



St. Andrew's Primary School

"Working Together For A Successful Future"

Prospectus 2020/21

St Andrew's Road
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 6RY

Tel 01388 605385

Email standrews@durhamlearning.net



Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is completely free and fully funded by Warrens Group PLC and the Greggs Foundation. Children are offered a healthy breakfast of toast, cereal, fruit and yoghurt, followed by a range of activities such as 'Wake Up Shake Up,' playdough, board games and arts and crafts. There is no need to book a place, just turn up as and when you need to.

"I like it when we get the Lego out at breakfast club."
William age 6

After-school clubs

We offer a range of after-school clubs every day of the week for all children from reception to Year 6.

Clubs are all completely free, unless ran by an external provider, and are supervised by members of staff. We try to cover a range of interests so there is something for everyone, from ICT and photography, to sports, arts, music and history clubs.



Educational Visits and Visitors

Our school is situated in a area of rich culture and history and so our whole curriculum is designed around some of the local treasures we have on our doorstep. We try to get out of school as much as possible and visit key places such as: Bowes Museum, Shildon Railway Museum, Durham Cathedral, Bishop Auckland Castle and Art Galleries.

We try, as much as possible, to fund school trips but also ask for small donations from parents and carers from time to time.

We also welcome a range of visitors to our school throughout the year. Authors, artists and historians feature heavily in our annual calendar.

"St Andrew's is a lovely school as you are made to feel welcome by all staff and if you do need help with queries or anything they are very helpful and friendly."

Parent 2020

Our Vision

At St. Andrew's Primary School we, are dedicated to provide a happy and caring community where everyone feels safe, valued and equal.

We open the doors to lifelong possibilities and achievements in a diverse and ever-changing, modern world.



"Both my grandkids love their school and enjoy everyday .I'm extremely happy that they are well looked after at school .The teachers and headteacher are very very kind and helpful. I have seen a lot of improvements and I'm pleased with their progress. I cannot fault anything about this school .All the teachers and staff are very polite and friendly and are always welcoming. I would recommend St. Andrews school to other parents: the best school, best headteacher, best teachers, best staff! "

Gurinda Upal—Grandparent 2020

Welcome from the Headteacher

We are proud to say that our school has often been described as a "family" by many who visit us. Our warm and friendly staff and governors take great pleasure in providing an inclusive curriculum for all pupils and go that extra mile when needed.

Our school is positioned to the south of Bishop Auckland, in the North West of County Durham. Over recent years, the school has undergone extensive developments, to include: a new roof, windows and doors, outdoor climbing equipment, outdoor Early Years areas and, most recently, an additional classroom, enabling us to have single age year groups throughout the school.



Mrs James - Headteacher

Our class sizes are relatively small, Nursery, has places for 17 pupils and Reception to Year 6 can hold 25 pupils. There is a fully qualified teacher and a number of teaching assistants in each class, providing excellent staff to pupil ratios.

We know that choosing the right school for your child can be a daunting task and this prospectus will go some way in helping you make an informed decision about whether St Andrew's Primary School will be suitable for your child; We would also encourage parents to come and have a look around the school and get a feeling for the space and atmosphere inside the building and meet the staff. Please do get in touch with us to make an appointment to visit.

We look forward to meeting you.

Staff at St Andrew's Primary School

Headteacher —Mrs N James	Teaching Assistants	Learning Mentor
Deputy Head —Mrs L Hudson	Mrs Bousfield— HLTA	Mr M Orwin
SENDco —Mrs N Soppitt	Mrs Heslop—HLTA	Office Staff
	Miss Makepeace	Miss Booth
Teaching Staff	Mrs Bailes	Miss Howe
Mrs Tones—Nursery	Miss Greaves	Caretaker
Mrs Castledine—Reception, EYFS Lead	Miss Clare	Mrs M Dinsdale
Mrs Richards—Year 1	Miss Jarvis	Cleaner —Miss Jayne
Mrs Hezmallhalch—Year 2	Mrs Attle	Kitchen Staff
Mrs Hardy -Year 3	Miss Richardson	Miss Vinn (cook)
Miss Hewson—Class 4	Miss Minns	Mrs Furnell (Assistant)
Mrs Murrie—Class 5	Miss Jayne	Lunch Time Supervisors
Mrs Hudson—Year 6	Mrs McGrath	Mrs M Aitken
	Mrs Wharton	Miss Jayne

"I can not fault St Andrews one bit. My little one attended another nursery previously and cried daily going in, for any parent that's gut wrenching but once I moved him to St Andrews he runs through those gates every morning, to be met by the most friendly smile from all the amazing teaching staff."

Reception Parent 2020

Welcome from our Chair of Governors—Mr J. Waine

Choosing the right school for your child is vitally important. We all want the very best education for our children, but we also want our children to be safe, happy and to feel secure. At our recent, very successful, Ofsted Inspection in October 2019, the report highlighted that St Andrew's pupils feel welcome, safe and included in a school community that cares for them. The governors are fully committed to working with, and providing support, to the teaching staff in achieving these objectives which enables them to provide the best educational and emotional experience for your child.

We are extremely fortunate in having hugely committed staff, who form a strong, caring and forward-thinking team. The school leadership, under Mrs James, ensures that all staff create an atmosphere of richness, interest and challenge to develop each and every child under their care.



Our school provides bright, modern accommodation in a beautiful setting. To enhance this provision we have recently invested over £100,000 to add a new classroom that ensures single class teaching throughout the school. We have also enhanced our Early Years classrooms to help develop our pupils experiential learning in this important phase of their school life.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic St Andrew's had already placed a strong focus on outdoor learning. We recently purchased a wide range of outdoor play equipment suitable for all age ranges at the school and governors will continue to support the development of our

outdoor learning spaces for our pupils from Early Years through to our Year 6 pupils. If you have not already done so, please take a look at our school website to learn more about our vision, aims and objectives for the ongoing improvement and development of the School and to meet the team.

As Governors and Staff, we are committed to making our vision a reality and bringing real changes to the lives of our children.



Warm regards
John Waine—Chair of Governors

The School Governing Body

Our school governing body consists of 10 governors, 2 associate governors plus the Headteacher.

Co-opted

Mr J Waine (Chair)

Mrs J Brown

Mrs C Gaskarth

Vacancy x 2

Local Authority

Councillor Joy Allen

Parents

Mr G Waldock

Mrs R Tallentire

Vacancy x 1

Staff

Mrs N James

Mrs L Hudson

Associate

Mr I M Orwin



Our Safeguarding Commitment

St Andrew's Primary school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our recent Ofsted inspection stated that:

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The culture of safeguarding is in line with the caring and supportive ethos of the school. Leaders and staff receive regular training. They apply this knowledge and understanding well and take timely action when required. Leaders always follow up safeguarding issues. They persist with external agencies and families to make sure that pupils who need help get it."

We believe that children maximise their potential in an environment which is safe, secure and supportive of all their needs, including the needs they have for protection from abuse.

All staff and volunteers adhere to our policy, "Keeping Children safe in School: Child Protection within safeguarding." which can be viewed on our website or on request within school at the admin office in the reception area.

"St. Andrew's is a brilliant school, my children are progressing and learning new things everyday, they feel safe and are well looked after, staff are very understanding and approachable."

Parent 2020

Our School Day

Your child will be greeted at the school gates by a member of staff so that they always start the day with a welcoming smile and a "Good Morning!"

Unless at breakfast club, all children will enter and leave through the main security gate, which opens at 8.45am and is closed at the end of the day at 3.20pm. If children arrive before this time, they are the responsibility of the parents/carer. Children attending breakfast club will use the main school entrance.

At the end of the day, children can be collected from the school yard. There are helpful signs above the classroom doors to direct parents where to stand. We ask that parents are on time to pick up their children, however we know that sometimes parents can run late and so ask you to call the office to let us know that you are on your way.

Children attending after school clubs can collect their child from the main entrance.

If, for any reason, you want to talk to a member of staff, you must not enter the building through classroom doors. Instead, go to the school office and ask to see the member of staff you wish to speak to.

We have an open door policy and welcome parents into school. Appointments to meet with the Headteacher can be made with the school office too.



Our Daily Routine

8:00 am -Free Breakfast Club - food served until 8.20am

8.45am - School gates open - Early Years Unit opens for Reception and Nursery children

8:55am - School Starts and gates close—Children should be in class for this time

10:30am -Break - Year 2,3,4 (15 minutes)

10:45am -Break - Year 5 and 6 (15 minutes)

11:45am -End of Morning Nursery session

11:45am -Lunchtime - Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children (45 minutes)

12:15pm -Lunchtime - Year 2 to Year 6 children (45 minutes)

3:15pm -School closes - all children

3:15pm -Various after school clubs - all are free. (45 minutes)

"Even though we couldn't have the usual contact given to new families of St Andrew's School due to Covid, we still felt very welcomed and informed when waiting to start. They couldn't have made the transition any easier for us."

Parent 2020

"St Andrew's is a lovely school as you are made to feel welcome by all staff and if you do need help with queries or anything they are very helpful and friendly."

Parent 2020

Communicating with parents

We have a number of ways we can communicate with parents. For daily messages we use Class Dojo which is an app parents can download and access photos and messages for their child's class and the whole school. Parents and carers can also leave comments about what they see, as well as send private messages to staff to ask questions about their child.

We also use a text messaging service, where we send links to letters which are uploaded to our website, so parents and carers can access them at any time. Our Facebook page promotes events and links to local initiatives, and our school website has lots of more detailed information about our curriculum and policies.

The Headteacher sends a newsletter to parents and carers once every half term.

We often ask parents and carers to complete surveys about different topics so that they too, can have a voice and let us know how we are doing and what we can do to improve what we offer.

We send a termly assessment report home, which outlines children's progress as well as their behaviour and attitude in school. Parents and carers are also invited to Parents Evenings in the Autumn and Spring Term and then receive an end of year report in the Summer term.

"The running of this school is fantastic. The communication between teachers and parents is perfect. If there is ever anything which concerns me then I can speak to someone at the school ASAP and the issue is dealt with straight away."

Parent 2020



Our Outdoor Facilities

Our playground and school field is a hidden gem, surrounded by leafy bushes and trees giving the feeling that we are in the middle of the countryside. The field is large and is a great space to play on and host Sports days and other events. We also have an outdoor classroom used for Forest School lessons. Here, children can build dens and sit around campfires learning life skills. In addition, we also have a large trim trail for children to climb upon during playtimes.

We have a large allotment around the back of the school, with a garden shed, raised beds and a greenhouse. Here the children grow their own vegetables and fruit which can be later used in the school kitchen for school dinners or in cookery club.

Our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classrooms all have direct access to their own outdoor areas straight from their classrooms. The children use these areas during the day to play, explore and learn.



"Large outdoor area with various settings, including facility for physical exercise, outdoor PE, mud kitchen and more. I think forest school is an important point to highlight. In St Andrew's, both physical and intellectual growth are emphasized."

Reception Parent 2020

Our School Facilities

Our school hall is the hub of the school and hosts all events, assemblies, PE lessons, breakfast and after-school clubs and dinner times. We have a range of high quality PE apparatus to be used in this space and a stage to be used for performances.

In school we have a range of ICT resources from laptops and classroom computers, to ipads, tablets and kindles. These can be used throughout the day in lessons and during some after-school clubs. Every classroom has a large, interactive smart screen.

From the hall, there is also access to our extensive library, "The Woodland of Knowledge" as well as a range of home reading books for all abilities.



School Meals

Our school meals are freshly cooked in our school kitchen . We offer a healthy, nutritious, two course school meal for £2.10 a day. School meals are free for all reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and to those eligible and meet benefits criteria.

Children have a three week menu to choose from three options: meat, vegetarian or sandwich/jacket potato. We can accommodate for vegetarian, food allergies and halal and our cook is very good with those "picky eaters" and tries to accommodate wherever she can.

*"Fishy Friday is the best day for school dinners!"
Brodie Age 8*

We actively encourage parents to choose school dinners. Being a parent is busy enough without making a packed lunch every day, it is financially a good option and you know your child is getting a hearty meal everyday.

Parents who choose a packed lunch option must ensure their child has a balanced healthy dinner. We do not allow chocolate bars, fizzy/sugary drinks or sweets and ask you not to include them. Any items such as this will be put to one side and a healthy alternative will be provided.

As we are a cashless school, once your child reaches Year 3, we ask that parents pay for school dinners via our Parentpay online facility.

*"I love the cake—the icing is beautiful!"
Riley Age 8*

A photograph showing several young children sitting at a table in a school canteen. They are eating from red bowls and holding green cups. The children are smiling and appear to be enjoying their meal. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and the interior of the canteen.

Snacks

We are part of the Fresh Fruit to schools scheme and all Early Years and KS1 children are given fresh fruit every day at snack time. All children under 5 are eligible for Free School Milk, however we provide free milk to all reception children, even when they are 5. This is funded by The Warrens Group PLC who sponsor our free breakfast club too. Children in KS1 can opt to pay for milk via the Cool Milk scheme.

We know that hydrated children are the best learners and so we provide drinks bottles to every child in school. These are washed daily and refilled every morning for children to access throughout the day.

Our Curriculum

Our Curriculum is designed around three key drivers, which were voted for by staff, governors and parents.

They are:

- Aspirations and Possibilities
- Wellbeing
- Knowledge

We have planned a progressive curriculum which ensures we promote these key drivers. We teach our subjects as discreet subjects so that children learn to become, for example: historians, scientists, geologist, mathematicians etc. We cover all subjects within the National Curriculum requirements.

In Literacy, we teach using quality texts as stimuli for reading and writing lessons and use the Read Write Inc scheme for teaching phonics and early reading. In maths, we teach using a maths mastery approach.

Teachers use a range of teaching styles such as: individual, group and whole class sessions. They plan outdoor lessons and use ICT to engage children in learning

Assessment

Assessments are used throughout the school year to help teachers find out where each child's abilities lie in all subjects. If gaps in learning are identified, teachers can plan to accommodate this and enable children to catch up.

The Department for Education assesses children in variety of ways and schools have to report these tests. Your child will take the following assessments:

Reception - Early Learning Goals (assessed using observations)

Year 1- Phonics screening test

Year 2- End of Key stage 1 tests in Maths and English

Year 4 - Multiplication Test - online timetables test

Year 6 - End of Key Stage 2 test in Maths, Reading and Spelling and Grammar

Parents and carers are kept well informed about how they can support their child with these tests.

School Uniform

As part of our core values, we encourage children to take pride in their appearance and wearing a uniform is part of this. We ask that parents try hard to comply with our uniform policy so that there is consistency across the school.

Our uniform consists of the Magic 5:

1. Royal blue jumper or cardigan
2. Grey or black shorts, trousers, dress or skirt
3. White polo shirt or shirt
4. Black, grey or white socks or tights
5. All black shoes



Gingham dresses can be worn in the summer and all black trainers are acceptable as long as they do not have coloured branding, soles or laces. We ask that hair accessories match the school uniform colours.

For PE we ask that children wear:

- ◆ Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- ◆ Yellow t-shirt
- ◆ Black jumper or hoody

For swimming lessons, we ask that children wear plain black swimsuits or swimming trunks with a swimming hat.



"Fantastic school; my little boy loves going to school happy child, happy parent, - head teacher and staff are brilliant -they do a great job."

Parent 2020

Behaviour and Attitudes

Our school prides itself on excellent behaviour and expects high standards at all times. We promote positive choices in all aspects of school life. If children make poor choices, they are guided to reflect on their choices and helped to understand how to make better choices next time.

We have three rules in our school:

Everyone has the right to:

- Be safe
- Learn
- Be respected

*"The school is lovely and all teachers are brilliant."
Parent 2020*

Ofsted (2019) said, "Leaders and staff expect all pupils to behave well. Pupils behave very well in lessons and around the school."

We have 11 "Core Values" which we teach, promote and recognise. These are: confidence, pride, determination, resilience, teamwork, integrity, politeness, respect, responsibility, compassion and honesty. Children can receive Dojo points when they demonstrate any of these core values and when they reach a certain goal, they are presented with bronze, silver and gold pins to wear with pride.

For more information see our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies on our school website.

Homework

We know that family life can be busy at times and so we ask parents and carers to plan their own homework schedule. We give you the tools to practise basic skills like handwriting, spellings, phonics and timetables, using some online programmes and posting tasks on Class Dojo, where pupils can upload their work to their private portfolio pages.

There is an expectation that parents read with their child at least 3 times a week or more and log their reading in a reading record book, which is checked by the class teacher.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Year on year, we are finding that parents and carers of children with SEN are choosing St Andrew's Primary school for their child.

"The staff in this school go above and beyond for the children and their families. There is a close family feel to the school. My son is the first child to attend St. Andrew's with Down Syndrome. We definitely made the right choice...he is cared for socially and emotionally and academically; he's come on so much. I would definitely recommend this school to all parents."

Parent 2020

We have a SEND policy on our website, which gives details of the process we take to identify special needs and how we support a child in making progress within their area of need.

We work with a range of outside agencies to offer additional support to SEND children, such as: speech and language, CAMHs and the ASD team. Our staff are trained to write quality support plans that set targets for each individual child in order for them to reach their full potential. The school SENDco oversees all SEND pupils and quality assures all documents and leads SEND meetings with pupils with EHCP's. If your child does have a special education need or disability, and you have some questions about how your child would access learning in a mainstream school, please call the Headteacher to discuss your concerns; we are an inclusive school and welcome all children to join us.

Community Links

St Andrew's PTA

We have a PTA, who work with staff members to fundraise for our school. We welcome any parents to come along and help out with events and raise much needed money for school funds.

St Andrew's Church

We have close links with our local church and vicar. Rev. Kedilty often comes to school to deliver assemblies and speak with the children and classes visit the church to learn about Christianity. We also hold annual Harvest festivals, Easter and Christmas services which are all very well attended.

Family Events

Throughout the year, we hold a range of events for families to join in. Our Christmas shows are particularly well attended, along with our music and dance whole school assemblies too. We hold book clubs, Dad's events and Christmas and Summer fayres.

Local Emergency Services

We have very close links with our local PCSOs who work with the school to teach children about being good citizens in the community. We also visit the local Fire Station to learn about their roles and how to stay safe in the event of a fire and river safety. Our Year 6 classes take part in the Safety Carousel, where they meet lifeguards, police, firefighters, paramedics etc.

A young child with blonde hair, wearing a bright blue jacket, is smiling broadly. The child is in a brick-lined tunnel, possibly a fire station, with a red fire hose visible in the background.

Early Years

St Andrew's Primary School has a small Nursery class with its own classroom and outdoor area. We admit rising threes at the start of the term that the child turns three-year-old in. Children can come for their 15 hours entitlement or for free 30 hours, if eligible. Parents and carers who are not eligible may pay for additional child care on an afternoon.

The Reception class also has its own classroom and outdoor space, which includes a huge mud kitchen, climbing frame and sandpit. Both Early Years classes learn, "in the moment," this means that the highly trained staff follow the children's interests and plan around these, ensuring all children are engaged in their learning.

For more information, see our website for the whole Early Years prospectus.

Attendance

We know that with good attendance comes good progress and so we encourage children and parents to have a positive attitude towards attendance from a very young age.

Our Learning Mentor leads on attendance and works with parents who may be struggling with getting their child to school. There are lots of strategies we can use to support families in avoiding persistent absenteeism or punctuality issues.

The Government condones family holidays taken in term time, however the headteacher may authorise a holiday in exceptional circumstances. Parents and carers must apply for holidays in term time in advance.

Support for Families

At St. Andrew's, we aren't just here for the child; we're here for the whole family. We can support families in a number of ways :

- Financial support with access to grants and food banks
- Early Help for families
- Referrals to CAMHs for child mental health
- Access to a range of Voluntary Services
- In school support with attendance or behavior at home

"St Andrew's has been a pillar of strength through good times and bad for myself and two little girls and has the warmest, kindest, dedicated staff."

Parent 2020

"The door is always open at St. Andrew's, it doesn't matter if your problem is big or small there is always somebody eager to help."

Parent 2020

Joining the St Andrew's Family

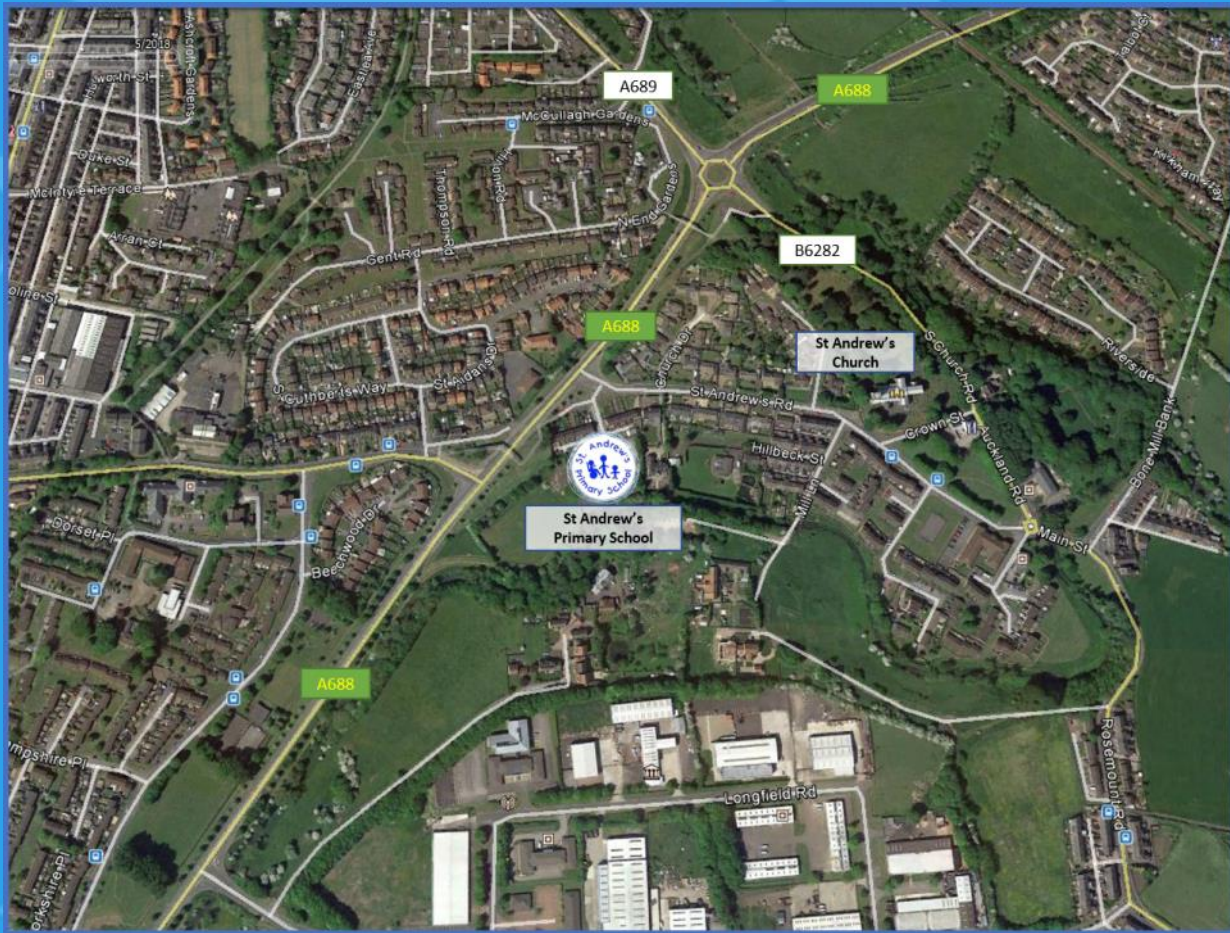
If you think that St Andrew's Primary School is the right school for your child to start in Reception, then please apply for a school place with Durham County Council before 15th January 2021.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-for-a-primary-place-deadline-15-January-2021>

"...love the little school, definitely a home from home."

Parent 2020

How to find us...



If you are transferring from another school, you must contact the admissions department at Durham County Council.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2197/Changing-schools-during-the-school-year>

If you are interested in enrolling your child into our Nursery, please contact the school office who will post out our Nursery Admissions information and forms.