

Weavers Close
C of E
Primary School

Aiming High



School Prospectus

What are we about?.....

*"Weavers is a 'good' school...
Pupils achieve well"*

Ofsted March 2009

Our Aims

Above and beyond all things at Weavers Close Church of England Primary School we want **all children** to do their **best** in all areas of the curriculum in a caring, supportive and comfortable learning environment.

We promote a positive atmosphere with opportunities for all, rewarding effort and attainment equally.

At Weavers Close we help our children to:

- value and respect themselves and others
- practise self discipline and gain pleasure from learning
- achieve their full potential
- exercise tolerance and understanding

As a church school we believe that our school environment should reflect our commitment to Christian values.

We are an inclusive school and children receive the best possible start to their education at Weavers Close.

We welcome all parents as partners and will foster positive home school links.

*We aim to enable pupils to become
independent and self-motivated learners.*



AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Weavers Close C. of E. Primary School.

Thank you for showing an interest in our school and we hope that the information in our brochure gives you an insight into the daily life of our happy, caring school.

Weavers Close provides an excellent learning environment, with a library, ICT suite, Interactive Whiteboards, a studio, outdoor play equipment, a technology area for cooking, excellent classroom resources, a purpose-built classroom for our youngest children, all set within well-cared for grounds, with a tyre park, adventure playground, an undercover sheltered play area, large playing fields and we even have our own swimming pool!

We have approachable, caring and experienced teaching staff and a wonderful support team.

At Weavers Close we are committed to providing the best possible opportunities for learning and teaching whilst also providing appropriate welfare and pastoral care for all our children. All members of school have high expectations of our children's achievements and we aim to foster high standards of behaviour at all times.

We aim to enrich our children's education and experiences by offering a wide range of extra opportunities. We provide an excellent range of after school clubs, currently including football, gymnastics and Bible study.

We strongly believe in developing positive relationships between home and school and we work together in partnership to help your child grow and develop their full potential.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Weavers Close and warmly invite you to visit us to see for yourself, both children and staff in action!!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Julie Hickinbottom NPQH
Headteacher



Our Curriculum

Like most Primary Schools we follow the National Curriculum and we have three distinct phases:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage Reception Age 4-5
- Key Stage 1 Year 1 age 6 years
- Year 2 age 7 years
- Key Stage 2 Year 3 age 8 years
- Year 4 age 9 years
- Year 5 age 10 years
- Year 6 age 11 years

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Reception Class staff at Weavers Close work hard to give every child a secure, happy start at school.

We follow the Curriculum guidelines for the Early Years Foundation Stage which means our children learn through a range of carefully planned work and play activities structured towards achieving Early Learning Goals. Older reception children progress to the first stages of the National Curriculum.

All work is planned following six areas of learning.

These are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Creative Development
- Physical Development

Children begin school in the year they are five. Staff will visit all new children in their homes and parents will be invited into school for a meeting to answer all your questions and concerns before your child starts school.

We aim to make learning fun in our safe purpose-built reception class.



A Balanced Curriculum

At Weavers Close, in order to provide a broad education for the children we follow the National Curriculum. This covers:

- Essentials for learning and life: These are the skills, attributes and attitudes that children need to become well-rounded individuals and lifelong learners: - Literacy, Numeracy, ICT capacity, Learning & Thinking Skills, Personal & Emotional Skills and Social Skills
- Six Areas of Learning: These are the key skills and understanding that children need to develop as they progress through their primary years: - Understanding the Arts, Understanding English, communication and language, Historical, geographical and social understanding, Mathematical understanding, understanding physical development, health and wellbeing, scientific and technological understanding.
- Religious Education

At Weavers Close we are proud that our curriculum is designed to make learning fun, informative and enjoyable. The Curriculum is generally taught through a thematic approach to enrich children's learning experience and make connections across the curriculum. This enables us to personalise the learning for our children and appeal to their interests and widen their experiences.

We set clear learning objectives for each lesson, share these with children and give them opportunities to review and evaluate their work.

The Six Areas of Learning

Understanding English, Communication and Languages

Children are taught reading, writing and speaking and listening. A great deal of time is spent in teaching and developing these key skills and teachers use a whole range of different strategies to help children make progress and learning fun! To enable our children to communicate effectively in writing, language skills are developed throughout the school. These include spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting. The children practise these skills in a wide variety of written work. Emphasis is also placed on developing speaking and listening skills so that they become proficient in speaking confidently to a variety of audiences.

Mathematical Understanding

We teach computational skills together with an understanding of a broad range of mathematical concepts including number, money, graphs, measurement and shape. As competence develops children learn to apply these skills and concepts to problem solving. Mental maths skills are taught and practiced on a daily basis and lessons are interactive and fun and encourage children to develop successful computation strategies for themselves before sharing them with a partner, a group or the whole class.

Targets in these areas are set for individual children and for groups.



Understanding the Arts

The use and development of a child's creative skills are seen as a major part of their education. Our children are given varied and frequent opportunities to work with a wide variety of materials on different and exciting projects. We value and respect children's efforts and work is very well displayed throughout school.

Children have class music and singing lessons regularly. We have a great tradition at Weavers Close of participating in county musical productions and concerts with other schools.

We enjoy performing plays and other theatrical presentations during the year and actively encourage all children to participate. We can offer extra curricular opportunities to support children who are particularly keen to develop their artistic, musical or dramatic skills.

Historical, geographical and social understanding

Children develop a secure knowledge of how the present has been shaped by the past, why and how places and environments develop, how identities develop and how people, communities and places are connected. These subjects are taught through a number of topics using a wide range of resources. We use computer technology to enhance the learning and teaching and often incorporate outside visits to re-enforce children's learning. We aim to make these subjects relevant to our children and build key events into our topics e.g. using role play and drama during a Roman Feast Day.

Understanding physical development, health and wellbeing

Children are encouraged to develop an individual understanding and knowledge of healthy living, physical competence, personal identity, financial aspiration and challenge. This is to enable them to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become informed and active citizens. At Weavers we teach these skills through three separate themed activity weeks involving the whole school promoting and developing key areas e.g. healthy eating, keeping safe, anti-bullying. These are fun weeks involving visitors, videos, trips, competitions, drama and role play activities. The week usually ends with special celebration assemblies, shared with parents.

We are very proud to have achieved our 'Healthy School' Award for the third time.

We have excellent facilities and resources which allow us to offer a wide range of sporting activities e.g. table-tennis, cricket, gym, tennis, hockey and tag rugby. There are opportunities for children to represent school in our football and tag rugby teams.



Weavers Close is lucky enough to have our own indoor swimming pool on site and all children have a weekly swimming lesson taught by our own staff who all have their life-saving qualifications.

Children in Year 5 and 6 undertake a block of Sex Education lessons. Parents are informed in advance when the teaching will take place and the content of the lessons are shared and parents have the right to withdraw children if they wish.

We also value opinions from all stakeholders in school and children can voice their own views at our lively School Council meetings

Scientific and technological understanding

Children learn about the power of creative ideas and approaches to explore and explain our world. Whenever possible, an emphasis is placed on practical work with children having hands on opportunities to learn through investigations. We have an annual science week of activities, visits to science venues and visitors from The National Space Centre.

Our children will need to master the world of computer technology in order to live and work successfully in our world. At Weavers Close we have two computer suites, an interactive ICT studio, a wireless broadband network, interactive whiteboards and a Key Stage One bank of flat screen computers. These facilities allow our children to gain many skills and find information from our filtered Internet Broadband access. We use digital learning resources to enhance all teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum. Children have access to our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) to support and extend their learning.

We ensure that careful, informed planning and assessments cater for a full range of learning styles.

Religious Education and Assemblies

As a practicing Church of England school we have regular visits from our local vicars. We visit church regularly for special services to celebrate events in the Christian calendar, e.g. harvest, Christmas, Easter. It has been known to have standing room only in church for such events! We have a daily act of collective worship.

In our Religious Education lessons we follow the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus and we aim to help pupils understand the beliefs of Christianity and other religions.

Parents may withdraw their children from the daily act of worship and religious education if they wish. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this.

As a Church school we believe that the atmosphere should reflect our commitment to Christian values.



An Entitlement for All

All children have strengths that we encourage and weaknesses that we support. For those children who have special educational needs we have a system of monitoring and review that involves staff, parents and pupils. Many of these children work with our special needs teacher for a period of time. Our more able pupils are recognised and given challenging opportunities to develop their skills too.

All classes have excellent classroom assistants supporting our teachers. We offer excellent support for all children based on individual need.

The admission arrangements for pupils with SEN who do not have a statement are the same as for any pupil. All work is carefully planned to allow all children access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum. Children with Special Needs are offered extra help in the classroom by their class teacher, who receives advice and support from the SEN leader on preparing and monitoring individual education programmes (IEPs).

The school operates a Disability Equality Scheme and we have access to most areas for pupils of all abilities. A ramp is available at the front rear entrance, thus allowing wheelchair access to the main building. We have a disabled toilet and a medical room. We have an accessibility plan which outlines the arrangements for pupils with disabilities and the steps we take to ensure that pupils with disabilities are treated equally.

The school website displays the school's agreed Disability Equality Scheme.

Our school believes the teaching and learning achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child matters.



Extra-Curricular Activities

All children have the opportunity and are encouraged to join an after school club. We offer a range of different activities including the following: *recorders, drama, choir, Bible activities, table-tennis, basket -ball, tag rugby, library, cookery, gardening, football, rambling, dance, yoga, drama etc*

Parents make a Difference

Parents play such a vital role in the education of their children and it is one that we endeavour to support at all times. We provide formal opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress during the year but we are always willing to meet with parents before and after school to discuss any concerns.

Our parent handbook covers the administrative details of school whilst regular newsletters keep parents informed about school events and any special occasions.

An active parents association Friends of Weavers, supports the work of school through a variety of social and fundraising events.

A number of parents and other adult volunteers come into school on a regular basis to help in a variety of ways e.g. assisting on visits, cooking, fund-raising, listening to children read.

We value greatly the partnership between home and school and will continue to build on this

In the Community

The children at Weavers Close play a great part in our community and we believe their involvement also plays a part in their learning about the world around them.

We regularly take groups of children to perform for our Senior Citizens. Our Harvest gifts are shared with the homeless and needy, locally and internationally. We have a tremendous record of supporting charities and have raised amazing amounts of money through a whole variety of fund-raising activities every year. We have regular visits from workers at Caterpillar on The Right to Read Programme who visit some children all year, listening and helping them with their reading.

On occasions the school may have visiting theatre groups or musicians and again all these experiences enrich our children's education.

School Visits

We believe that first hand experiences through educational visits are a very valuable part of children's learning and we encourage all children to take part on school trips. Our Year 6 children regularly participate in a week's residential trip. We ask parents to make contributions towards the cost of educational visits.

Rewards, Sanctions and Behaviours

We expect high standards of behaviour and we have a very unique way of positively rewarding our pupils for their hard work and efforts in all areas of school life.

Our children can collect class points which are converted to an ACE award. When a child has collected three ACEs they are traded for a special Headteacher's gold badge and their success is shared in our Friday Celebration assembly. Children build up their ACEs and can earn a Weavers Close pen, certificates and eventually a Weavers tee shirt!! Our children really love this system and work hard to reach their goals.

Any incidents of unacceptable behaviours are quickly dealt with in line with our Behaviour policy. We always involve parents and work closely together setting new targets to help our children learn how to improve and build more appropriate relationships.

'The pupils enjoy their work, and their excellent behaviour is testament to this' (OfSTED 2009)

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING CHILD PROTECTION

Our school feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare, throughout all the activities which the school undertakes. This means that staff and volunteers must be alert to possible concerns about every pupil, and to report these in a proper fashion. The school has a safeguarding and child protection policy: parents may request a copy of this.

It is important for parents to be aware that:

- *Staff and volunteers in the school have a duty to report concerns about a child, whether this means the child may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.*
- *There are four categories of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, neglect.*

- *In some cases the school is obliged to refer children to children's social care staff, for children to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between school staff and the parents of the child, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise to the parents. However, parents may not be told that the school has referred their child to children's social care if it is thought that this might put the child at risk.*
- *Children's social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents about the steps being taken.*
- *If you think your child may have been abused you should contact the children's social care office. If you think the abuse may have happened in school, contact the Headteacher or the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection, who is Mrs Hickinbottom or Mrs Evans. If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor. Comfort and reassure your child.*
- *If school staff need to express concerns about a child or refer a child to children's social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the child's parents..*

For parents' enquiries please contact: Mrs Hickinbottom or Mrs Evans

The school follows the LA policy guidelines on Child Protection and all staff receive Child Protection Awareness Training every two years. All staff at Weavers Close are committed to the safety of all our children and we follow closely the requirements of our duty to safeguard the well being of everyone.

*'The school creates a relaxed but stimulating environment for teaching and learning.'
(Parent comment to OfSTED inspector 2009)*

School Details

Weavers Close C of E Primary School
Alexander Avenue
Earl Shilton
Leicestershire
LE9 7AH

01455 842138 (Tel)

01455 846147 (Fax)

hdg@weaversclose.leics.sch.uk

www.weaversclose.co.uk

Headteacher – Mrs J Hickinbottom

Chair of Governors – Mrs D Smith

Aiming High

