



School Prospectus

**Your introduction to
Archbishop Runcie
Church of England First School**

We aim to foster a sense of security and wellbeing that enables each child to be self-motivated, challenged and make a good rate of progress.





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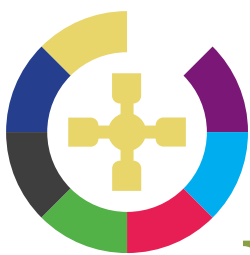
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Welcome to our School

Thank you for your interest in Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School. We hope you find the information in this prospectus a useful introduction. Clearly, it cannot possibly contain all you may wish to know so please contact us directly if you have any queries and we will be pleased to help you.

Archbishop Runcie First School is the only Church of England school in the north of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne and we are proud to offer our children a high quality education in a Christian context. Our school offers an unconditional welcome to all children in our community, whatever their faith, and we place each child at the heart of all we do.

We firmly believe that each child is unique and valuable, and has a range of gifts and talents to be nurtured and celebrated. In order to offer your child the best possible educational experience we tailor the curriculum in such a way that it is responsive to their needs and interests.

When each child starts school we seek to welcome their family into the wider school family and to work in partnership to support your child's wellbeing and progress. Children coming into school bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding about the world around them. It is our aim to build on these skills and promote a willingness and enthusiasm to learn more.

Our school is part of the Gosforth Family of Schools, which comprises six first schools with attached nursery classes catering for 3-9 year olds, three other first schools catering for 4-9 year olds, three middle schools for 9-13 year olds and Gosforth Academy for 13-19 years olds. Headteachers and staff of all the schools meet regularly to discuss curriculum and organisation to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for the children as they progress through the different phases of their education.

We wish you well as you choose the right school for your child.

J. Robson

Mrs J E Robson

Headteacher

“The Christian ethos permeates every aspect of this warm, welcoming and nurturing family environment. The use of scripture, Christian displays, signs and symbols all related to pupils and their role as God’s children demonstrates the strong Christian character. The children show exemplary standards of behaviour, friendliness and are strong ambassadors of their school.”

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools, June 2007





Our Ethos & Mission

...founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ, is to serve the local neighbourhood and the wider community through education.

School Aims

The whole school community will work together:

- To create a caring learning environment in which the uniqueness and individual worth of each member is recognised and developed, as an expression of the love of God and as a witness to our Christian faith;
- To enable each pupil to achieve their full potential in preparation for their future, by stimulating their sense of curiosity and excitement about the world;
- To build and promote Christian values, encouraging children to develop relationships which reflect love, forgiveness and respect for others;
- To encourage links between the school, home, our parishes and the wider community;
- To place collective worship as a shared experience at the centre of the school's daily life;
- To strive for the highest standards of achievement in all areas of school life.

As a school we are committed to life long learning for pupils, staff, governors, parents and the local community. Through this commitment we will enrich the educational experience and personal development of all those involved in the life of our school.



We firmly believe that each child is unique and valuable, and has a range of gifts and talents to be nurtured.

Teaching & Learning

Our approach to teaching and implementing the Curriculum

At Archbishop Runcie First School the whole curriculum is designed to encourage children to enjoy and develop a love of learning. The children are involved in a wide variety of exciting and challenging learning experiences aimed at developing and refining individual skills. Each child at Archbishop Runcie has access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, differentiated to meet his or her individual needs.

At the same time, we place high value on co-operation with others, respect for each other, empathy and peer support. To this end teaching and learning is organised in a variety of ways: whole class, group and individual work, to ensure all needs are catered for.

The school curriculum encompasses all experiences offered to the children. It includes the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, all subjects of the National Curriculum and, in accordance with Section 351 of the Education Act 1996, provides a curriculum entitlement that:

‘promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society’

and

‘prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life’

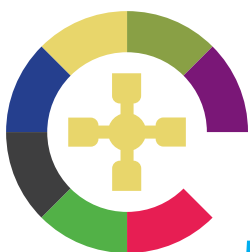
As children continue (or join) the learning journey within their school we aim to foster a sense of security and wellbeing that enables each child to be self-motivated, challenged and make a good rate of individual progress. This is undertaken through “continuous provision” of resourcing and teaching where the provision of resources is consistent across the school. Pupils are taught according to interests and rate of progress across Key Stages rather than in strictly age-related classes.

The children in each Key Stage are integrated for a wide range of activities which maximises opportunities for learning and makes most effective use of the facilities we have. The school offers modern purpose-built accommodation comprising six class bases, each with a “quiet/ group room” and a range of other teaching areas. Outside there are hard playing areas, spacious grassed areas and a garden which are all used in a variety of ways for recreation and to extend and develop the curriculum.

Much of our teaching is undertaken outdoors and we have a series of “outdoor classrooms” in use, rain or shine!

“We place high value on co-operation, respect for each other, empathy and peer support.”

Mrs Julie Robson, Headteacher



The Learning Journey

Archbishop Runcie CE First School caters for up to 202 girls and boys between the ages of three and nine years. The school's admission number is 30 which means we can admit up to thirty children into each year group from Reception to Year 4. The school is organised into three Units; Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.



The Foundation Stage Unit

Our Foundation Stage Unit offers up to 52 part time places (26 morning and 26 afternoon) for 3-4 year olds (Nursery) and up to 30 full time places for 4-5 year olds (Reception). Children are normally admitted to Nursery in the September following their third birthday and to Reception in the September preceding their fifth birthday, although they are not legally required to attend until the term following their fifth birthday.

The Foundation Unit is staffed by two teachers and two support staff. From time to time trainee teachers and Nursery Nurses undertake placements in the Unit.

Settling In To School

We recognise the transition from preschool years to starting school requires personalised and consistent support for each child and we set about preparing the children in the summer before their Autumn start.

In June each year we hold a meeting for new parents. At this meeting parents meet the staff, learn in detail about the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and about the arrangements for starting Nursery or Reception. In September, staff make home visits to children starting Nursery; this gives the children an opportunity for both children and parents and carers to meet the staff in familiar surroundings.

Progressing Through The School

As our children progress through the school, they continue to be taught within Key Stage groups. We believe this approach offers the right mix of challenge and security for each individual child. Teaching and learning within Key stage rather than formal year and/ or age groups enables each child to progress at a tailored pace whilst strengthening social and emotional skills.

Each child's progress is assessed on a continuous basis with bespoke teaching and learning goals adjusted accordingly throughout each academic year.

Much of our teaching is undertaken outdoors and we have a series of “outdoor classrooms” in use, rain or shine!

Key Stage 1

Children in Key Stage 1 are 5-7 year olds (Year 1 and Year 2). There are 60 children split into two main groups. The Key Stage is staffed by two teachers and a number of support staff.

Key Stage 2

Children in Key Stage 2 are aged 7-9 years (Year 3 and Year 4). In this Key Stage there are 60 children split into two main groups. The Key Stage is staffed by two teachers and a number of support staff. In addition to continued academic progress, we seek to prepare children at this stage for the greater independence they will require when leaving the school at the end of year 4.



The School Day

The school day is from 8.50am to 3.15pm.

Teaching starts at 8.30am for Nursery and at 8.50am for children in Reception and Years 1 to 4.

In order that we make the best use of time available to us we encourage children to be punctual and to be ready to begin work at this time. To this end, the Duty Teacher assembles the older children in the main playground at 8.45am to give the children time to hang up coats and get ready for learning. Nursery children are met at the Unit door.

Lunchtime is from 11.30am to 12.45pm for Reception and from 12 noon to 1.00pm for Key Stages 1 and 2.

There is a 15 minute break during the morning and the opportunity for Key Stage 1 classes to take a short break during the afternoon.

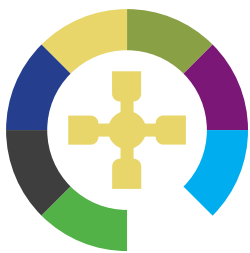
Lessons end at 3.15pm each day, with a final pick up time of 3.30pm for Nursery children.

Teaching Time

Allowing time for registration, worship and playtimes our actual weekly teaching time exceeds the minimum recommendations of:

Key Stage 1 – 21 hours

Key Stage 2 – 23.5 hours



Getting Involved

Parents, Carers and the wider community

Education is a partnership between home, school and the community. We recognise that parents and carers want to help and believe that children can benefit enormously when their adults show an interest in their schoolwork.

Set out on this page are some examples of how we work together for our children's benefit.

Parent and Carer Involvement

Class teachers send regular information to parents/carers detailing the work to be covered during a particular period and indicating ways in which parents/carers may help and support their child.



The PTFA has helped to provide new playground equipment and computers

Working Together

All parents/carers are provided with information about the work being covered in class. This should be helpful when discussing schoolwork with your children. There are several points in the year when support materials are issued in line with individuals' progress and curriculum requirements, as follows:

Parent Teacher Consultations (termly) - Parent Teacher consultations are an opportunity for staff to share with parents their child's progress, targets and ideas on how to support future progress. For example Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) grids can be copied to show areas of strength and areas for development/where further work is needed for each child.

Transition meetings - Transition meetings are held at the beginning of each academic year in order to communicate levels of national expectation and how we approach teaching and learning in relation to this, for example: strategies to use in maths problems.

Topic webs (half termly) - Topic webs break down the curriculum to show cross-curricular links and opportunities to inspire our children and encourage them to learn and explore their interests outside school.

Letters and Notices - As appropriate, use is made of link books, notice boards and classroom windows to inform and involve parents in classroom work. We also have the option to email monthly newsletters and have a text alert system.

Volunteering For Visits Out of School and/or School Based Activities

The school appreciates that volunteers contribute valuable assistance and experience that might otherwise not be available. This ranges from a regular commitment eg assisting with reading in class on a one to one basis weekly/fortnightly or on occasional school visits.

Whether you are able to contribute your time on a regular basis or for a one off event, please see the office to be issued with the relevant CRB (criminal records bureau) forms.

Parents', Teachers' and Friends' Association (PTFA)

Our school has an active PTFA which organises social and fundraising events throughout the year to aid school developments such as new playground equipment and updating ICT hardware.

The PTFA committee of parents and staff meets at least once a term. If you can't make it to the meetings we also operate a "pledge system" for key events so you can contribute and get involved.

Copies of the minutes of each meeting are sent home to all parents as we regard all parents and carers as members. Each class has parent/carer representatives on the PTFA committee and these nominated parents/carers are usually the first point of contact. Regular newsletters keep everyone informed of dates, events and ways in which income has been spent to support the learning and development of the children.

Some of our very successful events include: Sponsored Read, Summer fair, Book Fairs, Curry night, Children's disco, Fashion Show

Our Churches

We work closely with the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Gosforth and All Saint's Church, Gosforth. Clergy from both churches are on the Governing Body and are involved in school eg. leading worship and in the teaching of RE as well as taking a pastoral interest in our school. Both of these churches also have Foundation Governors on the Governing Body.

Some of the members of our churches are also actively involved by volunteering their time on a regular basis and attending school events and functions.



Admissions & Policies

Our policies are developed and reviewed to ensure a fair and consistent approach to the running of our school. They are reviewed regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose and in light of any legislative change.



Policies Available

To ensure you receive the most up to date policies we have not published them within this document so please see the list below the policies available. You can view the latest Ofsted and SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) inspection reports and key policies on our website, or request a copy from the school office.

Below is a list of all policies available on request and on our website;

- Homework
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship
- Equal Opportunities
- Learning & Teaching
- Complaints
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- Gifted & Talented
- Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Attendance
- Exclusion
- Sex & Relationships Education

Our school offers an unconditional welcome to all children in our community, whatever their faith, and we place each child at the heart of all we do.

Admissions Policy Summary

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, the school has a dual role and serves the local community as well as All Saints and St Nicholas churches. The Governing Body is the admissions authority for the school and therefore has its own Admissions Policy.

Please note that admission into Nursery is no guarantee of admission into Reception. For further details please ask for a copy from the school office or see the website.

Nursery applications are managed by the school and are normally required to be submitted in April of the year of admission.

School applications are managed by Newcastle City Council and are normally required to be submitted by a specified date (end of December/beginning January) prior to admission in September.

Prospective parents of the school are very welcome to visit. We hold a series of 'open visits' prior to receiving applications for Nursery and Reception, normally in January and October. For casual admissions, i.e. those seeking entry to school at any other time we are very happy to arrange appointments to visit. Please telephone to make arrangements.





School Uniform

Our School Uniform plays an important part in the lives of our children. It helps them to feel a part of the School and ensures all children are seen as equals.



Girls

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan**
Yellow polo shirt**
Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
White socks
Black shoes*
Blue and white gingham summer dress
Yellow and white gingham summer dress

Boys

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan**
Yellow polo shirt**
Grey trousers or shorts
Grey socks
Black shoes*

PE kit

Royal blue shorts**
Yellow tee shirt**
Black plimsolls
PE kit bag**

* Children need a pair of indoor shoes and wellington boots (Autumn and Spring terms) as well.

** Items available from Tots to Teams, Kingston Park and through school.



The whole curriculum is designed to encourage children to enjoy and develop a love of learning.



Contacts for Admissions & Enquiries

School Office Telephone - 0191 285 2663

Email - admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Website - www.archbishoprunciefirstschool.org.uk

Newcastle Council Website - www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/admissions

School Details

Archbishop Runcie Church of England (Voluntary Aided) First School

Christon Road

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 1US

School Office Telephone - 0191 285 2663

Email - admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Website - www.archbishoprunciefirstschool.org.uk

Headteacher - Mrs J E Robson

Chair of Governors - Mr P J Moorin



Newcastle
City Council



This prospectus is published in accordance with the requirements of The Education (School Information) (England) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/ 2897) as amended by The Education (school Information) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/2152).

The information is correct at the time of going to print and whilst it cannot be guaranteed that it will not change during the course of the year it will be updated at least annually.