

Hanley St Luke's C of E Aided Primary School Welcome to our school!

Frequently Asked Questions

Please feel free to call in or telephone with any questions you would like to ask, but here are a few that are most frequently asked:

Q. What makes a Church of England Aided School different?

We believe that the teaching of Jesus: to love one another, is what makes our school such a warm, welcoming place. Every child is valued as a unique individual. Christian principles underpin everything we do, so that good manners, good discipline and respect become part of everyday life at Hanley St Luke's. Religious Education is taught throughout the school and is based on the Lichfield Diocese scheme of work. As part of this scheme, children will also learn about two other religions, Judaism and Islam. Daily Worship in our school is a very important part of what we do. It is always based on core Christian teaching but is always inclusive and upholds British Values often overlapping with other curriculum areas, so that all children can learn from the key teaching points whatever their own personal faith and belief. As a result there is an expectation that all children attend.

Q. What are the school times?

Nursery: 9.05am - 3.05pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: 8.55am - 12.00noon 12.55pm - 3.15pm Year 3, Yr 4, Yr 5 and Yr 6: 8.55am - 12.30pm 1.25pm - 3.15pm The doors open at 8.45am so that children can go straight to their classes. This enables a prompt start at 8.55am!

Q. Does the School select its pupils?

There is no academic selection. The School's admission number is 60 in each year group. If more than 60 apply for a place in Nursery or Reception Classes, the Governing Body applies the Admissions Criteria. If any other year groups are full and you would like your child to have a place at the school we can put his/her name on the waiting list for that year group, in case of a vacancy.

Q. Will my child learn to swim? We certainly hope so! Our children are all taken for swimming lessons at local swimming baths, and we aim to have every child able to swim a length at least, before they leave our school.

Q. Do you take the children on trips? Yes we do! We firmly believe that children benefit from exciting and well planned trips connected with their learning in school. We also enhance learning using a variety of "theme" days and visitors who all help to enrich the curriculum. In Year 6 the children visit Stanley Head Outdoor Activity Centre for a week. During this week Geography and Science field studies are carried out as well as activities like mountain biking and orienteering. Unfortunately, school budgets generally do not cover school trips and therefore we need to ask parents to contribute. If insufficient parental contributions are received, then trips may have to be cancelled, which of course we would

wish to avoid. Please speak to the office if you have any concerns about payment and we will be pleased to discuss payment options with you.

Q Can I make electronic payment for dinner money, fees and trips etc?

We are just in the process of rolling out our cashless payment system with great success and by the end of the Autumn term 2017 all payments will be made through this system and cash will not be accepted. This is far safer and more efficient for school and our parents are finding it very convenient. Our office staff will help you with any queries you may have.

Q. How do you let parents know what is going on?

We try very hard to communicate well to parents in a range of ways including: text message; our DOJO communication and behaviour system; our monthly newsletter and of course, face to face conversations where possible and practical. We are moving towards paperless communications to help save the planet and costs so during 2017/18 we will be utilising email and DOJO more frequently. We also offer termly parental consultation days where we teachers will share with you in a 15 minute appointment, your child's achievements and targets which our parents find very useful.

Q What help is available to parents who may need some advice or support?

We work with a range of agencies such as the school nurse, Special Educational Support Service, and a range of other targeted services. Raising concerns with your class teacher first is often the best place to start, but our Early Help Champion, Mrs Mandy Clough, will also be happy to discuss your needs with you and signpost you to the relevant service. We aim to work in partnership with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

Q. Are children expected to wear uniform?

Yes, all children except those in Nursery, are expected to wear our uniform. Details of our uniform are on the website. Children in Nursery often like to wear our uniform too, but here it is not compulsory.

Q. What do I do if my child is ill?

Please telephone the school as soon as possible after 8.30am if your child is ill. It is vital that you call on the first day of any absence. This call will be recorded and the class teacher will be informed. If your child continues to be absent, please send a note on his/her return to school. If your child is taken ill at school we will make every effort to contact you. Please notify the school office if any of your emergency contact telephone numbers change.

Q. What do I do if my child requires medication in school?

For Health and Safety reasons no medication can be brought into school unless via prior agreement. If your child requires medication but is well enough to come to school, you can arrange to come to school to administer it or complete a consent form so that it can be administered by school staff. If your child suffers from any chronic conditions requiring medication, please contact Mrs Williamson to discuss special arrangements.

Q. What can children bring to eat and drink at playtimes? As we are a Health Promoting School, we are keen to encourage healthy eating habits. So children can bring fruit, but are not allowed to bring sweets or other snacks for playtimes. The children in Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 are given free fruit as part of a Government health initiative. Subsidised milk or spring water with fruit juice are available to buy from school, and need to be ordered in advance. Letters are sent home regularly as a reminder of this, with prices. Water is freely available in classrooms and at water fountains and children are encouraged to drink this, as research has shown the health benefits of drinking water. Break time drinks should not be brought from home.

Q. Can my child wear jewellery?

For Health and Safety reasons we ask that children leave their jewellery at home! The only exceptions are watches (as long as they do not make noises or distract children during lessons) and earrings for pierced ears only. If your child wears pierced earrings, please ensure that they are small lobe studs as these are safest. All jewellery, including earrings must be removed for PE and Swimming lessons, so please ensure that they are left at home on these days.

Q. What extracurricular activities are available? Apart from the trips and residential stays already mentioned, there are lots of extracurricular clubs and activities happening at different times of the year. These activities are many and varied so watch out for letters advertising these, and don't forget to fill in your permission slip if your child wants to take part!

Q. Do you provide Sex and Relationships education? Yes! We have a Health Education program running throughout the school, with different aspects of healthy living being studied at age appropriate levels. Sex and Relationships education is a strand of this structured course, and is taught to children in Year 5. The Governors' policy states that Sex and Relationships education should be provided in the Christian context of family life where there is a love and respect for all its members. Year 5 parents are invited to a meeting prior to the course, to see the materials we use and to discuss these with the teachers. Parents do have the right to withdraw children from this course and can do so, after the meeting, by contacting Mrs Williamson.