

Merley First School



*Journey of
Discovery*

Prospectus





Thank you for your interest in Merley First School.

Merley First School is part of Wimborne Academy Trust. The Trust provides an outstanding education across first and middle phases, ensuring our children are given a broad and balanced education which prepares them well for success in their future lives. I'm confident we will meet your expectations and more.

Thank you for taking the time to consider one of our schools within Wimborne Academy Trust.



Liz West
CEO, Wimborne Academy Trust



Welcome to Merley First School

We would like to warmly welcome you to Merley First School.

Merley First School has a big heart! We are friendly and caring school for children aged four to nine years, situated in the centre of the Merley community. We are surrounded by extensive, beautiful woodland grounds, which we are passionate about using and caring for. Merley has ten classes, with each year group having two classes, each one is named after a woodland creature.

We believe the best way to educate children is by providing a happy, caring and positive environment. We encourage everyone to achieve their best and strive for high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour.

Each child is helped to:

- develop a lively and enquiring mind, to grow in imagination and sensitivity by encouraging understanding, awareness and curiosity about the world;
- acquire knowledge, skills, confidence and self-esteem;
- develop and adopt personal and moral values, ensuring that everyone equally enjoys respect and consideration.

This is done by:

- equipping each child with the necessary skills in all areas of the curriculum, with a strong emphasis on reading, writing, communication and mathematics;
- encouraging parents to take a full and active part in their child's education;
- developing good working relationships between parents/carers, staff and academy committee members.

We are very proud of our school and we are always pleased to share our achievements with others.

Thank you for your interest in our school.



Katharine Anstey, Head teacher





'My child has
made great
progress this year
and is very happy
at Merley.'

Parent comment



Our vision and values

At Merley First school we provide a nurturing and challenging environment that is built on mutual respect. We have developed our Merley learner characteristics of learning as a shared language with clear expectations.

A Merley learner is:



A listener



Engaged



Ambitious



Resilient



Nurturing



Enthusiastic



Respectful





'We are very
happy with the
school and how
the staff care for
our children.'

Parent comment



Learning and Teaching

At Merley First School we are all lifelong learners who are curious and passionate about the world around us. We have designed a curriculum that is sequenced to ensure that knowledge and skills are built upon for future learning and provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities.

Our teachers provide a rich and varied learning environment to inspire our children to develop their skills and abilities which will stay with them as they progress along their educational journey .

We support all children as they are learning and provide different strategies and experiences to ensure all children are successful and make progress.

Through our teaching we aim to enable all children to:

- make progress and achieve
- enjoy their learning
- be responsible citizens
- become confident individuals.

Research has shown that children learn better when hydrated. All children have access to water throughout the day via individually named water bottles.





The Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to develop the academic, physical and emotional well-being of pupils. The curriculum is planned to be sequential and coherent. It is progressive so it builds on pupils' previous knowledge and skills. Skills are embedded and therefore can be transferred in a variety of contexts.

The curriculum is designed in this way so knowledge is secure in pupils' long term memory. The curriculum relates to the specific social context of the school and the cultural capital we develop ensures that we will not only inspire but also challenge our pupils in their learning.

We feel passionately about providing a theme-based curriculum where individual subjects are interwoven into our daily learning and where children's interests can mould and shape the learning experiences we provide.

We strive to:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens;
- foster interdependence by recognising the strengths and weaknesses of others as well as our own.

**'Merley
is a fantastic
school. Both of
our children have
thrived in this
setting.'**

Parent comment





Partnerships



The partnerships we have are an essential part of our day-to-day life. We have strong links with different organisations within both Merley and Wimborne, such as the local shops, Lantern Church, Canford School and Merley Win on Waste.

We are a founding member of the innovative Wimborne Academy Trust. The Trust provides professional development, challenge and support to ensure we deliver success for all. We work hard to ensure we provide the best life chances for all our children as they progress through first school and on to our middle and upper schools.


Merley First School Association (MSA) is our parent association to which all those with children attending the school are automatically members. The MSA has raised funds for the school which are used for the direct benefit of the children.

Throughout the year a number of events are held, such as the Summer Fayre, movie nights, quiz nights and discos. All profits raised by MSA are donated back to the school and fund additional resources and activities.

We welcome the support of all parents and carers and any support you could provide would be most appreciated.



'I've been really impressed at the steps Merley First have taken to provide my child with the extra help he requires due to SEN, while never making him feel differently treated to his class mates.



'His adjustment to school life has been far smoother than we could have hoped and this is all thanks to the brilliant support he has received from his teachers, TAs and support staff. Thank you!'

Parent comment



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