

Your guide to

S^t Oswald's

C of E Primary School, Guiseley

Rated "Good" in 2018

OFSTED

Exceeds average local outcomes

Year 6 attainment

Rated "Good" in 2019

SIAMS (Statutory Inspections for Anglican and Methodist Schools)

Welcome to St Oswald's CofE Primary School, Guiseley - the place to be!

We are delighted that you are considering sending your child here in September. This short guide will give you a flavour of our school and its supportive and experience led approach to learning.

Our vision is the backbone of our school curriculum. Our curriculum is rooted in providing children with the opportunity to be inspired and to flourish. Through a broad, rich, child-centred curriculum, at St Oswald's our learning is a journey of relevant experiences leading to the development of skills, knowledge and understanding. Children are encouraged to take inspiration from each other, their teachers, and the world around them. From this holistic approach emerge thriving children whose academic success is underpinned by confidence and wellbeing.

Having served the local area for hundreds of years, we have a strong sense of community and family. We welcome children and families from all faiths and backgrounds to join our unique and special family.

Inspire & Flourish

At St Oswald's School, we are 'one body, many parts' (1 Cor 12). We take pride in each other, learn with awe and wonder, dare to dream and help each other flourish.

Together we are a body of unique individuals who come together to trust, inspire, smile, and serve one another and our community.



Mr J Davies,
Headteacher

We always aim to strike the right balance between striving for academic excellence and providing nurturing and caring pastoral support.

We offer a range of exciting initiatives that we continue to embed within the whole school curriculum:

- **A focus on outdoor learning**, underpinned by Forest School sessions for all children and making the most of our inspiring outdoor space.
- **The Thrive Approach** – a whole school initiative supporting children with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Utilising our **new, dedicated STEM classroom** to inspire the scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technology experts of tomorrow!
- **Teaching children about ‘Meta-cognition’**. Children at St Oswald’s are actively taught during weekly lessons and throughout the curriculum about how to process thoughts and feelings. This ability encourages students to understand how they learn best. It also helps them to develop self-awareness skills that become important as they grow into life-long learners.



Close connection with St Oswald’s Church

We have close ties with St Oswald’s Church, just 100 yards from the school. The whole school attends church each half term and Father David and his team are part of school life, leading school assemblies and reading stories to the children. The children also attend special church services at Harvest Festival, Easter, Christmas and the end of the school year celebrations.

Early years focus

What to expect in Reception

It may be the first time you have a child starting school. Rest assured that our teachers are well-equipped to support your children at this exciting next stage of their development.

Our main aim in Reception is to help your child settle into school life, to build good relationships, to lay the foundations for their time at St Oswald's and to make friends and enjoy themselves. We have an energetic and experienced team in Reception who know what learning foundations the children will need as they progress through the school.

Our engaging and friendly classroom environment in our modern facilities ensures that your children will quickly feel at home and be ready and confident to learn. We are proud of our outdoor space and Forest School provision as we know that children flourish when they have lots of space to grow and learn. Reception children have their own playground to help them feel comfortable and relaxed and reduce any overwhelming feelings that may be caused by being around much older children.

“Children in the early years make good progress because their needs are assessed carefully and accurately. Highly skilled adults support children well through effective questioning and by offering suitably challenging tasks and learning opportunities.”

Curriculum focus

Our Reception class follows the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum. Our team work with you and keep you informed of your child's progress through their incredibly important first year of primary school. We pride ourselves on our communication with families, and we have some excellent Apps for keeping parents informed of what is going on in the classroom.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

For some children, learning has additional unexpected barriers. It is our job to identify these difficulties and find ways of overcoming them. Class Teachers have a key role to play, and we have an Inclusion Team led by an Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, with a school SEND Coordinator, a Family Support Worker/Early Help Practitioner, trained Thrive Practitioners and a children's counsellor to support and guide them. If we have concerns about your child, you will always be kept informed of and involved in any strategies we use to address additional needs. More information is available on our website.



School facilities

In the heart of Guiseley, St Oswald's is perfectly located for our local families.

Our extensive outdoor space provides a stimulating and inspiring learning environment. Our Early Years space has its own classrooms, a large outdoor covered classroom and a play area.

We have invested heavily in iPads, Kindles and laptops across the school to support the delivery of our modern and ambitious curriculum.



STEM classroom

St Oswald's is proud of the recent addition of a dedicated STEM classroom for the whole school. The children use this STEM classroom for a range of learning opportunities, with an intentional integration of science, design, art, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In our STEM room, we want our children to be inspired as they investigate and engineer solutions to problems, and construct explanations of real-world phenomena. Our STEM room gives our children a unique opportunity to use innovative and advanced equipment and resources.



A passion for the outdoors

We provide our children with many opportunities to play and learn outdoors and believe this has a positive impact on both behaviour and learning.

We have **the largest outdoor space** of all three primary schools in our area:

- Purpose-built, covered outdoor classroom for Forest School provision
- A large football pitch sized field is used for play, sports day and other sports activities
- Recently refurbished trim trail
- 3 playgrounds with play equipment
- Vegetable garden

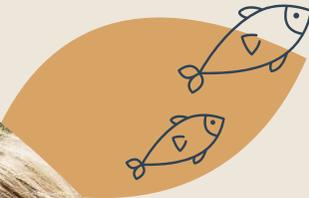
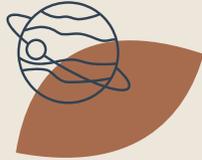
Outdoor learning helps build problem-solving skills and resilience. Children love exploring their environment and evidence shows that it helps to promote their sense of curiosity, exploration, awe and wonder at the world around them.

Learning initiatives

across the school

The Thrive Approach

We foster the best outcomes for our children by understanding the importance of emotional wellbeing as a foundation for academic success. We use the Thrive approach to help our school community to learn more about mental health and develop tools and strategies to support all our children.



Metacognition – the ReflectED approach

The ReflectEd approach to learning can support and improve attainment for all pupils by enhancing children's ability to reflect on their learning, assess their progress, set and monitor goals, identify strengths and challenges in their learning and develop a learning dialogue between pupil and teacher. Teachers can look across these reflections to understand what pupils are enjoying or struggling with and identify specific pupil needs. We use an App called Seesaw to share these learning moments and reflections with parents.

Forest School

A child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions which are run by qualified Forest School practitioners.

It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk-taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner-inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.



Progressing through the school

Year 1-6

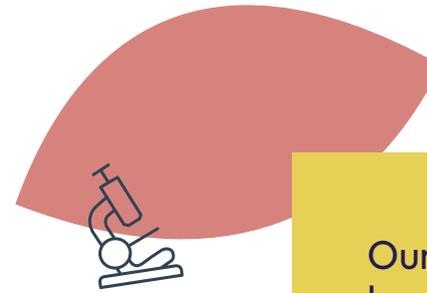
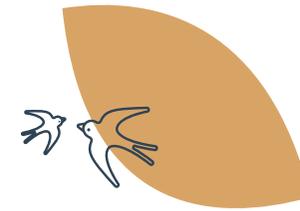
As the children progress through the school, we continue to provide engaging and enriching learning experiences which help your children to become compassionate and active members of the community.

We have a strong track record of academic achievement and supporting our children in developing lifelong learning habits. We teach all the children about “metacognition” and growth mindset, essentially helping them understand how they learn and to reflect on strategies they can apply to their learning to help them grow.

What does a typical day look like?

The school gates open at 8.40 and we carry out registration in all classes at 9.00 am. Every afternoon we come together for collective worship and assembly. We invite parents to attend our Celebration Assembly on a Friday where we celebrate the special achievements of our children throughout the week.

There are breaks throughout the day and lunch is staggered in the school hall when children can have a hot school meal or bring a packed lunch. Reception children tend to have lunch first and then go and play in their own playground.

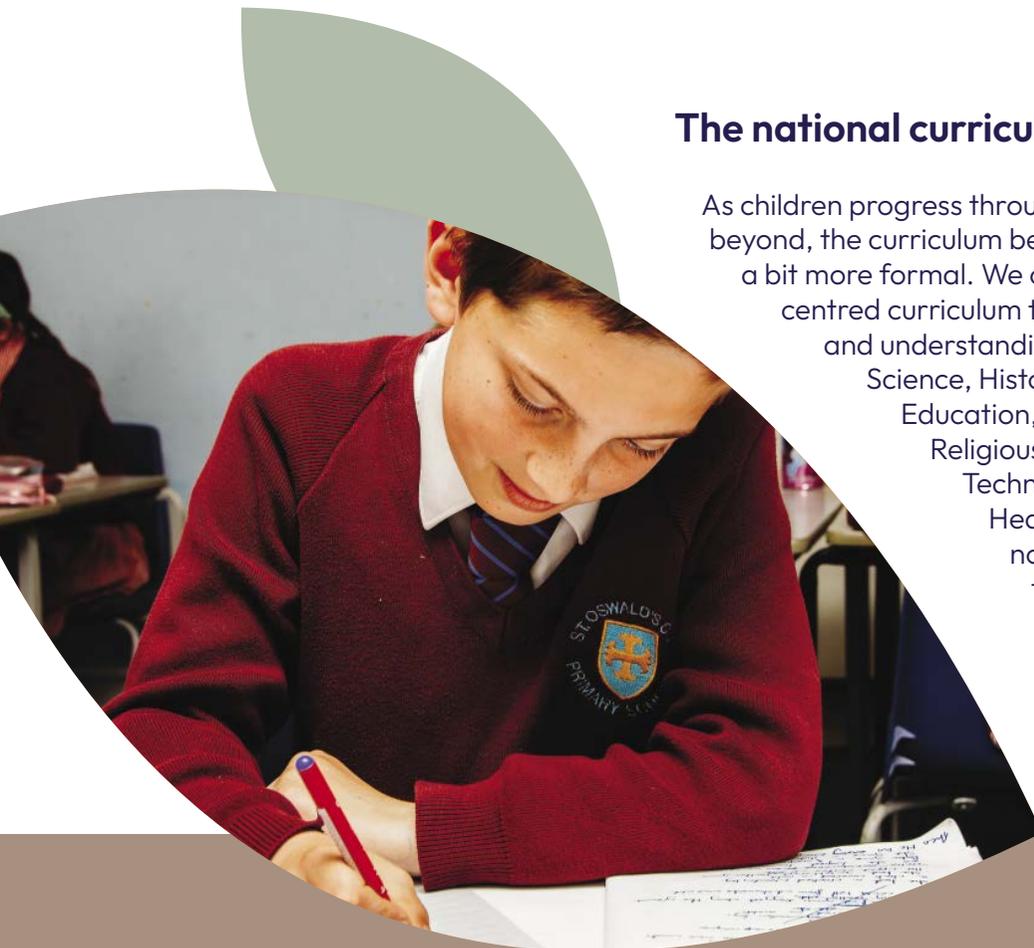


The national curriculum

As children progress through the school into KS1 and beyond, the curriculum becomes less play-based and a bit more formal. We offer a broad, rich, child-centred curriculum to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art, Physical Education, Computer Science, Music, Religious Education, French, Design Technology and Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE). Many non-core subjects are taught through topic work.

Our staff work incredibly hard to ensure all our pupils have a positive school experience:

- **Class Teachers:** plan and deliver learning
- **Teaching Assistants:** support this process
- **Inclusion/Thrive Team:** support children and families who would benefit from a little extra help
- **Dedicated Special Educational Needs (SEN) leader**
- **Admin Team** who ensure the school runs smoothly



Extra-curricular support and facilities

We are a community-focused school, embracing children, parents and of course our church. We offer wrap-around care and provide a safe and happy environment for the children to enjoy.

Kangaroo Kids on-site pre-school

Kangaroo Kids, our pre-school, is based in a spacious, light, and welcoming classroom setting, with a dedicated and secure outdoor play area. Our qualified team provide inspirational and exciting childcare from age 2 upwards. Open Monday to Friday, sessions run from 9 am to midday and from midday until 3 pm.

Ozzie's after-school club

A breakfast and afterschool club, delivered by school staff and located in purpose-built rooms. We run holiday clubs during most school holidays. Ozzie's runs from 7.30 am until the start of school, and after school until 6 pm.

School Council

As part of our ethos of encouraging children to become valuable members of the wider community, we created a pupil school council. Two children from each year group are voted for as class representatives, they hold regular meetings and champion positive changes and new initiatives for the school, such as establishing a vegetable patch.



Lunchtime and after-school clubs

We have a range of clubs after school, including sports, gymnastics, dance, and drama, which offer all children a wonderful opportunity to develop interests and skills. The school uses a range of external providers that bring expertise and specialisms to our extra-curricular activities.



Music

We deliver excellent music provision through class music lessons and extra-curricular opportunities. We have a school choir, and we all sing with gusto in our assemblies! Extra-curricular instrumental lessons are available during school hours, including woodwind, guitar and piano.

Educational trips, residential and workshops

We believe that educational visits enhance interest enthusiasm and achievement. Children are encouraged to gain independence as they progress through primary and years 5 & 6 both thoroughly enjoy their residential trips. We regularly take other year groups on school trips to outdoor activity centres, theatres and other places of worship that are linked to our topic-based approach to learning.

Parents Group (PTA)

We are grateful to our active PTA Group which raises vital funds for the school by arranging fun activities for our children and organising events such as school discos, table-top sales, fun runs and stalls and games at Guiseley's community events.

Through their hard work and dedication, they have been able to raise money for our new STEM classroom and Forest School projects, buy iPads, and offer additional learning experiences (such as theatre groups and science clubs). Becoming a member of the PTA is a fantastic way to get involved in the school community.



Testimonials

Hear from our school community

“We’re so glad we chose St Oswald’s for our children. With the school’s guidance we can see their confidence and abilities developing, and with every passing year, each member of staff becomes an important part in their development... St Oswald’s is instilling a love of learning into our children and it is wonderful to watch them grow.”

Samantha Allen, parent to Year 2 and Year 5 students

“St Oswald’s is a warm, friendly, positive place. There is always somebody to talk to and play with. The teachers make the lessons fun and will always help you when you are stuck.”

Laurel, Year 6 student

“I like St Oswald’s because I never worry - I always feel safe and happy there.”

Reuben, Year 5 student

“Please come to St Oswald’s because everyone is kind and respectful and we all look out for each other.”

Phoebe, Year 3 student



“St Oswald’s has given both my children a great start to their education. They have both been inspired to learn through the teaching, experiences and opportunities offered to them during their time at the school.”

Sally Barrat, parent to a Year 6 student

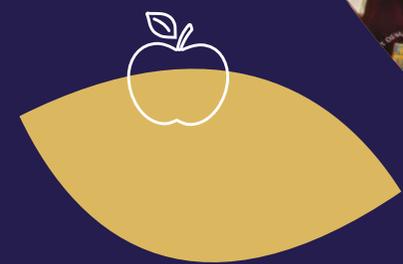
“We are really happy with the quality of teaching at St Oswald’s, and find the wider school community to be very friendly and supportive. We found St Oswald’s to be well organised and the principles that the school strives towards are principles we felt are important to us as a family.”

Cheryl Duerden, parent to a Year 5 student



We hope that you have found this overview valuable and we cannot wait to meet you at our Open Door Sessions. If you have any further questions, please visit our school website or email the school office with your query and we will get back in touch with you.





Inspire & Flourish

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