

VISION

Children get just one chance with their school education. At Holme Junior and Infant School we know that it is essential that children learn the fundamental basics in literacy and numeracy but we believe that this is only the beginning. We set out to provide a very broad and rich programme of learning and opportunities so that children are inspired to learn more. Success in life is about much more than qualifications, and we aim to help children develop belief in themselves. We encourage our children to be unafraid of trying new things or new approaches and to not be afraid of getting it wrong. In developing a 'can do' approach, children can learn to be positive about themselves and their learning and build a belief in themselves that even if they can't do it now, they soon will find a way. Belief in self should always fall short of arrogance, but self-belief is necessary to ensure the resilience and positive attitudes that are necessary to progress.

We help our pupils develop a positive mind-set and an inner-confidence through developing:

B alance	Young people who have a calm, collected approach to deal with situations, are able to mix widely, have a wide range of interests, and who are comfortable in dealing with situations good and bad
E njoyment	Live to learn, and learn to live. Children should enjoy their work and opportunities at school so that learning is a positive thing which they continue to do through life
L iteracy	Young people must learn the skills of communication, both written and verbal, and their literacy should extend into other areas such as numerical, scientific and artistic literacy
I nnovation	Children must learn that problems and issues are to be welcomed and that they are an important part of life, and that they must develop the skills and aptitudes to innovate and find creative solutions
E xtension	Everyone has gifts and talents and young people must learn to stretch and challenge themselves so that they maximise their capabilities and discover new opportunities and skills
F amily	Life presents challenges and we are better able to address these if we work with others. Family can be those at home, those in the work place or those in the wider community. We achieve more together

We want our young children to develop their belief – belief in themselves first and foremost to think carefully and do the right thing. But belief too in those around them and to have confidence that if they always try their best, act positively and with consideration for others, then those around them will always be there to help provide support.

Our school community is a happy, caring and positive environment which enables our children to develop as confident, well-rounded and capable young people.

Pupil Care and Support

Our school is a very small one – just two classes, each with no more than 24 pupils in the class. Each of the two classes has two adults working with it and this means that every individual child receives a lot of attention.

It is impossible in our small school for any child to become lost. Every child is well understood – they are themselves a very significant part of a small community and the family-style ethos of the school ensures that all of the children can feel nurtured and looked after. Our rural location and small buildings help support the school in ensuring that children are safe. Where children need additional help with any issues, our high staffing ratios help ensure that they can receive quality time and this is supported by the fact that we have access to an independent counselling service.

Behaviour of pupils is excellent and examples of indiscipline are rare. Where they do occur, we use restorative practices to ensure that above and beyond any sanctions that are applied, the child involved is taken through the episode so that it is used as a learning point.

Children stay in Class One for three years and then Class Two for four which allows teachers to get to know individual children very well and prevent the ‘ups and downs’ some children experience in other schools with changes in teacher from year to year. As children progress from year to year, and in effect from junior members of their class to senior ones, they are able to assume more responsibility for themselves and others, helping ensure that they are ready for high school.

Progressing well academically is of course a very important part of school life, but at Holme School we also ensure that children are supported in their wider development. Staff spend a significant amount of time making sure that children are developing the values, attitudes and approaches which will give them the resilience and confidence to succeed at high school and beyond.

Holme School has a calm, orderly atmosphere and the staff have a nurturing and caring approach.

Curriculum

Our emphasis on the holistic development of the child means that we put high value in ensuring that we deliver an extremely broad curriculum. The formal curriculum is very rich and quality time is dedicated to the arts, science, technology, ICT and languages for example. Within each of these we ensure richness, so science is not just science, but Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology, and Astronomy as well. Specialists are brought in to add to teacher expertise for example in aspects of PE and Sport.

Conversely to what we might think, the small size of the school helps us deliver the greater breadth. Bringing in a guest presenter on a special theme can easily be managed to the benefit of every child in the school, whilst in a larger school it might benefit a selected group of children. It is relatively easy in our small school to organise trips and visits. An extra-curricular club might have to limit numbers meaning many miss out in the larger school, but not at our school. After school activities operate at least three evenings every week, providing a rich variety of extension and fun activity. The outline programme is published at the beginning of the school year to aid parental planning, with some activities being charged to parents and others provided free of charge.

Our mixed age classes give greater flexibility for learning. A year three pupil who is fast moving in maths can be working with older pupils who are in year five. The age of the pupil need not limit their learning experience and the teacher can constantly change learning groups and work tasks to suit the child. In this way children can enjoy learning that meets their needs, but also experience teaching which provides pace and challenge.

The environment we enjoy provides a great outdoor classroom. Local farms host visits for us, for example at lambing time, we specialise in orienteering , have use of the local recreation ground, and use the locality for science, art, growing fruit and vegetables, and many other learning activities.

Parents receive clear information about what is taught and when, allowing opportunities for them to support the learning with visits, reading at home etc.

The Holme School Curriculum is very rich and broad. It is clearly stated, and well supported by a programme of visits, visitors and after-school activities.

PE and Sport

Our school believes that children should enjoy physical activity and we deliver a very full programme. Also, through our wider education, children are taught to understand the importance that physical activity plays in a healthy lifestyle. Our approach is three-fold:

- A comprehensive PE programme is delivered by a combination of our own teachers alongside sport teachers and coaches from outside the school. The programme includes the teaching of fundamental skills such as agility and balance, dance and movement, physical dexterity and hand/eye coordination in a wide context of sports including football, netball, rugby, gymnastics, dance, tennis, rounders, cricket and athletics.
- After-school sports clubs run every week at the school enabling pupils to extend their interest, develop their skills, and enjoy involvement in competition against other schools. Our school works with other local small schools to ensure full team opportunities are available for sports like football and netball.
- The staff team supports sporting excellence by ensuring that talented pupils are linked to local sport clubs and we have our own sporting specialism in the sport of orienteering.

Arts

Holme Junior and Infant School believes that the arts play a vitally important part in the development of our children. Apart from the practical skills developed through the arts, children are presented with opportunities to be creative and learn how to express themselves in different ways. We seek to ensure that children see the arts as a source of much pleasure and enjoyment and understand how the arts play a vital role in the leisure time of many adults as well as careers for others. All children learn a musical instrument in KS2 at no cost to parents, and all of the expressive and performing arts have a strong place within our curriculum. A planned programme of trips and visits allow regular experience of music concerts and theatre, and the annual programme of after-school activities ensures at least one arts club each week.

Wider Aspects

The school seeks to ensure that partnership with parents is central to what it does. Key to this is good quality communication and the facilitation of additional services:

Communication – This includes:

- A weekly information bulletin providing detail of forthcoming events, arrangements and news.
- A half-termly newsletter providing more detailed information on what has been happening at the school.
- Three written reports per year, detailing outcomes of assessment for parents including information on the progress children are making.
- Three Parents' Evenings per year.
- Half-termly curriculum newsletters outlining the learning programme for the weeks ahead.
- A brand new web-site launched January 2018.

Additional Services

- The local wrap around care club provide a breakfast and after-school club in the adjacent village of Holmbridge. The school operates a mini-bus service which collects the children from the breakfast club in the mornings to ensure that they arrive in time for school. For those children needing to attend the after-school club, the school ensures that they are looked after before they are driven down to Holmbridge.
- The school researches parent and family interest in summer holiday schools and then establishes as necessary a programme. Such programmes can also operate during other holiday periods where there is sufficient interest.

Vision in Brief

Holme Junior and Infant School is set in an idyllic location and delivers a very broad educational programme in a caring and 'family-like' atmosphere. The individual needs of children are central to our delivery in the context of the high staff:pupil ratio they benefit from. Our interest is on the development of the whole child, and focuses on positive attitudes and approaches, resilience, enjoyment and academic success. Our offer to families is an holistic one, which features a fantastically broad programme of learning, activities and services in a happy, friendly, and calm atmosphere, and in the context of our idyllic location.