



# Swaythling Primary School



Be thoughtful



Welcome to Swaythling Primary School

The Village School at the Heart of a Thriving City



Teamwork  
Honesty  
Innovation  
Never give up  
Kindness



## The Village School at the Heart of a Thriving City

There is an old saying that claims 'It takes a village to raise a child', and we at Swaythling Primary School believe that there is a lot of truth in that.

Take a tour of the school, enjoy the calm, purposeful learning environment, and you would be forgiven for thinking that you were in a rural village location. The school was built in the late 19th century on what was then farmland, and despite the aggressive development that has gone on elsewhere in Southampton, Swaythling has somehow managed to retain that small village feel.

Being a small school helps. We only have around 130 families; just one class per year group. The strength of the relationship with our families is a key characteristic of the school. Many of our parents (and even some of the grandparents!) were pupils here themselves, and are fiercely determined to secure a Swaythling education for their own child.

We have managed to hold onto many of the traditional elements of education you may remember from your own schooldays. We still run lots of educational visits, we have a thriving musical programme which produces musicians of real talent, and we have several theatre performances in the School Hall every year. Our children participate in competitive sport, and regularly give much bigger schools a real run for their money!

Equally, we recognise that time does not stand still, and have embraced the best of what modern life has to offer. We are well-equipped with IT equipment, and have a range of home-learning opportunities that mean the children can extend their learning beyond the normal school day.

Our breakfast and after school club mean that we offer wrap around care at the school from 7.30 in the morning to 5.45 in the evening, for those parents whose busy working lives require this flexibility.

You know your child better than anyone; for some a larger, busier school will be what you are looking for- these will inevitably have some opportunities and facilities that we cannot hope to offer. For other children, a small, friendly, genuine community school will be the perfect environment in which to thrive educationally and personally. If you think this might be the case for your child, call the Office and make an appointment to see the school, meet the Headteacher, and see for yourself Swaythling Primary; the village school at the heart of a thriving city.



# teamwork



## Teamwork

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" - Helen Keller*

We have high aspirations for all the children, and are very proud of the success that all our children, from all walks of life, achieve. We teach all children according to their needs, and ensure that everyone performs to their true potential.

However, we realise that to excel as an adult, particularly in the rapidly changing world we see around us today, being an individual star is no longer enough- you have to be able to get along with other people, and develop real flexibility to be a great team player.

In every aspect of their learning, from sport to reading, art to maths, drama to computing, whatever the subject, the children learn to work as part of a team, and quickly learn vital teamwork and cooperative skills that are so essential to success in the modern world.



# honesty



## Honesty

"Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom." - *Thomas Jefferson*

If you are to get the most from being in a great team, an important responsibility comes alongside teamwork: honesty.

In all aspects of their learning, your child will be encouraged to discuss their ideas, give and receive honest feedback about what could be better about their work, and to be honest with others about what they feel about other people's ideas and work.

Our children understand that it is fine to disagree with someone, and will develop the skills to debate the big ideas in life. At all times, this happens in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support.

Above all, they are encouraged to be honest with themselves about what they are truly capable of achieving.



# innovation



## Innovation

"If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative." - *Woody Allen*

Swaythling children are not afraid to take risks. They understand that mistakes are very often our best teachers, if we are brave enough to look at them and understand why our first attempt didn't work. If we hide our mistakes, we are missing out on important learning.

Swaythling teachers have the same positive attitude to innovation- we understand that the world changes very quickly, and what worked well today may not be the best way to do things next year. This approach has meant that we are quickly gaining a reputation for innovative and exciting approaches to teaching and learning, frequently hosting visits from other schools in Southampton and further afield.



# never give up



## Never Give Up

*"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela*

Our children relish difficult work, tough challenges and find novel solutions every day. If you have a book full of ticks because you got everything right first time, then you are doing work that is too easy!

Learning resilience, and how to deal with a problem that seems impossible, are amongst the most important skills children can learn. They learn to be flexible, and to look to new solutions to problems that appear difficult.

Our children learn to be innovative, so they know that if they look hard enough to find a solution, they will find one- maybe one that no one else has thought of before!

*"Pupils value and greatly enjoy their learning. They are keen to explain their work, speaking about it in a confident but thoughtful way. They reflect on their learning and want to improve. This is because teachers have high expectations and challenge pupils across the range of abilities, including the most able, with work that interests and extends them."  
(OFSTED)*



# Kindness



## Kindness

*"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." - Plato*

Education is about more than just Maths, Reading and Writing. At least as important are the skills your child will learn about how they deal with other people. The workplaces of the future will need people who are flexible, and most importantly, able to get along with other people, often under stressful and demanding situations. In this respect, Swaythling has an unrivalled reputation:

"Pupils take their responsibilities around the school seriously, for example providing role models for younger pupils at playtimes and modelling good behaviour in the dinner hall. Pupils say that everyone cares for each other and will quickly help if, for example, a pupil were to fall over at breaktime. Pupils who have joined the school from other places say how welcome they have been made to feel by both pupils and adults."





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## The Village School History

There has been a Swaythling School on this site since 1897.

Our motto (since at least the 1930s) is **'Be Thoughtful'**.

This is perfect for our school, since there are two definitions of thoughtful; and our school ethos produces young people who excel in both:

- Be thoughtful as in 'being good at thinking'; our curriculum focuses very strongly on learning to think creatively and flexibly, and the children have many opportunities to develop problem solving strategies in a wide range of curriculum areas.
- Be thoughtful as in 'be considerate of others'. We are a small, vibrant community where people from all backgrounds and walks of life learn together, and the school has a proud reputation locally for the calm, purposeful learning environment that this quality enables us to foster.

Today the school is a very popular choice for local families who value the genuine community spirit of the school, our determination to educate the whole child, the high aspirations we have for the children academically, and our growing reputation for providing a culturally rich educational experience.

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding. Pupils are confident, self-assured learners. They speak with enthusiasm about their learning. They are, rightly, proud of themselves and of their school." (OFSTED)



**"Pupils are well prepared to take their place in modern British society; for example, parents say that the school has encouraged their children 'to thrive and made them strong, independent individuals'" (OFSTED)**



# Think

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