



St Oswald's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary and Nursery School



Together we learn to love and shine.

Welcome to St Oswald's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary and Nursery School

Foreword: Mrs Alice Hassall, Headteacher, says...

St Oswald's is a Church of England School and has strong links with St Oswald's Church. We have a caring ethos founded on Christian beliefs, where every member of our school is valued as an individual, contributing to the happy, caring Christian environment which we strive to create. We encourage children to develop as individuals by promoting independence, care and respect for others.

The school has established a tradition of achieving high standards with a caring and supportive environment where all children are encouraged to do their best. We hope to instil in our children a love of learning by offering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum set within an enriching and stimulating learning environment.

We recognise our role within the local community and the importance of developing links between home and school. We believe in working with parents as partners and look forward to sharing this new partnership with you.

I hope you find the information in this booklet useful. Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any other information you may need.



Parent partnership

At St. Oswald's we embrace our role within the local community and the importance of developing links between home and school. We believe in working with parents as partners. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

The staff and governors of St. Oswald's are very proud of our children and our school. We have a caring ethos founded on Christian beliefs where every member of our school is valued as an individual, contributing to the happy, caring Christian environment here. Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to visit us and see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: stoswalds.ce@durhamlearning.net or telephone 0191-386-8029



School day



St Oswald's is a small school with 6 classes. These are as follows:

- Nursery
- Elvet R/1
- Dunelm 1/2
- Neville 3/4
- Kingsgate 4/5
- Bailey 6

School hours

Nursery

We offer the 30 free hours entitlement and full details are available on our website under 'admissions'. Parents can choose from the following sessions: • 9am to 12pm X 5

- 12pm to 3pm X 5

- 2.5 days per week Monday and Tuesday 9am to 3pm, Wednesday 9am to 12pm

- 2.5 days per week Wednesday 12pm to 3pm, Thursday and Friday 9am to 3pm

Other patterns of attendance and wrap-around care are available in our Sunshine Club which is open Monday to Friday from 7.45am until 6pm for 50 weeks of the year.

Uniform

Our pupils proudly wear our school uniform consisting of a royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with a white polo shirt and grey trousers/skirt/shorts or pinafore. Blue and white gingham checked dresses may be worn in the summer. A full uniform policy is available on our website.



School meals and snacks

Lunchtime meals are provided by 'Taylor Shaw', and are eaten in the school dining room. The children are given a daily choice of menu and are encouraged to eat as much of the foods they have selected as possible. Absolute dislikes are acknowledged, but the menu is varied so it is unusual for problems to occur.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 can receive a free hot school meal. Children are also welcome to bring in lunch boxes.

Break-time and drinks

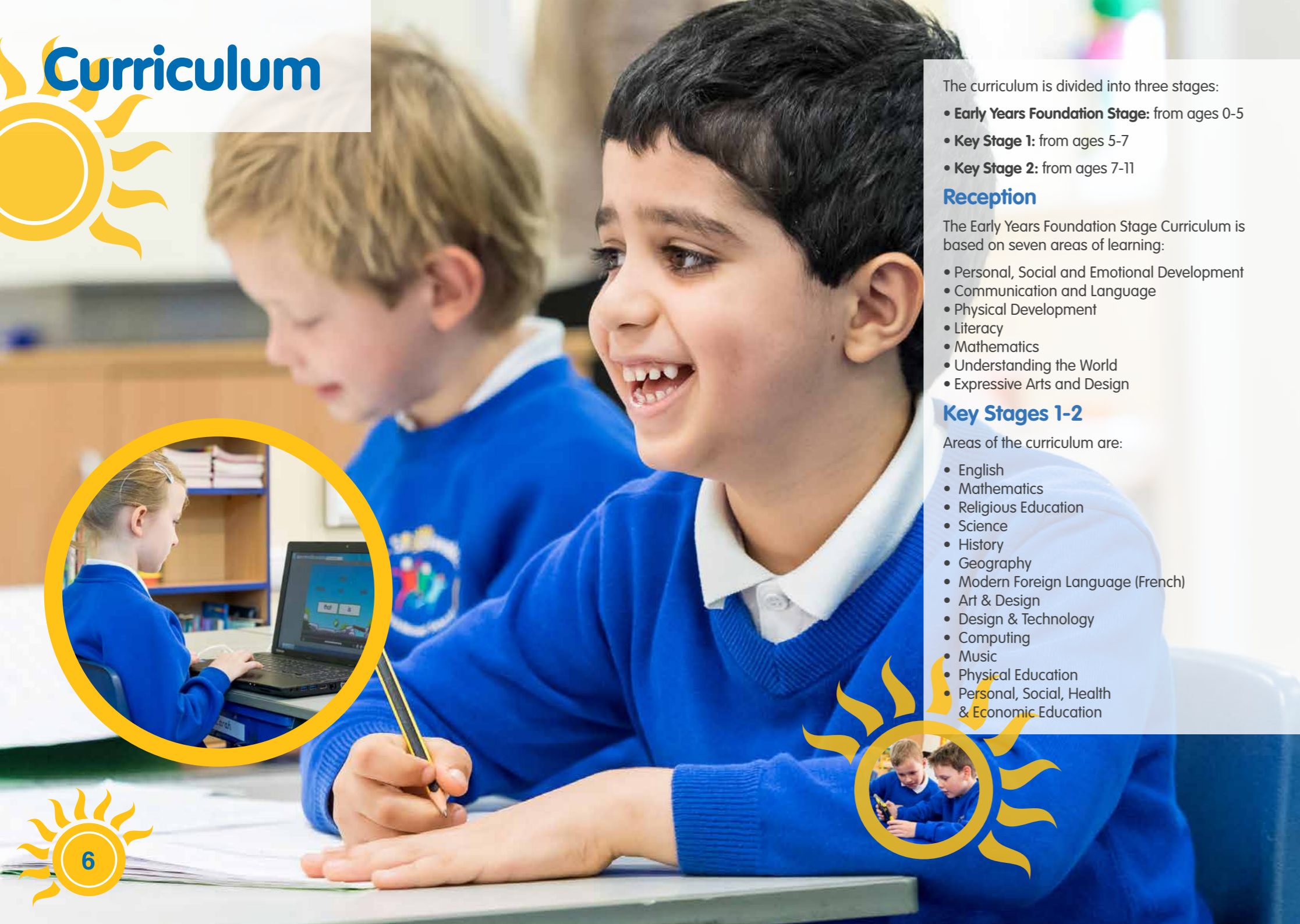
Free Fruit is provided for Foundation and KS 1 children, and this is funded by DFE as part of a government initiative to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. Water bottles are available to purchase from the office for £1.50, but new reception pupils are issued with a free water bottle.

Milk

Nursery and Reception children (aged up to 4 years) are provided with fresh milk daily. Cool Milk also supply milk to children from age 5 years. Details are available from the school office regarding costs and the ordering procedure.



Curriculum



The curriculum is divided into three stages:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5
- **Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7
- **Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Language (French)
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology
- Computing
- Music
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education



Behaviour and Self Development



High standards

We provide quality education for children aged three to eleven years and aim for high standards of performance and behaviour. Much time is spent in developing social and behavioural skills. Children are encouraged to think of how their actions can affect others. Consideration for others, quietness in moving around school and when working, are key elements in developing self-control.

Awards

A 'Shining Bright' worship is held each week when good effort in work, behaviour and citizenship are rewarded. This takes the form a Shining Bright and a Shining Light award for a member of each class. A range of rewards such as house points and stickers are used across the school.





Extended curriculum: trips and visits

Visits

All classes organise visits to places of interest to enhance their curriculum studies. These have included:

- Walks to the Botanical Gardens to experience Forest School activities
- Cathedral and Castle visits
- Trip to the Oriental Museum
- Theatre visits
- Visit to Whitehouse Farm



School projects

We also have regular in-school projects based around the major festivals of Christmas (Nativity play, parties etc.) and Easter (Church visit and competitions for the best decorated eggs, Easter Gardens and Easter bonnets) as well as smaller celebrations throughout the year. Regular fun days are also held, e.g. Europe day, sports days, international celebrations and book days.

Invites to school

We also occasionally invite authors and theatre groups into school along with Zoo Lab who bring along a selection of animals to show the children.



Communicating with parents

Your child's achievements

This school upholds the L.A.'s view that "individual pupils are entitled to have their achievements, skills, abilities and progress recognised throughout the whole curriculum." Careful records of pupils' achievements are kept throughout the year in each class. Parents will receive a written report compiled by the class teacher towards the end of the summer term and are invited to discuss the report with the teacher.



School News

Parents are updated with school news via the school website and weekly and termly newsletters. You can also keep up to date with the Friends of St.Oswald's and our school community via our Facebook page. We also have a Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/stoswaldsdurham>) and Tweets are uploaded onto the school website.

Open days

Throughout the year, your child will bring you invitations to visit, sometimes on an individual basis with the teacher, other times on a more informal basis to view work in the classroom with groups of other parents. We vary times to try to accommodate everyone at some time during the school year. Children are encouraged to show parents around their classroom during our 'open sessions'. There may also be special assemblies where parents will be invited to attend.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all



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We are all different but we fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. We are a team!

We all fit together

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.
Margaret Mead

Special Educational Needs

Some children are on the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Register. This is because the school has a policy of identifying concerns early and putting strategies in place to try and prevent small concerns becoming big problems. Mrs Hassall is the school's SENCO (the SEN Co-ordinator). The Local Offer and Schools offer giving details about SEND is available on the school website.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.



Being a Christian school



St Oswald's Church

As a Christian school, St Oswald's finds opportunities throughout the school's curriculum, and through relationships at all levels, to share the Christian gospel and to demonstrate the life of faith in God. This is evident in relationships, attitudes, understanding of right and wrong, forgiveness, and tolerance. The school also enjoys close links with St Oswald's Church.

Welcoming

Although Christianity is the main religion of the school, we welcome children of other faiths and cultures, accepting differences and valuing the experiences that they bring.

Worship

The school provides all pupils with a daily act of Collective Worship that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Nursery children have their own experiences of worship. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw pupils in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.

Christian values

Our Christian values and virtues are expressed throughout the school, in the curriculum and character and life of the school through:

- spiritual development which fully recognises the religious dimension of education throughout the curriculum and in the daily act of worship
- moral development which builds character, enabling each child to have the courage to do what is right
- cultural development which incorporates the Christian heritage of this country as well as the contribution made by other religions and cultures
- mental and physical development which releases each child's full potential to grow in the image of God.

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There are many lunchtime and after school clubs for the children to enjoy. These include:

- Performing Arts
- French
- Football
- Singing
- Techy Tots & Techy Juniors
- Chess
- Music
- French
- Crafts



Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your children to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games.

Admissions



Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time.

Nursery

Children may be admitted to the nursery class at the beginning of the term after their third birthday. To apply for a place, please download and complete our application form from our website, and return it to the school office. You will receive an acknowledgement that we have received your application and we will contact you when a space becomes available. Usually we will contact applicants for September start in May; for January start in November and for April start in February.

School

Children start in the reception class of St Oswald's School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

Durham County Council deals with all new admissions to St. Oswald's school. Contact details for the School Admissions Team are:

Tel: 03000 265 895

Email: schooladmission@durham.gov.uk

Web: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Getting involved



Friends of the School

'The Friends of St Oswald's' are a group of people who support the school and help to raise money for additional resources to enrich the children's education. Projects over recent years include purchasing iPads and books, installing seating areas in the playground, resurfacing the school yard and laying artificial grass. The Friends also support cultural activities for the children and sometimes fund visits from theatre companies who perform and work with the children. All of these projects enhance the school environment greatly. All parents and carers are invited to become members of the Friends and

are very welcome to attend meetings and join in the various activities.

Parent helpers

Parents play an important role in the life of the school. Parents and carers also help in classrooms and in the school in different ways, such as helping to label and organise books. Class teachers will advise parents of ways they can help. As long as parents/carers are not left alone with children there is no longer a necessity for DBS (old CRB's) to be applied for. The school will ensure that volunteers are never left unsupervised.

Governorship

Our school governors manage the school with the Headteacher. Our Governing Body are made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA), co-opted governors, teacher representatives and the Headteacher who has the option of being a governor. Members are elected for period of four years. Foundation Governors appointed by the PCC and the Diocese.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our parent governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the school office.

How to find us



Our Mission

We promote an inclusive and happy environment that nurtures potential, develops wisdom, builds integrity and inspires a love of life and learning.

Our Ethos

Recognising its historic foundation, St Oswald's C of E Aided Primary and Nursery School works closely with the Diocese of Durham and

St Oswald's Church to provide a stimulating and high quality education within a caring Christian environment.

We appreciate the uniqueness of every child, whatever their background and individual need, and encourage each child to discover their gifts, their sense of community and their relationship with God. Our values are embedded in everyday school life and daily worship brings the whole school together for times of reflection, exploration and celebration. We enable our children to feel valued, make excellent progress within the curriculum and build a strong foundation for their lives by developing their spirituality, self-belief and sense of citizenship.

St. Oswald's C of E Aided Primary and Nursery School
Church Street
Durham
DH1 3DQ

Tel: 0191 3868029

Website: <http://www.stoswaldsdurham.net>

**St Oswald's**
CE Aided Primary and Nursery School, Durham