

# Believing and Achieving



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Head Teacher:  
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## Prospectus

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# Welcome



On behalf of the school community, it gives me great pleasure to offer you a very warm welcome to the Needwood C.E (VA) Primary School family. Our school is a rural village primary school at the heart of its community, where we are dedicated to maintaining a strong family atmosphere and culture of success, within the Christian ethos.

We believe that education should be an exciting and inspirational experience for everyone, so they develop a love of learning and sense of pride in their achievements. We aim to make learning rich, diverse, creative and fun! Each person within the school family and their contribution to school life are held in high regard. It is with this in mind that we endeavour to maintain, not only high academic standards, but individual personal, social and moral achievement.

I am honoured to be the Head Teacher of such a warm, friendly and successful school and hope that you enjoy reading our prospectus to discover more about the wonderful **team, exciting work and children's achievements at Needwood C.E. (VA) Primary School.**

Kind Regards,

Mrs Charlene Gethin (Executive Headteacher)

# All About Us and a Little Bit of History



Needwood C.E (VA) Primary School is a co-educational day school for children aged 4 to 11 years and is situated in an idyllic, rural village, at the heart of its community. The school serves the communities of Newborough, Hanbury, Hoar Cross and Newchurch, although some pupils choose to travel from further afield. There are approximately 60 children on roll. We are able to offer extended provision (before and after school care) through our partnership with Little Lambs Childcare (for more information contact the school office or Little Lambs on 01283 713906).



The school also provides the facilities for community user groups such as The Happy Circle, Bingo and Newborough Toddler Group. Our school family actually comprises of people from 8 months to 80 years of age!

Needwood School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. As such it has strong links with the local Christian community and it is proud to work

Over the last 150 years our school has grown, developed, improved **and modernised in many ways.** 'All Saints' School' was originally built in Newborough in 1958 and towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there were actually three schools in Newborough - one for boys, one for girls and a mixed school. During the 1980s, All Saints' School then amalgamated with St. Werburgh's School in Hanbury and Mey-



nell Primary School in Hoar Cross. As the Meynell Primary School held Church Aided status this passed to the newly created 'Needwood Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School'.

There have also been many structural changes to the school building since 1958, with programmes of modernisation and extension to the original Victorian building. In 2003 a new entrance hall, two new offices and a group teaching/resource room were added. More recently in 2010 an impressive, contemporary new classroom and community facilities were added. Along with the complete refurbishment and modernisation of the existing classrooms and installation of the latest technology throughout school, Needwood CE (VA) Primary School retains its small friendly, family feel whilst providing a learning environment and community facilities that are **bright, fresh and 'state of the art'!** Outside we have our own play area including a shady garden area, as well as space for sports and team games on our own sports field.

# Vision, Aims and Objectives

## School Aims

Create an environment where pupils can give of their best and are able to make progress measured against their individual standard of achievement.

Ensure that all pupils receive a truly rounded learning experience.

Provide every pupil with an equal chance of success.

Establish close links with parents and align their aspirations for their children with demonstrable achievement.

Recruit and retain the best teaching and support staff and encourage them to maximise their potential for the benefit of the pupils.

## Mission Statement

The school will serve its community by providing children with an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian values, thereby preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## Values

*Our pupils.* All children are treated with care and respect, thereby encouraging their individual development. Children are encouraged to take every opportunity open to them within a caring environment, where there is constant celebration of success.

*Our Environment.* The environment created in school is warm, safe, close-knit and creatively stimulating. Great value is placed on these principles; therefore facilities and learning resources are continually being improved.

*Our Church.* As a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, the school forges and maintains strong links with the local and the broader Christian communities. The school works alongside the local churches of the communities it serves and holds daily acts of worship, which complement the Religious Education element of the curriculum.

*Our Staff.* Our members of staff have the highest standards of conduct and integrity in all that they do, and deliver what is promised to our school community. They are consistent in their approach to everything, and seek only one measurement - excellence.

Learning to know, Learning to do, Learning to get along with others, Learning to be. (UNESCO: International Commission on Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)



This award recognizes the promotion of a whole school/ whole child approach to health, through projects and curriculum including diet, physical exercise, emotional well being and relationships. We are now working towards the enhanced **Award.'**

This award recognizes the school has provided or exceeded the government guidelines for regular sport, activity and exercise in both quantity and quality.



## DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY FULL STATUS

# Organisation

As a small school we have the advantage of teaching our pupils in small mixed year group classes. The school is currently organised into three classes.

Class 1 - Reception and Lower Key Stage 1

Class 2 - Upper Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2

Class 3 - Upper Key Stage 2

We have 2 highly skilled higher level teaching assistants.

Volunteer helpers, governors and students also visit school on a regular basis to support pupils in their learning. A specialist music teacher and sports coach teaches weekly lessons to every class.



# The School Day

Gates are opened and staff on duty to greet the children

9.00 'Wake Up, Shake Up' on the playground

9.05 Morning registration

9.10 Whole School Collective Worship

9.25 -10.30 Lessons

10.30-10.45 Morning Break, all children are offered a piece of free fruit everyday.

10.45-12.00/12.10 (key Stage 2) Lessons

12.00/12.10-1.10 Lunch

1.10-3.30 Lessons (children in class 1 have a break during this last session.).

## Beginning of The Day Procedure

- Please bring children to the gate at the start of the day and remain on the front playground, with them until a member of staff arrives.
- Staff will be on duty from 8.50am and children will then be allowed onto the rear playground.
- The gates will be closed at 9.00am (all children should be on the playground by this time). If you arrive after this time, please come the door at the front of school and ring the bell.
- If you need to come into school during the school day to drop off or collect children (for appointments etc) please also come to this door.

## Play Times

All children are offered a piece of fruit at morning playtime; this is provided free of charge.

Children may bring fruit either fresh or dried from home if they prefer. A water bottle should be brought to school. This can be refilled at lunchtime and can be drunk throughout the day in class. Water bottles can be purchased from school. A water machine providing cold drinking water is also available. Please do not send alternative drinks for playtimes.



### Lunch Times

Children can have a school lunch or they may bring sandwiches.

**If sandwiches, please ensure the container has your child's name on the outside.**

Sandwich meals should be ready to eat with the minimum of help.

Please do not send fizzy drinks to school.

School lunches are freshly prepared on site.

The money should be sent in a named envelope each Monday.

It is possible to pay half-termly should you prefer.

**We require 1 weeks' notice should you intend to change from one style of dinner to another.**

We often have themed lunch days (Chinese New Year, **Grandparents' Lunch etc**)



### End of The Day

At the end of the day your children are escorted out onto the front playground by staff.

We ask that children are collected by the person(s) with parental responsibility or by person(s) informed in writing to the school. In an emergency, a phone call to the school informing us of other person(s) will suffice.

We appreciate the prompt collection of your children at the end of the day, but please inform us if for any reasons you are going to be late.

We are exceptionally proud of the strong links we have with our local villages and churches and wider communities. Members of the community are involved in school life in a variety of ways. For example as volunteer helpers in classrooms; giving talks to pupils about trips, adventures or life experiences; being part of our choir concerts or annual Christmas production and much much more!

**The school is also used as a base for The Mother and Toddler Group, Women's' Institute, Happy Circle and Parish Council.** Indeed, our school serves people from the age of 8 months to 80 years of age!

School is also an active and integral part of community and village life. One of the main events of the year, being the May Day and Well Dressing Celebrations. Pupils are however involved in many other ways, such as Carol singing at the local residential care home, tree planting schemes, writing articles for the Parish

We have strong relationships with our school families, All Saints Church Newborough, the local community and businesses, our cluster of primary and secondary schools, St George's Park as well as partnerships with wider Burton On Trent partners such as Burton Albion.

# Partnerships



# Working With Parents and Families

Share events, celebration worship assemblies and services with us. Become a parent helper, take part in the PTA or stand to be a Governor.

Here at Needwood CE (VA) Primary School we are exceptionally proud of the strong and positive partnership we have with parents and carers and believe whole heartedly that education is most effective when such a relationship exists. We operate an open door policy and parents are always more than welcome to discuss any issue with the Headteacher and/or other members of staff. The views and ideas of parents are actively welcomed, through conversations, questionnaires and a suggestion box. A weekly newsletter is produced, usually on Friday. This contains all necessary dates and information regarding forthcoming events and activities **and any alterations to the school routine. Each half term parents receive a 'Curriculum Letter' which outlines the topics and learning objectives for the current curriculum areas.** There is a parents' notice board holding a prominent position in school; any information of particular interest is displayed here. Parents may also use this to display notices for their own interest. We have an excellent team of parent helpers, who provide valuable support to pupils and class teachers.



# Our Curriculum and Beyond

Needwood Church of England (VA) Primary school provides a full, broad, balanced and creative curriculum which offers a wide range of opportunities to all pupils so they may develop to their full potential. Children acquire skills through activities which are imaginative, creative, stimulating, varied and enjoyable set in an atmosphere of industry and purposefulness. It is carefully planned to ensure progressive coverage of all subjects and the skills needed to succeed in that subject. We have a creative curriculum with lessons and series of lessons which are thematic as well as subject approaches as considered relevant, these themes are whole school and begin with a hook / exciting stimuli such as a visit or visitor or event.



CYCLE 4 All Saints Cycle 2 Needwood (2013 / 2014)			
Autumn 1 2nd Sept—27th Oct. - 5 weeks	Autumn 2 4th Nov—8th Dec—6 weeks	Spring 1 8th Jan—10th Feb 6 weeks	
<b>SHAKING EARTH</b>  Hook: meteorite landing in school grounds. End of theme: Think Tank.	<b>Dinosaur Galore!</b>  Hook: what if to find food, the dinosaurs will have been dropped away at with rotten egg, fossils or something and we will have bones, digestion.	<b>ANCIENT civilisations</b> 	
Spring 2 24th March—16th April 6 weeks	Summer 1 28th April—25th May 4 weeks	Summer 2 2nd June—23rd July 7 weeks (1 week taken out for world cup theme)	
<b>TITLES AND STIMULUS / HOOKS TO FOLLOW</b> Growing, reproduction 	<b>SAFETY WEEK</b> STIMULUS / HOOKS TO FOLLOW Inventions / Planes, trains and automobiles. OAT Book. Ranges more to include space. 	<b>PLANES</b>  <b>TRAINS</b>  <b>Medieval Banquet</b> Around the world, life, global community. 	



The **Foundation Stage** is the name that covers the period of time from age three to the end of the reception year.

### **PRIME AREAS**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development**

These are crucial for developing children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

### **Then there are 4 SPECIFIC AREAS**

**Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design**

Each year we hold a meeting with the parents of children who are new to the school to explain in more detail about the curriculum and how children at this stage learn through 'hands-on' experience, play and adult lead activities. As with all pupils, we track and monitor their progress and development closely. We are keen to involve parents and carers in this process too. Therefore, the foundation stage teacher holds meetings and discussions with parents and carers to help complete the children's 'E-Profiles' (the tool we use to track the children's progress).







## Key Stage 1 and 2

In Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) the school follows The National Curriculum guidelines. We aim to deliver a broad, balanced, creative, inclusive and fun curriculum, incorporating the subjects outlined. Our class teachers and higher level teaching assistants are highly experienced and use a range of exciting and innovative teaching methods to ensure that learning is lively and meets the needs of all pupils.

Core Subjects: English and Mathematics, Science, Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T.) and Religious Education (R.E.),

Other Subjects: History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education (P.E.) (Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.), Social and emotional aspects of learning (S.E.A.L.) and Modern Foreign Languages (M.F.L.) formally taught in KS2

Enrichment Activities: We are fortunate to be able to offer all of our pupils a variety of after school clubs and extra curricular activities - many of which are free of charge! These include football, High Five (netball), rounders, kwik cricket, Creative Christian Club, ICT, Choir (with three public performances each year) and Gardening Club.

PE: We have a specialist coach for 2 afternoons a week to help deliver some of our quality PE.

RE: The teaching in R.E. is based on the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and Collective Worship. Parents are respectfully asked to discuss their reasons for doing so with the Headteacher prior to making a decision.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: All pupils participate in a daily act of worship. This offers them an opportunity to affirm their beliefs and to reflect on their ideas and values and those of others. The Headteacher and other members of the teaching staff lead worship based on planned themes. The local vicar and other invited guests regularly visit school and lead collective worship. Pupils also lead acts of worship to which friends and family are invited. **We also enjoy visiting our local churches for special celebrations such as Mothers' Day, Christingle and Easter.**



**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS / GIFTED AND TALENTED:** We endeavour to ensure that every pupil at our school realises their full potential and that all children are engaged and supported in learning that is challenging yet comfortable. Appropriate support, is however given to pupils who have special educational needs or specific learning difficulties. Where necessary the class teacher will liaise with the schools SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). The SENCO is also able to utilise the **support and expertise of the local authority's Special Educational Needs Support Service and the Educational Psychologist.** We are also proactive in supporting and challenging pupils who are gifted and talented. We are able to provide them with learning tasks appropriate to their abilities and to work with other agencies, such as The John Taylor Academy.

**SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION:** **Sex education is not a distinct subject but is an integral part of the school's Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education** programme. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 discuss with class teachers and the school nurse physical and emotional changes at puberty and relationship issues; these matters are talked about within the context of the family. Girls also receive a separate talk with the nurse regarding menstruation. Parents are able to view the resources used prior to the pupils viewing. Every parent has the right to withdraw his/her child from sex education if they so wish. However, parents are encouraged to contact the Headteacher before making this decision.

**HOMEWORK:** **Homework is an essential part of pupils' learning.** As a school we really appreciate the help and support parents and families give to children and the valuable impact it has on their progress and development. Homework tasks are set for all pupils which support and extend the learning taking place in the classroom and are appropriate to their needs and abilities. Examples of homework activities include:-

Reception	1 hour a week (approximately 10 minutes a day) (literacy/numeracy – including reading and reading comprehension, learning of letters and sounds, high frequency words, number work)
Year 1/Year 2	1 hour a week (approximately 10 minutes a day) (Reading, Spelling, other Literacy and Numeracy work)
Year 3/Year 4	1 ½ hrs a week (approximately 15 minutes a day) (Reading, Spelling, other Literacy and Numeracy work)
Year 5/Year 6	30 minutes a day (regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum). Additional revision for Year 6 in preparation for statutory assessments in May.

All children may be asked to undertake other topic, project or research based homework.



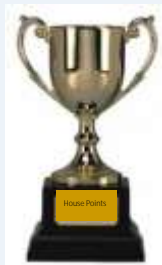
# Behaviour and Discipline

Promoting positive behaviour is the responsibility of the whole school community. At Needwood we are a well-disciplined, ordered community where teachers are able to teach and children are happy in their learning. The approach to good behaviour encourages all adults to view children positively. We believe in positive behaviour management and behaviour modification. We always give positive recognition for good behaviour by reinforcing the desired behaviour using verbal and non verbal cues and stickers from our reward system. We reward attendance on a termly basis. We have rules that children must follow at all times and consequences that result when children choose not to follow the rules. They are taught that the choices they make have consequences.

**DAY TO DAY STICKERS** Children get stickers from all members of staff for many different achievements for example: behaviour, work, homework, kindness, tidiness, doing a job etc. or for our golden rules:

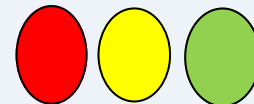


**HEADTEACHER'S AWARD** Children put these stickers into your charts and they build up towards their own Headteacher's awards and team points! Each time they get 5 house points (50 stickers) they receive a Headteacher's award in the form of a certificate and sticker. These accumulate to enamel badges. 10 stickers also go toward the team cup awards!



**PUPIL OF THE WEEK** Your child may get an of the week award.

**SANCTIONS** Our sanction system is highly structured and clear for all. Children are given warnings, yellow and red cards which have consequences. Parents are informed of these and if difficult behaviours persist we work closely with families and support where necessary to help modify their child's behaviour.



We have lots of other awards, such as attendance, sporting achievement and much more.

# School Uniform

***You are free to buy uniform from any retailer you choose, it does not have to have the school***

Our school colour is bottle green and the uniform options are as follows:

Grey trousers/skirt.

White blouse/shirt or white polo shirt.

Bottle green sweatshirt with school logo or

Bottle green pullover or cardigan

Green gingham dress for Summer

Sweatshirts and t-shirts with the school logo and shorts can be ordered from school at competitive prices.

Shoes should be low, black flat-heeled for safety and fasten securely. Socks and tights should be either, white, black, grey or bottle green.

Velcro or magnetic fastenings are preferable to laces for younger children.

Plimsolls / pumps are only worn for PE.

Children are not permitted to wear nail varnish.

Children may wear one pair of small stud earrings.

All jewellery must be removed (by pupils themselves) for PE including earrings.

Long hair should be tied up. Hair bands and scrunchies should be either white, black, grey or bottle green.

Other Items All pupils also need a book bag and a water bottle. Both are available from school.

Sun hats are needed for the warm weather and hats, scarves and gloves for the chilly days!

## PE KIT

White T-shirt, Bottle green shorts (Available from school)

Plimsolls/pumps, Tracksuit and trainers (any colour for outside PE during the colder weather)

Spare socks, Items should be kept in a named drawstring bag to hang on a peg.

## Swimming

One-piece costume (girls)/ trunks (boys), Swimming cap (girls and boys).

Items should be in a named



# Believing and Achieving

## Happy To Help

Above all please remember the team at Needwood Church of England (VA) Primary School are always more than happy to help. Please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything else you would like to know or discuss.

We are more than happy to give you a 'guided tour' of our wonderful school and look forward to welcoming your child into our family.

