

ST GILES' AND ST GEORGE'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

“THROUGH LEARNING, PLAYING,
SHARING AND BELIEVING, WE
SUCCEED TOGETHER”



St Giles' and St George's School is a thriving learning community that Ofsted recognised as outstanding in leadership and behaviour and safety. This was not always the case. Eight Years ago our crumbling Victorian building in the town centre was replaced by a purpose built school in a beautiful green space half a mile away. At this time, teaching and learning were not conducive to raising standards whilst the outdoor environment was very poor. Since moving to the new school, staff, governors and parents have propelled the school towards its current success and are now driving it towards being an outstanding school. We believe that our children deserve nothing less.

The school serves a socially and ethnically diverse community with above average numbers of children in receipt of free school meals. The school's caring ethos based on Christian principles help all children to thrive whatever their circumstances.

The journey from the old school to the new has taken eight years of serious improvement. A focus on teaching and learning as well as developing an outside dimension to the environment was central to this.

After moving to the new building, consistency was difficult to maintain when undergoing inevitable changes. Staff turnover was high and leadership had barely sufficient capacity to influence the whole school. Developing newly qualified teachers was crucial at this time and the hard work was rewarded as colleagues are now excellent practitioners and potential leaders for the future.

In 2012 leaders were identified and integrated into key stages, EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. This significant change was planned to create teams in the four corners of school and particularly in Year 3 and Year 4 where underperformance was endemic.

The school's bravery in moving leadership colleagues into the different age groups for longer term strategic gain was noted by Ofsted. Any move of this kind was not advantageous to all classes at the time and one cohort missed out on the exceptional teaching that they needed. This decision was not made lightly and despite a dip in standards for one year group, achievement and teaching within our school have now risen to a significantly higher standard.





Following the changes, leaders were able to maintain consistency in their teams and develop practice as planned. Leadership meetings that focused on scrutiny of practice, evaluation, tracking of groups and nurturing on an individual level were crucial. In this way we are achieving our ambition that all children and colleagues will fulfil their potential.

“The pursuit of excellence by all leaders and managers at the school, including governors, is demonstrated by their uncompromising and highly successful drive to continue to improve the school.”



First hand experiences and visits are now fully embedded in learning. Projects are based on humanities, science, the arts and high quality texts. Enquiry based learning and questioning are threaded throughout the projects to ensure that they are child centred. All subjects are integrated or taught discretely, improving standards and progress year on year as well as preparing children for high school. Home based study with parents is included to enrich projects and to involve parents in their children’s learning.

The school has also undergone a dramatic change in terms of learning environment both indoors and out, which are now rich and versatile. Woodland areas, a pond, a gravel garden, artists’ sculptures and many other features are a normal part of the children’s day. The school has gained gold medals for its grounds and the children’s allotments in Britain in Bloom. Bug hotels, bird boxes and an outside classroom add real value to the curriculum and to the enjoyment of the school community.



The school has an excellent reputation in sports and music, illustrating the rich extra-curricular activities and excellence achieved by the children. The Singing Squad performs locally and is in great demand in the community. All colleagues are committed to provide additional activities such as cookery, board games, enterprise and cheer leading.

Governors, parents and staff fully support the school by challenging it to be the best that it can be. However, as well as raising standards, the most important elements of our school improvement are our children’s high self-esteem, independence, confidence and excellent attitudes to learning.

Lynne Evans
Headteacher

