop positive attitudes and observe the conventions of honest and fair play
3. To ensure safe practice

Initially we teach basic game skills then build up to small group situations in Football, Netball, Cricket, Rounders, Hockey and Tennis. This then leads to full team sports abiding by primary school rules. There is a well-equipped gymnasium and large playing field, which are both used by the school community. We also have an enclosed multi purpose sports area on the schoolyard. Miss O'Neil has been employed to organise games activities for the children at lunch times.

Arts

We have a strong commitment to the Arts in school. All children are given the opportunity to develop their artistic skills within the classroom and we take pride in displaying a high standard of work around the school. We positively encourage all children to participate in our school performances. We try to stimulate their creative development through first hand experiences. These include observation of the local environment, visiting performers and visits to the local art galleries and theatres. As part of developing the Arts we are working towards the Arts Mark Award. We also have an Art Club after school.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

It is our aim to meet the individual needs of all our pupils. The term 'special needs' equally applies to children experiencing learning difficulties, or to a child of exceptional ability. It is quite normal for children to experience difficulties with certain aspects of learning at some time. In such cases teachers give extra help or the child participates in one of our many support programmes. In most cases the problems are overcome.

If a child's difficulties are not resolved, the class teacher will discuss the matter with the Headteacher and the child's parents. If it is felt appropriate, the school will prepare a written analysis of the child's problem, together with a course of action and an individual educational plan. The child's progress will be monitored and help from the Special Educational Needs Support Team or Educational Psychologist may be requested. Finally, the school and parents may decide to request the Authority to assess the child with a view to affording him/her a formal statement of educational needs. If you wish to discuss any SEN matters, please contact the Headteacher or our Governor SEN Representative Mrs. A. Edgar, through the school.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

At present we run extra curricular clubs in Art, football and chess. We also have an arrangement with Chatterbox Nursery who run an after school club in Birdwell. Children need to be booked into the club in advance and they will then be collected from school by mini bus at home time. In addition to this, they run a Breakfast Club from 8 a.m. and will then bring your child to school. During the holidays they offer a holiday club running from 8a.m. to 6p.m. Please phone 361222 for further information.

DISCIPLINE

The responsibility for the care and welfare of a child at school rests with the Head teacher, who relies on the teaching and support staff to deal sympathetically with day to day problems as they arise.

Our first concern is safety and children are expected to behave in a sensible manner. Children are expected to be polite, well mannered and to act in a thinking, caring way towards each other and adults.

The approach to discipline is positive. Appropriate behaviour is constantly rewarded with praise. The whole school has developed a set of 'Birdwell Golden Rules', which children have helped to write. These are as follows:

1. Respect our school and play your part in looking after it.
2. Respect other people and try to be friendly kind and polite to all. Use good manners.
3. Try to do your best work and help others to do their best.
4. Welcome visitors and new school members to the school.
5. Be kind to other people. Look for 'good' in people
6. Treat others as you want them to treat you.

Sanctions are adopted for unacceptable behaviour e.g. loss of privileges. If a child's behaviour continues to be inappropriate, the Head will contact parents and discuss the matter with them, seeking their support for what we are trying to do in school.

These steps are normally sufficient to achieve an improvement in behaviour, however if success is not achieved it may be necessary to implement further sanctions which ultimately lead to exclusion from school.

SUPERVISION AT DINNERTIME

At lunch time the children are in the charge of the school meals supervisors, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Donson, Mrs. Stenbridge, and Mrs. Bartnick. Miss O'Neil who works in the classrooms as a Support Assistant is also employed to organise play activities for the children at lunchtime. These staff are supervised by the Headteacher.

ORGANISATION OF CLASSES

Children are admitted into Reception either in September or January depending on when they are 5. Through school, progression from one class to another is determined by age. Wherever possible we try to keep age groups together. At present the school caters for seven years of a child's development in 6 classes as we have insufficient children in each year group to make 7 classes. Our class sizes range from 27 to 20, this year.

APPOINTMENTS TO SEE TEACHERS

Parents can usually see teachers at the beginning or end of the school day. If you would like a lengthy discussion, please write or phone for an appointment. Parent Consultations are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms and there is an Open Afternoon in the Summer Term.

ARRIVAL IN SCHOOL EARLY

Please note, there is no supervision at all for children who arrive at school before 8.45am. Although staff are on the premises, this is their preparation time.

AWARDS PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL

The school takes pride in being a Healthy School. We have received The Smoke Free School award and the Heartbeat, Healthy Eating award each year. We have also achieved the Investors in People Award.

CHARGING POLICY

No charge is made for any curriculum teaching in school. From time to time children will be given the opportunity to take part in educational visits for which a voluntary contribution is requested. If parents wish their child to have individual or small group tuition from a peripatetic instrument tutor then a charge is made by the providers. At times we have visiting artists in school and to help cover the cost we ask for contributions. Please note that if there is insufficient money raised, then we may need to cancel trips or visiting performers. The After School Clubs in school charge £1.50 a child to bring in revenue for resources. Copies of school policies are available at cost of 1p per sheet.

CHILDREN'S RECORDS

We keep various records of a child's development on our files in school. They are designed to help us in our day-to-day work and our assessment and monitoring procedures. Our policy is to record only facts that could be shown to parents. Children also keep a record of their achievement throughout school.

COMMUNICATION

It is important that your child feels that school and home are working together for their education. To achieve this, it is important that there is good liaison. We have a home/school agreement that gives further information of our aims and expectations. Please keep us informed about anything that might affect your child's performance in school, so that we can respond to your child's needs appropriately.

COMMUNITY AND CONSULTATION

We encourage links with the local community. Local groups make use of the school buildings in evenings throughout the year. We also work closely with the local community groups, BRAG and the FORGE partnership. We have a School Council in which the children suggest improvements for the school and we welcome feedback from parents.

PRE - SCHOOL

At present we have a pre school held on the school premises. This caters for children aged 2 years to school age and works very closely with the school. Please apply to Mrs D. Corson 01226 748321.

DISABILITY

Children with disabilities are treated equally in school, but the nature of the building could cause problems. We invite any parent to view the school prior to admission, to check the school is suitable for their child and will endeavour to accommodate any modifications, if required.

DRESS

We have recommended dress for school, which is:

Royal Blue Cardigan or Jumper,

Grey Trousers or Skirt,

White Shirt. Clothing, with a school logo, may be purchased, if parents wish, from the school office at reasonable prices. e.g. Sweatshirt with logo £9.50, polo shirt £8.50, T-shirt £6.50, cardigan £11.00. Please contact the office for further details.

No jewellery is allowed apart from watches and earrings (small sleepers or studs only).

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

These visits are regarded as an important part of the curriculum. They are often used as a stimulus for classroom topic work. Before taking children out of school permission from parents is obtained and a detailed risk assessment is drawn up. Voluntary contributions towards the cost of the trip are requested. If there is insufficient money raised then we will cancel the visit.

We have a Residential Environmental Studies Programme in which we encourage all older children to participate.

FUND RAISING

The school runs an annual sponsored walk to raise funds for the school. In the past events have been organised by parents and the school is open to more parental help and ideas. Please contact the Headteacher if you are interested in helping the school with fund raising.

GOVERNORS

The school Governing Body oversees the running of the school and advises the Head about certain aspects of school policy. Our governors are all actively involved in many aspects of school life, and are committed to the development of Birdwell School. We have five parent governors who will be happy to listen to any comments about the school. The parent governors are Mrs. D. Bushby, Mr. A. Schofield, Mr. J. Rayner and Mrs. J. Hughes. At present we have a vacancy for a parent governor.

HOMEWORK

The school has a detailed Homework policy, a copy of which can be obtained from the school office. We invite children to take reading books home to enjoy with parents, as we believe that parents and school working together is the most successful way of helping children progress. Children will be asked to learn spellings and carry out number activities. The homework is sent home each Wednesday and the children are given guidelines on how to complete the work.

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

If your child is taken ill or has an accident at school and needs immediate attention, we do everything we can to let you know. If hospital attention is needed we would call an ambulance or take the child by car, collecting a close relative to accompany us. It is important that you keep us informed at all times of any change of address/phone numbers or a change in the person to contact. If your child bumps his/her head at school a letter is normally sent home.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We try very hard to keep you informed about school activities. This is done in a variety of ways; regular newsletters, letters, informal and formal parent's consultations. Parents of all children receive an end of year report on their child's progress.

LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL WEEK.

The hours of teaching time in the school are as follows:-

23 hours 45 minutes per week teaching time, excluding registration, assemblies and playtimes for all children.

The recommended minimum teaching time by the government is as follows.

Age	Hours per week
5- 7	21
8- 11	23.30 minutes

MEALS AT SCHOOL

The Authority determines the cost of meals. Dinner money should be paid in advance in the school dining room. Children are issued with a pin number and can pay cash in the machine or by cheque, (made payable to BMBC with the child's name and class written on the back) which should be placed in the cheque box. Meals are prepared and cooked on the premises. These are eaten in the dining room with a cafeteria system. Parents are invited to visit school at lunch time (by arrangement) to see the quality of food available. A range of meals is offered. There is a choice of a hot meal, sandwiches or jacket potatoes. Children may bring a packed lunch from home. We try to encourage children to drink plenty of liquids as it helps with their learning, so they may bring a carton/flask of juice/water. Glass bottles/cans and fizzy drinks are not allowed. **Snacks:** Children are allowed to bring fruit for break times. As part of our health education programme children are not allowed sweets in school. As part of the Government scheme our younger children are provided with fruit for afternoon playtime.

MEDICAL

The School Nurse visits school to carry out medical checks at certain times in your child's school-life. Letters are sent out to inform you at the appropriate time. Please keep us informed of any medical problems that may affect your child's capability to learn, in particular any problems with eyes and ears.

MEDICINES

We do not administer medicines in school unless it is part of a medical care plan. If your child is ill then they should not be at school. If your child is well, but does require medicine then it is the parent's responsibility to administer this.

MILK PROVISION

There is a charge of £6 per term for children who want milk. This is payable on the first day of term. Parents in receipt of Income Support will not be asked to make this payment.

MUSIC

We believe in giving children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We have a keyboard teacher who visits the school once a week, a guitar teacher and a peripatetic teacher who teaches flute, trumpet and clarinet. We are also able to arrange tuition of other instruments through the Barnsley Performing Arts Department. This is charged on a termly basis.

PARENTS IN SCHOOL

Parents can help us in various ways; it is beneficial for children to see the development of this partnership. Some parents like to be involved in classroom activities. e.g. reading, maths, art, craft, baking, playing educational games; others prefer to mount children's work, or make resources. We welcome all offers of help. Please see your child's class teacher for further information.

Parents frequently help on our educational visits. Naturally, all voluntary helpers will be expected to honour the code of confidentiality existing in school and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to developing the children educationally.

PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS

The procedure for complaints regarding the school curriculum and related matters is as follows. The sequence of submission of complaints should be:

- a) Informal complaint to the Headteacher - most if not all complaints will be resolved at this level, and this should be the first line of approach.
- b) Informal complaint to the Chair of Governors
- c) Formal complaint to the Chair of the Governors, for discussion by the Governing Body, if appropriate.
- d) Formal complaint to the L.E.A. Further details of the above policy can be obtained from the school or the L.E.A

SAFETY OF CHILDREN

- a) Children should wear suitable footwear for outdoor games.
- b) Children may wear small sleeper or stud earrings for school but all jewellery must be removed for physical education or swimming.
- c) Pedestrians should always enter and leave school by the small gates and never by the large gates used for vehicle access.
- d) A fire drill is held once each term to train the children in the appropriate procedures.
- e) Children are not allowed out of school during school hours unless escorted by a responsible adult.
- f) Cars should not be brought into the yard during school hours 8.45am-3.45pm unless there are exceptional circumstances.

WELFARE

The school welfare officer is available to assist with all matters to do with children's welfare.

She may be asked by the school to visit you if there are attendance or other problems concerning your child in school.

She will be happy to discuss any problems you have with referrals to other agencies.

If your child is unable to attend school for a long time because of illness or accident, the E.W.O. will investigate the possibility of alternative arrangements. You may contact your Welfare Officer through the Headteacher.

If there are any issues related to Child Protection then please contact the Headteacher who is the designated Child Protection Officer.

Term times School Year 2006/2007

	<u>School opens at 8.55am</u>	<u>School closes for holiday at 3.30pm</u>
Autumn 1st half term	4. 9. 2006	20. 10. 2006
Autumn 2nd half term	30. 10. 2006	22. 12. 2006
Spring 1st half term	5. 1. 2007	9. 2. 2007
Spring 2nd half term	19. 2. 2007	30. 3. 2007
Summer 1st half term	16. 4. 2007	25. 5. 2007
Summer 2nd half term	4. 6. 2007	20. 7. 2007

Key Stage 2 tests take place 14th – 18th May 2007

NATIONAL CURRICULUM TEST RESULTS May 2005

We are required by the government to publish National Curriculum assessments for the children in Year 2 and Year 6. The children are tested in English and Maths at Key Stage 1 and English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 2. Help and support is given throughout the school to prepare children for these tests. For further information please ask your child's class teacher.

At the end of Key Stage 2, Level 4 is the expected level of achievement and the Governors are required to set targets for the number of children that will reach Level 4 or above. Our targets for 2005 were 77% for English, 81% for Maths and 90% for Science. These targets are set two years before the children sit the tests so do not take into consideration any new children who come into the school or those on holiday during the tests. We had a cohort of 30 children so each child is worth just over 3%, just a few children missing the level 4 therefore makes a significant difference. Our targets for children reaching Level 4 or above in 2006 are 92% for English, 83% for Maths and 96% for Science.

Below is a copy of the School's Key Stage 1 results for 2005, which are compared to the National results in 2004(2005 national results are not available yet). This is then followed by the Key Stage 2 results.

