

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E School



SCHOOL BROCHURE

2019/2020

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School

Welcome to our school

We are a semi rural school set in the heart of Grimsargh village. Our school has high standards, excellent resources and lovely grounds. We pride ourselves on knowing our children well and visitors often comment on the family atmosphere and happy children within school.

Our children are taught in bright, airy, well resourced classrooms. We know our children as individuals and are able to provide additional support or extend learning as appropriate, allowing each child to achieve to the very best of their abilities. We promote high expectations of behaviour and believe that each child should be given the opportunity of personal success, be it sport, art, music or academic subjects. We offer a range of extra curricular activities including netball, football, recorders, multi-sports, choir, individual instrumental tuition, cricket, badminton and art. We take part in a wide range of sporting events.

Our modern building is well maintained and outside the children have a wide variety of play equipment to choose from. The year 5 children undertake sports leadership training and then when they are in year 6 are responsible for organising games activities with key stage 1 at lunchtime.

Our links with St Michael's Church are strong. The vicar visits the school and the children regularly participate in Church services.

The school has been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark, which recognises good teaching in Maths and English, Lancashire Equality Mark and a Learning Excellence Award.

The last OFSTED inspection was in March 2014. The school was judged as outstanding in all areas of achievement, teaching and learning, behaviour and safety and leadership. In our SIAMS inspection in June 2019 we were judged excellent in all areas - the effectiveness of our Christian vision, the impact of collective worship and the effectiveness of religious education.

This prospectus will provide you with further information about the school and together with our website (<https://www.grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk>) should answer most of your questions. However, to get a true flavour of our school I am more than happy to show you round the building and introduce you to some of the children and staff who make up the Grimsargh St Michael's school family.

Mrs Kathryn Ward

Mission Statement

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community.

Vision

Let your light shine before all people, so that they see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Aims of the School

We endeavour to achieve our aims by:

- 1 Promoting Christian values through the teachings of the Church of England and knowledge and understanding of the beliefs of others.
- 2 Providing a caring, supportive and stimulating environment, taking cognizance of each individual's needs, abilities and interests, thus fostering a "joy" in learning.
- 3 Providing the children with a firm foundation of knowledge and skills on which their further education may be built.
- 4 Fostering a close working partnership between parents, teachers and governors for the benefit of each individual child.
- 5 Providing a well structured personal and social education programme that encourages an industrious and conscientious attitude, confidence, co-operation, courtesy, good manners and behaviour, as well as respect for other people and property.
- 6 Promoting a sense of self worth and of the equal worth of others in order to make them responsible members of society.

The school will aim to achieve this by best use of the resources available to it.

'Achievement is outstanding in this happy and friendly school. Teaching is outstanding. Classrooms buzz with excitement and pupils are eager to learn.'

OFSTED March 2014

'Pupils develop a deep love of learning and motivation to 'let their light shine' in whatever they do. The distinctly Christian learning environment is continually enriched by the innovative, creative curriculum.'

Denominational Inspection June 2019

Teaching Staff:

Mrs K Ward
Mrs C Towers

Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher

Teachers:

Mrs P Todd
Mrs A Loughran
Mrs R Slattery
Mr T Brooks

Miss H Smith
Mrs J Woods
Miss L Cross
Mrs H Coupe

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs M Coar
Mrs J Coulston
Mrs A Sprakes
Mrs J Wilcock
Mrs S Wane
Mrs H Clarke

Mrs J Costas-Walker
Mrs J Lovatt
Mrs H Hemmings
Miss M Begbie
Mr B Fletcher

Nursery Staff:

Mrs J Buck

Mrs A Taylor

Office Staff:

Mrs L Garner

Mrs E Towers

Kitchen Staff:

Ms S Hall

Ms D Oxley

Site Staff:

Mr I Morris

School Crossing Patrol:

Ms S Hall

Governors:

Mr T Brooks
Mrs T Fryer
Mrs C Duncan
Mr M Smith
Mrs S Cowell

Mrs K Ward
Mrs J Coupland
Mr N Maudsley
Mr G Lindley
Mrs J Soper

THE SCHOOL

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. It was founded in 1809 to serve principally persons resident in the Grimsargh area. The school was transferred to its present site in September 1968 and was extended by the addition of the Derwent Building in 1974. Recent years have seen a growth in the number of pupils in school. In order to accommodate these, an extension was completed in November 1999 and a further extension completed in February 2004.

The school provides education for children between the ages of four and eleven.

PRE-SCHOOL INDUCTION

We believe that starting school is an important time for every family and we try to make the transition from home a happy and secure one.

In order to help children to settle into the school situation, we invite them to attend school for four half days in the second half of the summer term. During each session the children meet the class teacher and teaching assistant and become familiar with their surroundings.

The parents are invited to attend school one evening to be given an insight into the life of the school and in particular information about reception class routines and teaching methods.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts at	9.00 a.m.
Morning Playtime – Infants (YR, 1 & 2)	10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.
- Juniors (Y3, 4, 5 & 6)	11.00 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.
Lunch	12 noon - 1.00 p.m.
- Infants	
- Juniors	12.15 p.m. - 1.15 p.m.
Afternoon Playtime - Infants	2.30 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.
School closes	3.30 p.m.

The school doors are opened at 8.50am. Children are welcome to come into school and the bell goes at 9am.

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

We aim to provide a secure and happy environment where all children are given full opportunity to develop the abilities they possess; to develop their skills and ideas as individuals and to help them relate to others; to extend the children's knowledge of themselves and the world around them. We place great emphasis on the teaching of literacy and numeracy as we believe it is essential that the children achieve a good standard in basic skills.

Foundation Stage

During their first year at Grimsargh St Michael's, the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The curriculum is planned to ensure that we are developing the children's personal, social areas of learning and emotional well-being.

Key Stage 1 and 2

The children are taught according to the National Curriculum which comprises the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computing
- RE and Collective Worship
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- French (Key Stage 2)

English/Literacy

Great importance is placed on literacy and classes throughout the school have a daily timetabled literacy lesson with further extension lessons as appropriate.

We encourage children to develop a range of skills, which include speaking and listening, reading and writing. Children are taught to write for a variety of purposes from recording information to expressing themselves creatively. Spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting are taught and pupils are encouraged to apply their knowledge to their written work.

Mathematics/Numeracy

Numeracy is a key life skill and is given high priority. All children receive a structured daily maths lesson, based on the mathematics programmes of study. Mental arithmetic features highly in each lesson with the children's written work being differentiated. All lessons include problem-solving and investigational abilities.

Science

Children are encouraged to be actively involved in practical investigations and problem solving during science lessons. Our aim in teaching science is to foster ability in the children to observe, enquire, discuss and evaluate their findings.

Computing

Children are taught computer science, to create and debug simple programs, logical reasoning, uses of information technology and how to use technology safely and respectfully.

Religious Education

This is a Church of England School and the religious education it provides is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Religious Education is provided within the timetable according to the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education R.E. Syllabus.

The school promotes Christian values through the teachings of the Church of England. The children also learn about the beliefs and traditions of some of the other major world religions. We plan for the spiritual and moral growth of each pupil through planned teaching and the Christian ethos of the school.

Geography

Geography involves the development of skills as well as knowledge and understanding about places and themes. Children learn about the local area around school, parts of the U.K. and then other parts of the world. A range of teaching methods and resources are used in Geography.

History

In the early years, pupils are given opportunities to develop an awareness of the past and of the ways in which it was different from the present. They are helped to develop a sense of chronology.

Older pupils are taught about important episodes and developments in Britain's past, from Roman to modern times, about ancient civilisations and the history in other parts of the world. Historical skills are developed through Study Units. They investigate local history and learn about the past from a range of sources of information.

Art and Design

The children are encouraged to express their ideas and feelings through their art work and are also encouraged to observe their surroundings and convey their ideas using a range of different techniques and materials. The children's sense of colour, shape, pattern, texture, tone, line, space and form are developed throughout the school. Children are also given the opportunity to study the work of famous artists.

Design and Technology

In Design Technology children are encouraged to find solutions to problems posed to them. Tasks are set in familiar contexts so the children can devise realistic outcomes or solutions to the problem. The children will be taught skills in various materials and will apply those skills to produce a solution to a design problem.

Music

We aim to make music enjoyable for all pupils in the school. The children sing, play instruments, listen to music and have opportunities to make their own musical compositions, which they are encouraged to appreciate and evaluate. During their time in school, all children will be given the opportunity to take part in a musical performance. Children are also able to take advantage of woodwind, keyboard and guitar lessons at a fixed price. All the children in Year 4 learn a tuned instrument as part of the Lancashire Wide Opportunities Scheme.

Modern Foreign Languages

All the junior children have a weekly French lesson. Children in the infant department learn some French vocabulary, through games, songs and rhymes.

Physical Education

The school is well equipped for P.E. with a hall, extensive grounds and a good stock of up to date resources. The school believes in the importance of P.E. and exercise. All teachers have received up to date training and each class has two P.E. lessons a week. We join in many inter-school sports and swimming galas as well as organising friendly games whenever possible.

The P.E. curriculum covers gymnastics, games, athletics, dance, swimming and outdoor adventurous activities.

HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The school sees itself in partnership with parents in the education of children.

We encourage close liaison between parents and staff for the benefit of the children in our school. We hope that parents will feel free to come into school to discuss any problems that may occur. Equally, the staff will consult with parents if there is a problem in school. Due to the commitment of time, should a parent feel that the consultation will take any length of time, it is advisable to telephone first to make an appointment. In the interests of Health and Safety we need to know exactly who is in the building at any time. Parents coming into school during school hours should report first to the office.

Children in all year groups are given work to do at home each week. In reception and Year 1 this is usually work which will support the acquisition of reading and numeracy skills. From Year 2 onwards the children are set more formal homework. A Home/School Contact book enables parents and teachers to monitor this work. The work is not intended for children to do on their own, but with their parents. All children are expected to read at home for at least 15 - 20 minutes each day. Further details can be found in our Homework Policy.

In the Autumn and Spring terms parents are invited to the school to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. At the end of the school year each child receives a written report. Open afternoons are held from time to time to give parents clearer insight into the work of the school.

PERSONAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

Personal, Health and Social Education helps pupils to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values which are necessary to make sense of their life experiences and to feel confident and informed.

The school provides sex education for all pupils but does not intend to usurp the role of the parents.

Sex education is introduced to the younger children through work on ourselves, our families, life cycles and changes. Children are encouraged to show respect for the opposite sex. Questions are answered simply and truthfully. Older children study the changes which take place during puberty. Parents are encouraged to work with the school and are invited into school to look at the materials which are used.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP

The school is aware that we live in a multicultural society and teaches children to understand and respect religions and cultures which are different from their own. The school is well stocked with resources which reflect the multicultural nature of society. The school has a racial equality policy and opposes racism in any form. Children are taught about the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

CATERING FOR CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

The school places great emphasis on the individual needs of all children and takes into consideration the need to stretch the more able whilst providing support for the less able.

a Special Needs

The school's SEN Policy takes account of the SEN and Disability Code of Practice (2014). At Grimsargh St Michael's a child with special needs is one who has significantly greater difficulty in learning from the majority of other children of the same age or a disability that hinders them from taking full advantage of the educational provision provided. The school works in close partnership with parents to promote the development of every child's potential and ensure that every child has access to all areas of the curriculum.

To assist with access the school has ramped entrances, a disabled toilet and wider internal and external doors.

The school's Accessibility Plan is available in school and is reviewed annually.

The governors have a nominated member, who is specifically responsible along with the Headteacher and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, for all matters connected with special needs provision. The Special Needs Policy is reviewed annually.

'Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs frequently make outstanding progress.'

OFSTED March 2014

b Gifted and Talented

The school has a policy for Gifted and Talented pupils. The most able 20-25% of pupils are identified in each year group. Carefully planned differentiated tasks, questions and outcomes allow these children to achieve above the average expectations for their age group. Targets are set which help these children to achieve their potential.

All children have new individual learning targets each term. These are shared with the children and their parents.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

An act of worship takes place each day which is Christian in character. We value our link with St Michael's Church and local clergy lead whole school assemblies.

The children attend and lead services in Church throughout the year and parents are invited to join us.

The Christian faith, as expressed by the Church of England, permeates the whole of school life.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education and/or collective worship for reasons of conscience.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra curricular activities play an important part in the life of the school.

Sports

A wide variety of sports are offered:

Football, netball, hockey, gymnastics and multi-skills clubs run after school.

A morning tennis club is run by an experienced tennis coach.

A morning martial art club is available and run by experienced instructors.

A morning dance club is run by an experience dance teacher.

Friendly football and netball matches are played against other schools and we take part in tournaments and competitions organised by the Preston Primary Schools' Sports Council.

Other

Bible fun, book club, book & bake and science club

A fee of £1 per session is charged for attendance at the non- teacher run clubs. The fee covers running costs.

Residential Visit

The children in Y6 have the opportunity to go away for an outdoor pursuits and adventurous activities holiday.

BEHAVIOUR AND PASTORAL CARE

Our Code of Conduct is as follows:

Following the example of Jesus, we will always try to be caring, polite and truthful to everyone.

This means:

Always do your best.

Be kind and polite to everyone.

Look after yourself and others.

Take care of property.

This code is on display around the school and each class has its own set of rules which are negotiated with the teacher at the beginning of the year. Parents are made aware of the school Code and are expected to support the school's discipline policy.

Positive behaviour reinforcement is used to promote good behaviour in class and around the school. The school operates a system of House Points. Such points are given to reward good work and behaviour/conduct in line with the ethos and expectation of the school.

In addition, certificates are awarded weekly by class teachers and lunchtime welfare assistants. Children receive them in Friday Assembly.

ASSESSMENT

The teachers regularly assess children informally and formally during the academic school year to inform parents and future planning. Children are set regular targets – shared with parents at parents' evening and sent home each term.

As part of the National Curriculum children will be assessed at 7 and 11 using Standard Attainment Targets (SATs). Children in years 3, 4 and 5 are assessed in school. This enables us to keep an individual profile of each child in our care.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The Breakfast Club is open from 7.45 a.m. until 9.00 a.m. each day. The After School Care "KOGS Club" (Kids of Grimsargh School Club) is available every school afternoon from 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Children are cared for by qualified staff in an environment which meets all statutory requirements, enabling parents to work or study during before and after school hours.

The Club is accommodated in a purpose built building adjacent to the school.

Children enjoy time and space to have fun with their friends. They are given opportunities to develop hobbies and interests in a wide range of activities. There is a quiet area for doing homework, just relaxing or watching a favourite television programme.

A list of current charges and booking details is available from school.

PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT

The school's own nursery unit opened in January 2004. The nursery, which is housed in the out of school care building, provides early years education for up to 30 children from the age of 3 until they start school. There are close links between the nursery and school. The reception class teacher oversees the nursery and the children follow the foundation stage curriculum, which is continued in reception class. Attendance at the nursery is a good preparation for school. The nursery is open from 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. on Monday – Friday. Wraparound childcare can be provided in the Before and After School Club from 7.45 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 to 6.00 p.m. Details of admission procedures and charges are available from school.

MEDICINE IN SCHOOL

The school has clear guidance on providing care and support and on administering medicines in school.

Prescription medicines can be administered by the Headteacher with another member of staff as witness, after parents have completed the 'Medicine Consent Form'.

UNIFORM

Winter Uniform

School Sweatshirt or Cardigan Royal Blue
(with embroidered logo)
(Available from Mary Frances in Longridge)

Polo Shirt Light Blue
Uniform trousers/Skirts/Pinafore dress Grey

Socks/Tights Grey or white
Shoes Black
(Trainers and boots should not be worn.)

Summer Uniform - optional

Summer Dresses Light Blue and White Checked
White socks should be worn with Summer Dress

Uniform shorts Grey

Sandals may be worn in the summer, but they must be the type that gives full support to the feet – to enable children to play safely at playtime (not strappy sandals).

P.E. and Games Wear

Plimsolls for indoor PE
P.E. T-shirt Light Blue
P.E. shorts Navy
Tracksuit bottoms and trainers (KS2) for outdoor games lessons

These must be worn for all P.E. lessons.

Each child needs a drawstring bag clearly named in which to keep his/her P.E. wear.

Optional Extra

School zip up fleece with embroidered logo for outdoor wear

Hair

Long hair should always be tied back and hair accessories should be small and discreet.

Hair styles should not be extreme, e.g. un-natural colours, shaved heads.

Jewellery

Children may wear a wrist watch. Earrings and jewellery may not be worn. If you want to have your child's ears pierced make sure this is done at the beginning of the school summer holiday, so that it is safe to remove the earrings when they return.

School Bags

Children in reception class, Y1 and Y2 should have a school book bag in which to keep their reading book and home/ school contact book. Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to use the school junior back pack. Both bags can be purchased from the school office. PE bags can now be purchased from the school office.

Packed lunches should be kept separate from books in case of leakages.

ABSENCE

Regular attendance in school is vital and, as a result of more stringent guidance from the education authority, we ask that when a child is absent, the school is informed, either by a telephone call or letter, on the morning of the first day of absence as to the reason. A letter should be sent into school when the child returns. The reason for the absence should be stated in the letter. The school is only allowed to authorise absences which are due to medical or certain categories of personal reasons. Other absences will be categorised as unauthorised.

A note from parents is also required when a child has an appointment (eg dental, hospital) during school hours.

Holidays in Term Time

Parents/ carers are requested not to take children on holiday in term time. Under government regulations headteachers are not able to authorise leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Requests must be made on the application form which is available from the school office.

SCHOOL MEALS, MILK AND SNACKS

The school policy on healthy eating has been recognised by the award of a Healthy Schools Certificate. We provide the following:

- **Fresh Drinking Water**

All children are encouraged to bring a sports bottle to school, which can be filled with fresh drinking water.

- **Playtime Snacks**

The infant children are invited to have a piece of fruit everyday. This is provided under the Free Fruit for Schools Scheme.

Junior children can purchase a drink and snack from the school kitchen or bring fruit from home.

- **Milk**

Milk is provided for the Infant children at a small charge of 21p per day (September 2019).

- **School Meals**

Meals are prepared in the school's own kitchen and eaten in the hall. We are proud of the quality of our school meals. Care is taken to provide healthy food that the children enjoy.

All our children in Key Stage 1 have a lunch provided for them. For children in Key Stage 2 dinner money is paid in advance via the Parentpay system. Cash or cheques can be sent into the school office on Monday mornings in an envelope labelled with their child's name and the amount enclosed. Cheques should be made payable to Lancashire County Council. Meals can be paid for half-termly in advance by arrangement with the school office.

- **Packed Lunches**

Children may bring a packed lunch from home. We encourage parents to provide a healthy lunch and so fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed.

PARENTS TEACHERS FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P.T.F.A.)

The P.T.F.A. was formed in 1985 and became a registered charity in 2000. It is an active group of which all parents/guardians of children at the school are members. The committee, which is elected annually, organises events of a social, educational and money-raising nature. It provides funds which enable the school to purchase materials that it could not otherwise afford.

The children enjoy taking an active part in fund-raising events, which ultimately benefit them and their education. Therefore they are often included in the fund raisers, which range from the Fun Days and Sponsored Events through to Family Quiz Nights, Discos, Cooking Demonstrations and involvement in local community events.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Act requires publicly funded bodies, including schools, to be clear about the information they publish. We have produced a publication scheme setting out all the information we publish on a regular basis and where to find it.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Headteacher is always available to discuss in confidence with parents any matters concerning their child's education or welfare and will deal with most complaints. Should the Headteacher be unable to resolve a particular complaint, it will be referred to the Complaints Committee of the Governing Body.