



Simms Cross Primary School



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Interim Headteacher
Mrs S Taylor

Welcome to Simms Cross Primary School.

This combined prospectus and handbook is intended to provide an overview of the school. As well as describing the aims and philosophy of the school, the prospectus also explains our approach to the curriculum, to behaviour and to liaison between home and school.

It is hoped that it will contain all of the information needed by prospective parents but by far the best way in which to gain a proper impression of the school is to visit us while we are at work. Appointments to do this are easily made by telephoning the school to arrange a mutually convenient time.

The school logo is **"Above and Beyond"**. We have high expectations for all children and we work in partnership with parents to ensure that all pupils reach their potential both academically and socially.

Simms Cross School enjoys a large spacious site in a central part of Widnes, with an extensive sports field and large playgrounds. We have one annual intake in September for those children whose fifth birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August.

We also have two seven place resource bases for children with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). Places in the bases are allocated by the Local Authority.

Simms Cross has a nursery that caters for up to 26 children each session. More information on the nursery is available from school.

The school has an admission number of 40. There are 275 children on roll at present including the nursery.

Upon completion of their primary education, children transfer to one of the local high schools. This year the year 6 children will transfer to the following schools:-

Saint Peter & Paul High School
Ormiston Chadwick Academy
Wade Deacon High School
Ashley School

"Shoot for the moon, and you will land among the stars"



Admission Arrangements

How to apply for a place for your child at Simms Cross Primary School

If your child is nearly of age to start school, you need to be thinking about applying for a place well in advance as the school is popular locally and places can be taken quickly. For a reception place, you apply during the autumn term of the year **before** your child starts school.

Your child starts reception in Sept 2018 Apply Autumn term 2017

Your child starts reception in Sept 2019 Apply Autumn term 2018

Everyone who wants their child to join reception must complete an application form. If your child is already in Simms Cross nursery, you must still apply on the reception application form. Even if you have an older child in the school, you still must fill in the form!

If you live in Halton, you apply on the form in the Halton primary admission booklet. You get this booklet from school during the autumn term. If you are on the internet, you can fill in the form online - the booklet will explain how to do this – or look on the Halton website www.halton.gov.uk

In past years, there have been enough places for all applicants, but due to increasing numbers of children in the area, Simms Cross reception can be over subscribed. Halton Council applies their admission policy to see who gets places. Details of this policy are in the Halton booklet and online.

*NB Children who start reception have their 4th birthday **no later** than 31st August before they start in September.

In-year admission - Schools now manage in-year admissions although the local authority are still notified and they can provide up to date information about places available, they will also have up-to-date information on other local schools.

The School Curriculum

In reception and into year 1 the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This is divided into 7 areas of learning and development. The most important areas are:

Communication and language
Physical development
Personal, social and emotional development.

The 4 other areas are:

Literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

From Year 1 - Year 6 the children follow the National Curriculum. This includes the core subjects of literacy, maths, science, computing and RE. Children also study history, geography, art and design,



music, physical education and a modern foreign language Some of these subjects may be taught through topics and themes.

The school supports the children's learning through visits to local amenities such as parks and museums and through visitors to school for example the Widnes Vikings.

Assessment and Reporting

Children are assessed through ongoing teacher observation, the marking of work and more formal assessment such as the SATs in Year 6. Each child's progress is carefully tracked to ensure they are reaching their potential and achieving age related expectations. Gaps in learning and concerns around progress are thus quickly identified and supported.

Children identified as possibly having special educational needs will gain the support of the school SENDCO who will begin the assessment process in liaison with parents and the class teacher. Please reference the school Special Needs/Inclusion policy.

Parents receive an Annual Report in the Summer Term. Parents' Evenings are held twice a year, in the autumn and summer terms. Parents are always welcome to discuss concerns or ask for progress updates at any point during the year.

Pupils with Disabilities

The school has several policies that relate to equal opportunities and access and inclusion for children with disabilities. This includes the Equality Scheme and Policy, and the Special Needs and Inclusion Policy. These policies relate to both national and local guidelines including the Equality Act 2010.

Policies are available on the school website and from the school office on request.

If you require further information please speak to the Headteacher, the school SENDCO or the Governor for Special Educational Needs.

School Policies

Many of our policies follow national and local guidelines and are reviewed annually by staff and governor. Policies that we feel are more relevant to parents can be found on the school website. This includes the school's Anti Bullying policy, Behaviour policy and Safeguarding policy.

Attendance

The school works closely with the Education Welfare Service to ensure good attendance for all pupils. The school has an Attendance Policy that includes a Holiday in Term Time policy. A holiday form must be completed 2 weeks prior to a holiday being taken. These are available from the school office. Holidays in term time will not be authorised unless taken in exceptional circumstances and attendance otherwise is good. The school has a 96% attendance target and you



will receive a letter each term reporting your child's current attendance. Good attendance and 100% attendance is awarded termly.

Attendance for 2015/16 was 93.9%

Attendance for 2016/17 was 93.9%

Standards and Attainment

Schools are no longer required to set targets for attainment and progress but there is an expectation that a school will achieve floor standards set by the government. This includes attainment and progress.

Y6 Results for 2017 were:

22% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths

Progress was -3.46 in reading, -8.3 in writing and -2.46 in maths.

The school continues to work hard to raise standards and ensure all children make good progress. The school continually evaluates its practice and identifies areas for development.

All children have individual targets for reading, writing and maths. The teacher's marking of work supports progress towards these targets. Homework is set on a weekly basis the amount is dependent on the age of the child.

Classes are organised in single year groups where possible. On occasion if a year group exceeds 30 pupils there may be a need to have a mixed year group class. This will be organised to best meet the needs of all pupils.

Currently there are 15 teachers including the nursery teacher and 18 teaching assistants who work across school. Some teaching assistants are employed to support children with SEN including ASD.

Parental Involvement

The school works in partnership with parents to ensure your child makes progress in school, is happy and is safe.

Staff are generally available at the beginning and end of the school day to deal with any queries or concerns. The morning is obviously busier as lessons are due to begin so on occasion it may be best to arrange a mutually convenient time to speak to your child's teacher.

You can get involved in school and support your child through:

- Supporting your child with homework and reading at home
- Attending parent's evenings
- Attending meetings about your child that may relate to behaviour or learning



- Attending Family Learning courses that help you to learn more about the things your child learns in school
- Ensuring your child arrives on time for school and is organised for lessons, for example having a PE kit.
- Being a parent helper. A DBS check is necessary for this role.
- Becoming a Parent Governor
- Joining the PTA

We have a Parents' Notice board on the junior and infant playgrounds and next to the nursery entrance. The school website also gives details of events and information about our PTA. An annual survey is undertaken, usually in the Autumn Term as this helps us to identify what we are doing well and our areas for development. Please do take the time to complete this as we value your comments.

The school has a Behaviour Policy with rules, rewards and consequences. We expect all children to follow 3 rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**. Some children may at times find this more difficult and staff will work with them and their parents to ensure a high standard of behaviour is maintained across school and all children feel safe. The Staff treat children as individuals ensuring everybody is respected and valued. A copy of our behaviour policy can be found on the website.

Information

The school day begins at 8.45am when the doors open.

Registration is at 8.55am.

Lunchtime: 12.30-1.10pm. (Reception and Year 1 children go for lunch at 12.00 onwards)

School finishes at 3.10pm.

The school provides a variety of after school and lunchtime activities. Your child will receive letters about these each term.

Children in the Foundation Stage and KS1 receive free fruit daily. In KS2 children can purchase healthy snacks including toast and juice.

Dinners are £2.40 each day. Dinner money should be sent in at the beginning of the week. The office is notified if your child is entitled to Free School Meals. Children are welcome to bring their own packed lunches. We encourage these to be healthy. Fizzy drinks are not allowed.

Pupil safety and safeguarding are priorities for the school. Please do speak to the Headteacher if you have any concerns. The Headteacher is the designated person for child protection.

The school works with a variety of agencies to support both the welfare and well being of the pupils and their families. Please do speak to your child's class teacher or Headteacher if you require any support or advice.



The school has a complaints policy available on the school website or available from the office. In the first instance please first speak to your child's class teacher if there is a problem. If not resolved make an appointment to see the headteacher.

Uniform

The wearing of uniform is strongly encouraged including school shoes. Trainers are not allowed though may be changed into at playtime.

Jewellery is not allowed. We allow stud earrings however they must be removed for PE lessons. Tracks and patterns in hair are also discouraged.

Mobile phones should not be brought to school unless really necessary. They should be left in the office.

Boys	Dark Trousers White collared shirt School tie Red jumper with logo Black or dark shoes
Girls	Dark skirt or trousers White blouse Red jumper/cardigan with logo School tie Black or dark shoes (Please note high heels are not suitable for school wear.)
PE Kit	White T shirt Red or black shorts Black pumps or trainers

We ask for your co-operation and support in ensuring that the high standard of appearance which our school enjoys is maintained. Please label your child's clothing.

Some of your questions answered

What if my child is ill? Please telephone school on 0151 424 5031 from 8:30 am giving the reason for absence.

Medicines in school

For school to administer medicines a form of authorisation has to be completed and signed by a parent/guardian before a child can be given medication. Asthma inhalers should be kept in school



and should be clearly marked with the child's name again a form must be completed so the name can be added to our asthma register.

What happens at break times? Unless the weather is very poor, children will spend their break times outdoors. During the short morning break three members of staff supervise in the playgrounds. At lunchtimes Mid-day Assistants supervise the children. Please ensure your child has a coat in school each day during the colder months.

What if I have a concern? Please see your child's class teacher at the end of the school day. Remember all the staff are here to help. Please come and see us rather than worry about anything.

How will I find out what is happening in school? Parents are kept informed in a variety of ways: weekly newsletter, texts, noticeboards and the school website, all of which are updated regularly.

And finally..... No prospectus and handbook can completely describe a school. Parents will no doubt wish to assess the school's qualities for themselves. Such insight can only come from a visit during the school day to see the school community at work. The Headteacher will always be pleased to show you around - just telephone to make an appointment.