



The Grove Primary School

Prospectus 2019– 20

Head Teachers Welcome

Welcome to the Grove Primary School.

On behalf of Governors, staff and children, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our school.

At The Grove Primary School, our motto is 'The Grove School cares' we believe that a real strength of our school is our ethos and the care, guidance and support that we offer to our children and families.



We care that the children of this school grow physically, socially and spiritually, so gaining a real respect for themselves, for each other, for each member of staff and for the world we live in.

Here at The Grove, we care that the curriculum and the opportunities provided allow children and staff to reach their full potential and provide them with the skills that will equip them for the future.

We hope that our prospectus gives you a useful insight into life at The Grove Primary School. If you require any further information or have any questions or would simply like to visit our wonderful school please do get in touch.

Bernadette Atkinson

Head Teacher

Our school ethos

Our school was built in October 1930 and has a long tradition of serving the community and we aim to continue this long into the future.

At The Grove Primary School we are proud to be an inclusive school where we work together to challenge, inspire and motivate all children to become successful, confident and caring citizens of our diverse world.

The Grove Primary School motto is “The Grove School Cares” and we are like a family, where everyone is cared for. In our school all adults are referred to by their first names by parents, children and carers

to promote a unique place which truly cares of the individual.

We work together to create a happy environment where all members of the school community feel safe, can enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.



OUR AIMS

Our aim is for our children to:

- Enjoy their primary school years in a nurturing, supportive and inclusive environment.
- Work in partnership with home and school.
- Feel safe and secure and keep healthy :in class, playgrounds and after school activities.
- Enjoy equal opportunities to succeed where stakeholders are committed to raising the aspirations and attainment of all students.
- Have a passion for learning and experience success.
- Develop perseverance, flexibility, independence and a wider range of other learning skills.
- Be well mannered, respecting themselves, others and the environment.
- Make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.
- Be supported emotionally and academically in order to become well-adjusted citizens of the future.



Here at The Grove, we follow the Local Authority Admissions Policy. All parents must apply directly to the Local Authority under the new co-ordinated Admissions Procedures for admission into the Reception Class and any in-year transfers from Local Authority Schools. We have 6 year groups of single form entry from Year 1 to Year 6 as well as a dedicated Early Years Unit.

EYFS Admissions

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Unit is for Nursery and Reception aged children (3 – 5 Years). This area of the curriculum is known as the EYFS. We also have provision in place for children eligible for 30 hours childcare. To place your child's name on the nursery waiting list you can do the following things:

Contact the school by telephone, letter or visit. This can be done at the beginning of September after your child's first birthday. Children will be given available places from the age of three.



School Admissions

Children's names may be put on the admission list from any age to start school in the Reception class. The school may admit up to 25 pupils each September. Children are entitled to start school in the September following their fourth birthday and must start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. Here at The Grove Primary, we always welcome parents and children wishing to consider us to come and visit our wonderful school, to arrange a visit please call the school office on 01207 502938.

Any parent who wishes to apply for a school place can call Durham County Council Admissions Teams (0191) 383 4576 or go online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Our School Day

Our school day starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3pm. The school gates are opened at 8.40am for children to come into school, registration is closed at 8.50am. Children arriving after this will be considered late and need to be registered at the school office.



Children are all welcome to come into school from 8am to access our Bounce Breakfast provision. Sessions are £1 each or free for eligible children, for more information about our provision please see a member of the Bounce Breakfast team.

Parental Involvement

All parents are welcome to visit school at any time whether to discuss their children's work or any problems that arise during the school year. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment. We hold formal open evenings throughout the school year to enable parents to see their children's work and discuss progress and achievements with the class teacher. We also have Rachel, our Pastoral Support Worker, who works closely with our families and the local community.

We actively update our school website and official social media channels with information and media about the wonderful activities and achievements of our children in school as well as a regular newsletter with all the latest school news and achievements.



School Lunches

School meals are freshly cooked on the premises and school provides a menu that promotes a healthy diet in accordance with the Healthy Schools Campaign to encourage children to eat healthy. It is hoped that most children use this service provided for them.

Some children, including all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, are entitled to free school meals. For more information about free school meals please contact the school office.

Alternatively, children can bring a healthy packed lunch to school.

Here at The Grove we also host a number of themed lunches throughout the year and invite parents/carers to dedicated events.

Fresh Fruit and Toast

Infant children are provided, free of charge, with a piece of fresh fruit each day as part of the National School Fruit Scheme.

Toast is also available every Tuesday Morning break time for Key Stage 1 and 2 children.



Uniform

Here at The Grove Primary, we are extremely proud of our school identity and all children wear the school uniform with pride. Our school uniform consists of white polo or collared shirt, red jumper with school badge, black or grey trousers or skirts and black shoes. Children need to wear sensible, flat shoes for school. We promote independence throughout school, for all of our children. Children need to be able to take off and put on their own shoes without adult support, therefore Velcro fastening shoes can be worn by children who are unable to tie shoe laces.

Our school PE kit consists of: team coloured t shirt with embroidered school logo and shorts. School uniform and PE kits can be purchased from the school office.

We encourage all children to wear the school uniform and we encourage all parents to encourage their children to wear school uniform. Children are expected to come to school clean and neatly dressed.

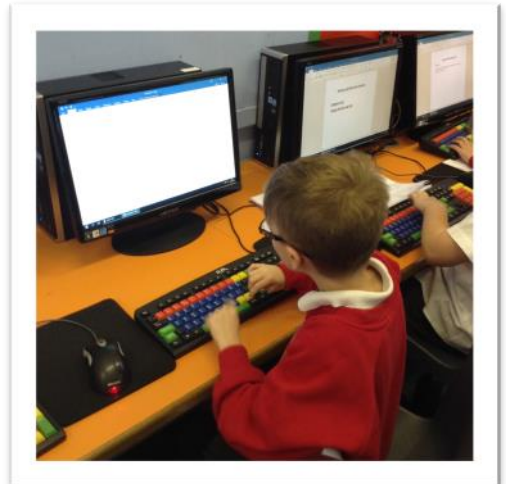
We **do not permit** children to wear any jewellery apart from a watch for health and safety purposes. Smart watches are not permitted for school as we believe these do not provide any enrichment to children's education. If your child has pierced ears, please remove earrings before they come in and they can be put back in as soon as they leave school.



Attendance and Absence

In partnership with parents, the Governors and Staff of The Grove Primary actively pursue the goals of regular attendance and punctuality both in relation to individual pupils and the school population as a whole. If your child is unable to attend school, please notify us of the reasons for absence as soon as possible on the first day via the school office (no later than 9.30am).

We want our children at The Grove Primary School to enjoy coming to school. Our 'floor target' is 96%, but we hope for 100%. Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance, academic performance and success. Absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement. It is important to send your child to school on time, every day. Holidays will not be approved during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



School Aims

Whilst educating our children, it is our aim to encourage the moral, spiritual, social and physical development of each child in our care. To this end we will endeavour to create a happy, stable, stimulating and caring atmosphere in which children can flourish. Through subjects and areas of the curriculum, we will develop physical, creative, aesthetic, cultural and academic opportunities within a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. Along with competence in National Curriculum subjects, we hope that children in our school will learn to have enquiring minds, be independent and creative and gain the ability to converse and discuss with confidence.





School Rules and Expectations

A high standard of behaviour is expected from pupils at all times. Pupils are encouraged to work hard and enjoy all activities they undertake. Rules should be kept to a minimum but those which exist are important and must be observed. Apart from the obvious ones concerning good behaviour in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds, the rights of the individual child to pursue work and leisure in an orderly fashion, without upsetting others is always stressed. Within The Grove, we operate a traffic light behaviour system, more information can be found in our behaviour policy available from the school office or on our school website.

OPAL

Here at The Grove Primary School, we are committed to ensuring quality play opportunities are available to all our children. We believe that play is essential for physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development of each child. Most of our best childhood memories are from playing outdoors, climbing trees and exploring the wide world around us. OPAL gives us the opportunity to give those memories to your children. OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is all about using naturally and man made resources to allow children to be inspired and creative at playtime.



What does this mean for us

- Happier children
- Children coming into class ready to learn
- A fully inclusive playtime offer
- It allows children an opportunity to be creative and make decisions
- Children develop independence and resilience skills
- Increased social skills
- and most importantly fun!



Community Support

The Grove School Cares is our ethos and at the heart of our school is our community and parents. Our Pastoral Support Worker, Rachel is in school fulltime and her role is centred around supporting children and families. This can happen in a variety of ways and if Rachel can't help you, she will ensure that we put you into contact with somebody who can! We understand that home life and school life are intertwined and both need to be running as smoothly as possible to get the best for our children. Rachel offers support around: Finances, Housing, Behaviour, Health, Safeguarding among other things. If you need involvement from other agencies, Rachel is available to offer support and is usually asked to attend meetings etc. All information passed to Rachel is handled confidentially and in a diplomatic manner. If you would like any further information, please contact Rachel in school.



Swap Shop

We also offer a Uniform Swap Shop scheme. We take donations of pre loved uniform that is no longer of use and we then offer other sizes to replace the uniform, or you can make a donation of £1 per item into school fund. We have a selection of: trousers, skirts, summer dresses, coats, jumpers, cardigans and PE items. Please speak to Rachel Crowe in school for further information.

Bounce Breakfast

Bounce Breakfast takes place everyday from 8am, is open to all children and there is no need to pre-book.

The cost of each session is £1 which can be paid through ParentPay, however if your child receives free school meals then please speak to a member of the Bounce Breakfast Team they may be eligible for a free place.



Each day children will have the choice of a healthy breakfast snack and take part in a different activity such as team games, circuit training, a jog, walk or even yoga.

School Clubs

Here at The Grove, we offer a range of extra curricular activities children are welcome to join in. Some clubs ran by external providers may have a small charge but are usually subsidised by use of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funds. Each club/activity has a limited number of places and pupils are asked to sign-up for the activity for a full term.



This year we have football, rugby and cross country clubs a range of fixtures and matches against other schools in the local area . Craft club, Code club, school choir and mini sports clubs are just some of the other clubs we offer.

School Council

We believe it is important to listen to our pupils and value the contribution they can give to making decisions about the school. Every year, each class (Reception to Year 6) elects two representatives to the school council who meet regularly with Carly and other members of staff. Our school council representatives are allocated a committee each such as SNAG, Online-Safety, Anti Bullying and Rights Respecting.



Our school council put forward ideas which their students have asked them to bring to the attention of the teachers. This year our school council are creating proposals for improving our school playground and together will help from staff organising fundraising events for the school and the wider community. The school council also organise a number of events throughout the school year such as: Magic Shows, themed discos, bake sales to name but a few events. For more details about our school council and this year's aims and vision, why not take a look at their blog on our school website.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At The Grove, we strongly believe in Early Years education and by working hand in hand with parents and carers. We can make your child's first experiences both positive and successful. We recognise parents and carers as a child's first educators and highly value your knowledge of your child, your opinions and ideas.

On entry to Early Years, your child will be allocated a Key Worker. The role of the Key Worker is to form a close link between yourself and your child, so that we can ensure that we are nurturing the needs of your child.

In Early Years, children are encouraged to explore the world through a rich variety of both indoor and outdoor experiences. We base our planning on the needs of the children and use their interests as a vehicle to drive learning forward.



Sustained shared thinking encourages our pupils to take their understanding to a higher level. In this way, pupil fascinations impact upon the curriculum. Our skilful EYFS practitioners tailor your child's next steps in learning around their play as play based learning is extremely important during the early years.

“Play is the highest form of research.”

Albert Einstein

In Early Years, child initiated learning is also complimented by daily adult directed group activities to reinforce basic skills and secure rapid progress. At The Grove, we have a balance of play based learning as well as adult directed learning.

We use observations and the Development Matters document to assess each child on a daily basis and to plan their next steps in learning. Our observations are shared with parents and carers through your child's learning journal. We highly value your input on our assessments of your child and actively encourage parents and carers to fill in 'notes from home' slips.







Foundation Stage

The Grove Primary School offers an early year's curriculum which aims to build on pupils' experiences and work within areas of experience which broaden and develop each child's awareness and basic skills, and which lead towards the requirements of the National Curriculum. Opportunities for active learning through: exploration, investigation and discovery involving all the senses are inherent in the experiences which are planned; and developed in those which arise naturally. Opportunities for working with sand, water, paint, modelling, role play, music, outdoor play, counting, ordering, building, looking, listening, talking, sharing, taking turns, occur every day.





Key Stage 1 & 2

Here at The Grove, at the heart of our curriculum is Numeracy and Literacy integrated with our foundation subjects forming a broad and balanced curriculum. Subjects are taught in a creative way with the emphasis on using English and Maths in a meaningful way throughout all areas of the curriculum.

We aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of each and every one of our pupils at the school.

Our aim is to prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Reading

Children begin their reading journey in Early Years where they learn the sounds that each letter makes. They are then shown how to blend these sounds to read words. We use Read Write Inc in Early Years and throughout school to teach children how to read. From first recognising sounds to being able to read fluently. Alongside, being shown how to blend, children are also given opportunities to learn high frequency words and common exception words. By the end of Year 2, we hope that children are fluent readers and in Year 2 we begin thinking in greater depth about what children are reading, encouraging children to predict and infer meaning. Reading continues to be promoted throughout school and children are exposed to authors and books that will help develop their imagination and love of reading.



Writing

Again the writing journey for our children begins in Early Years where children develop their fine motor skills in order to hold a pencil correctly. Children are then shown how to form letters using the Read Write Inc way. Children are given many opportunities to write and as children move through school they gain stamina for writing at length and they are shown what they need to do to make their writing interesting and or informative. Teachers plan interesting and engaging lessons for children using texts that model excellent writing.

Numeracy

At the Grove Primary, we follow the National Curriculum covering the main topics of : number, place value, calculations, geometry and statistics. Each individual year group covers age specific material, progressing and building on the last year's work. Children are given the opportunity to revisit these topics each term.

Mathematics is daily for 1 hour with extra time given for mental maths, arithmetic and times tables. Maths is hands on at The Grove with lots of interesting and challenging equipment and apparatus to support children's learning.



Science

At the Grove Primary School, we teach science weekly as part of the curriculum. We follow the National Curriculum objectives for Science and plan exciting and imaginative activities based around these to capture children's imaginations and allow them to ask important questions about the world around them. We follow an investigation-based curriculum and allow, wherever possible, hands on experience of how things work. We link our science topics loosely to the topic we are covering in class. We have developed an outdoor area in which to study our local environment.

Computing

Here at The Grove Primary, we deliver our computing lessons from the National Curriculum. The computing curriculum is made up of 3 key topic areas; E-safety, Digital Literacy and Computer Science.

Our children gain an understanding of how, where and when ICT is used in modern society and how they can apply ICT to their everyday lives.

Children are taught a variety of critical skills including; problem solving, collaboration, pattern recognition and abstraction. Computing is taught throughout school with seamless transitions building and developing their skills and knowledge throughout school. Children are also taught to use multimedia apps and devices to create short stories, animations and movies.

We also (whenever possible) integrate our computing curriculum with other subjects such as History, Science and Numeracy.



History

Pupils are given access to the past through structured teaching of important events in the history of Britain, Europe and other parts of the world. They are helped to build a clear chronological framework of the development of societies from ancient to modern times by making links across the different study units. They are given opportunities to investigate local history and to learn about and interpret the past from a range of primary sources.



All pupils have the opportunity to study different themes and issues across time and underpin their understanding of chronological events. This is combined with well-planned in-depth studies to ensure that pupils develop a sophisticated and wide-ranging understanding of history and why studying it matters.

The history curriculum at The Grove Primary is distinctive and highly imaginative and has a clear and coherent rationale that underpins it; successfully securing the active interest and enthusiasm of all groups of pupils. It provides constant opportunities for discovery, challenge and for pupils to take greater responsibility for their learning.

The vibrant and varied curriculum ensures that pupils understand key historical concepts and can confidently articulate the place history has in their own lives, in society and in the modern world.

Music

Each class uses a Durham Music approved program called Charanga to deliver the Music curriculum. This allows a broad range of styles, instruments and songs to be covered throughout school. Children have regular opportunities to sing in assembly, and we learn a range of hymns each year. In addition to this, as an after school club we offer choir for children from Year 2- 6, which culminates in a performance at The Salvation Army Christmas lunch at Christmas and An Afternoon Tea Celebration in our school hall in Early May Children have the opportunity to take musical instrument lessons with a teacher who visits school on a weekly basis.

Geography

At the Grove Primary School, our aim is to provide a Geography Curriculum that follows guidance set out by the Government in the National Curriculum, and to provide a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live.



Art, Craft and Design

We follow the National Curriculum objectives for Art and plan different activities for each year group to give the children an opportunity to explore different mediums, materials, textures and form. Each year group studies a

different artist and this allows our children to experience a range of cultures and concepts. We provide a theme each term for each class to create some art work and these form the displays in our corridor, showing the individuality and creativity of our children.



Design Technology

We meet the needs of the National curriculum for Design Technology by ensuring our main focus of teaching is to give children real life problems and scenarios that give their design, production and evaluation a real life feel. Children have the opportunity to work with a range of different materials and focus across the school changes as the child gets older. We work with children to ensure they have experiences of working with construction, textiles, food among many other areas.

Religious Education

Religious Education (R.E.) makes a major contribution to the education of our children here at The Grove Primary School. It helps pupils develop knowledge and understanding of religion and of the differing religions and non-religious beliefs represented in Great Britain today. Children start to think about their own experiences, feelings, beliefs and values. In R.E. our children learn about people from a wide variety of faiths and beliefs. As a result, children develop respect, tolerance and friendship.

Here at The Grove Primary School, we follow the Durham Syllabus and have planned Religious Education to ensure children can build up a picture of: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Physical Education



Pupils receive two hours of timetabled P.E. per week through which we develop the six areas of activity as set out in the National Curriculum – Dance; Games; Gymnastics; Athletics; Outdoor and Adventurous activities and Swimming. Children are given the opportunity to swim during KS2 and we aim for all pupils leaving the school to be able to swim at least 25m in line with curriculum expectations.

Sports taught throughout school include football; tag rugby; netball; basket ball; rounder's; kwik cricket; hockey and short tennis, as well as athletics. All pupils take part in a range of tournaments and sports festivals both within school between year groups and with other schools. We have weekly sports extra curricular clubs including; football, mini sports and cross country.

Forest school

Within school we are very lucky to have Hazel Gaines who is a Forest Schools Leader. Hazel works within classes throughout the year leading forest schools sessions both within our school grounds at the outdoor classrooms and in our stunning local area. Forest School gives students the opportunities to develop self- confidence and self-esteem during hands- on experiences.

Forest School is a specialised learning area that sits within, and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.

Forest School is child led and this allows the students to direct their learning with the support of adults. The leader will set out boundaries i. and rules to keep the students safe whilst giving them the opportunities to explore and manage risks.

Forest School can help children to grow in confidence as a result from the freedom, time and space they are given in their learning. This allows the children to be independent thinkers and allows them to grow at their own individual pace.

It allows the students to work alongside their peers who they may not interact with in other situations. This gives the students skills e.g. sharing tools, working together to create a den. This in turn strengthens, relationships with their peers and adults.



Forest School is fun. It is educational whilst allowing children to play, explore, and discover. Having fresh air, getting mucky and the excitement of the outdoors is very beneficial to their well-being. A change in the environment, makes students are noticeably happier.

Modern Foreign Languages

Here at The Grove Primary, we believe that learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience in preparation for future life. We teach French, throughout KS2, in a fun and enjoyable way through choosing interesting and relevant topics that will engage and stimulate learning and develop children's curiosity of language.



SMSC

Here at The Grove Primary School, we aim to promote healthy and independent children who are given the skills and knowledge to develop into responsible members of society. We encourage all our pupils to play a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community. This is done in a number of ways such as: through our school councils, fundraising events, supporting nominated charities and involvement in community activities.

Pupils are given opportunities in all lessons and assemblies to develop confidence, self-motivation and an understanding of their rights and responsibilities within our diverse society. We also promote SMSC through out other subjects well as through outdoor education and activities.

Complaints procedure

Should a problem or difficulty arise concerning your child, we would hope that, in the first instance you would contact the school – the class teacher or Headteacher. In the unlikely event that the situation is not resolved, parents should follow our complaints procedure initially. This involves putting in writing your complaint to the Headteacher. If the Headteacher cannot resolve your complaint, then you would contact the Chair of the Governing Body and Local Education Authority to take the matter further.

Equal opportunities

We value all members of our school and community seeking to accept everyone with respect and ensuring that all have equality of opportunities irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, background or disability. We aim to be fully inclusive in all areas of school life and encourage our pupils to recognise and value our rich and diverse world.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We have comprehensive and robust Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures which are rigorously adhered to at all times. All staff have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children in the school. The Local Authority requires referrals of any serious concerns to be made to the Head Teacher as the designated member of staff.

Here at The Grove, we strive to care for the individual and we want to ensure we are supporting each child's needs fully. By establishing a positive link between home and school, we can help your child come happily to terms with two very important parts of their life.

We will keep you informed about your child's progress and of any concerns we might have. Parents are asked to keep the school informed of any unusual or serious injuries which their child has suffered, and of any circumstances at home which might cause a change in a child's behaviour at school. Staff may on occasion wish to speak to you to discuss and clarify the cause of a particular injury or sudden change in behaviour. If this happens, please remember that we have a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of the children in our care.

In those instances, where staff have serious concerns about the welfare of a child then the school is under a duty of care to make a referral to staff at Durham Child Protection Team via the First Contact referral process.

Reporting progress and celebrating achievements

Consultation evenings are held during the year, when parents are invited to talk with staff about their child's progress. An annual report is sent to the parent/guardian of each child. Arrangements can be made to send copies to both parents if they live at different addresses. Please don't feel you have to wait for parents' evenings, though to discuss your child's progress or if there is an issue. You may make an appointment at any reasonable time, to talk to your child's class teacher or the Headteacher.

School Security

We are very aware of the need to protect everyone in the school building so we have security locks on the main doors and a telecommunication system for visitors entering the school. We must stress the importance of people being WELCOME in school as our main priority. We are always here for you and your children. For more information, please see our safeguarding children policy on our school website.

HOW WE SUPPORT SEND

At The Grove Primary School, we are committed to the equal inclusion of all pupils in all areas of school life. We recognise the diverse and individual needs of all of our pupils and take into account the additional support required by those children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) following the SEND code of practice January 2015.

We recognise that all pupils are entitled to a quality of provision that will enable them to achieve their full potential. We believe in intervention at the earliest opportunity, removing any barriers to learning, raising expectations and levels of achievement and working in partnership with parents/ carers and other agencies in order to provide a positive educational experience for all our pupils.



Our school uses the 'Graduate approach' and as part of this recognises there are particular groups of pupils whose circumstances require additional consideration by those who work with them to support their SEN. At The Grove Primary School, we ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs make the best possible progress.

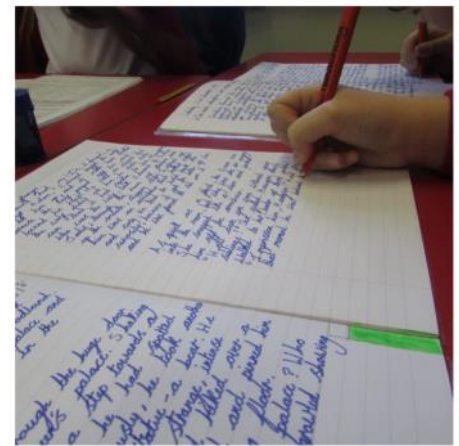


HOW WE SUPPORT SEND

The Curriculum is all the planned activities that the school organises in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of additional opportunities that the school organises in order to enrich the experiences of our children.

Our curriculum also includes the social aspects that are essential for life-long learning. At times and when it is felt appropriate, modifications to the curriculum may be implemented. To successfully match pupil ability to the curriculum, The Grove Primary School remains committed to:

- A range of teaching and learning styles,
- Differentiated learning materials,
- Access to ICT and Technology,
- Additional in and out of class support,
- Many Enrichment and Enjoyment opportunities to stimulate and motivate learning,
- Flexible groupings – including small group support work,
- An innovative and supportive curriculum,
- Assessment procedures that emphasise pupils' strengths and achievements.



We want to work with you and your child to provide the most effective provision to best meet the needs of all our wonderful children.

This prospectus was designed and created by
The Grove Primary School

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