

Earlsfield Primary School



Prospectus 2010 – 2011

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Welcome

Welcome to Earlsfield Primary School.

We are a happy and inclusive school that is at the centre of the local community and is representative of its diversity. We want our children to do the very best they can and be caring, world citizens with a strong sense of self worth and the confidence to succeed.

We are proud of our broad and balanced curriculum that encompasses a great range of activities, lots of visits and loads of fun!!

Our recent OFSTED in 2006 commented that **'Earlsfield provides a good standard of education where all are welcomed, valued and able to do their best...'** a statement that we are immensely proud of.

We look forward to working with you in partnership to aid the development of your child and make your child's years at Earlsfield a truly happy and rewarding time.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Trow
Headteacher



About Our School

The school serves the local community and is representative of the diversity of Earlsfield. Built in 1903, the school has been extensively refurbished since 2000 and boasts a new dining hall and kitchen facilities, a mobile ICT network, an impressive Early Years Environment with its own outdoor space, attractive school grounds and good internal decoration. Visitors to the school often comment on the friendliness of the school, the range of equipment in the playground and the quality of display. Careful investment and long term planning aim to ensure that this is retained.

We aim to ensure that every child is able to fulfil their potential. At Earlsfield Primary School we expect a high standard of self-discipline and a good standard of pupil conduct at all times during the school day including times when pupils are off site on visits. Our expectations are set out in our Behaviour Policy and rules displayed around the school. We set an example by being caring, considerate and co-operative in our dealings with everyone in school.

Our ethos is built on a culture of positive reinforcement. Good behaviour is always praised and a child may be rewarded with a well done sticker, house point, visit to the Head or Deputy or a certificate at "Good Work" Assembly on a Friday. Each week classes are encouraged to win the attendance and punctuality cup or top table in the dining hall!

It is important to us that pupils are safe and healthy in school. We take all reasonable measures to protect our pupils and provide a high level of supervision at all times. We know that healthy children are better learners, so we want children to come to school fit, well and rested. A number of staff are qualified first aiders to ensure children are cared for in school. Information is regularly made available to parents and pupils about a range of health and welfare issues such as diet and head lice. Children are encouraged to walk to school – a healthier and safer alternative to the car journey.

Great emphasis is put on helping and caring for others. The pupils, parents and staff at Earlsfield Primary School have supported many charities over the years including Age Concern, Sebastian's Action Trust, St.Georges Hospital, Guide Dogs for the Blind and many more.

Admissions

Children are admitted in accordance with Wandsworth Authority admissions criteria.

In the nursery we offer up to 52 full-time equivalent places – 36 full time places and 32 part time places.

At Earlsfield we admit 60 children into the reception class in September each year. There is no right of passage from Nursery to Reception and parents must reapply. All admissions from Reception to Year 6 are managed by Wandsworth Council.

Our Values

The school nurtures and encourages pupils so that they grow in confidence and develop good personal and social skills. Good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development enables them to respect others and understand and value different traditions and beliefs. Pupils enjoy everything that the school has to offer (Ofsted 2006).

It is our aim to provide a secure and caring environment to enable all children to discover and appreciate the value of learning. We all follow our school charter.

'The School Charter'

Rights	Responsibilities
We have the right to feel safe and happy.	We are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking after ourselves and others. • treating others how we would like to be treated.
We have the right to a good education.	We are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening, • concentrating • always trying our best,
We have the right to have our voices heard.	We are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making sure we speak at the right time to the right person. • listening to others. • helping to make decisions
We have the right to have access to a variety of exciting resources that everyone can use.	We are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking after school property. • sharing with each other

We encourage the children to follow a number of simple rules

Be gentle – *think of others*

Be kind – *consider people's feelings*

Be honest – *always tell the truth*

Work hard – *do your best*

Look after property – *take care of yours as well as others*

We always think of others and aim to ensure that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to the curriculum and make the greatest possible progress.

We have high expectations of behaviour and aim to create and maintain a supportive ethos in order to develop in children a sense of secure self worth, healthy self-esteem, self-confidence, flexible self-control, and a respect for themselves and others. Good behaviour is recognised and rewards are seen as an effective means of encouraging children. **Pupils are considerate, thoughtful and behave well (OFSTED)**

How does our school work?

The school is divided into three definable areas each with a designated line manager who in turn is accountable to the Head and Deputy. This ensures that each phase of the school works as a coherent and effective unit and that consistency is achieved in all aspects of school life.



Snack squad visit the local supermarket...lets raise money for charity!

The Nursery

Young children learn by active investigation and exploration. Our Nursery is able to provide this both indoors and out. There has been significant expenditure on the Early Years and this is evident in the physical environment and the wide range of resources that are available.

Our aim is to help provide the foundations for your child's learning so that they develop a better understanding and interest in the world around them. We try to encourage children to be caring towards each other and to value the work they do. The activities, which are planned by the trained Nursery staff are structured to promote concentration, involvement and persistence.

Older children are encouraged to attempt more advanced tasks. The children are praised for their endeavours. We place the emphasis on doing as opposed to the final result, so when you are presented with what appears to be a random scribble or splodge of paint, please treat it with respect. Your child may have concentrated for a long time deliberately creating their masterpiece!

Teaching and Learning

Ofsted commented that 'teaching and learning are effectively monitored so that they are consistently good across the school, with some outstanding examples seen'.

Teaching methods

We employ a range of strategies according to the needs of the children. These include whole class teaching, group teaching, teacher or child led activities and one to one work. Role play, drama and ICT are used to help embed learning.

All classes are mixed ability and work is planned at the appropriate level for each child.

We want our pupils to be confident, independent learners who delight in acquiring knowledge and developing skills.

Assessment is an integral part of school life. The school is required to undertake a statutory assessment at the end of Key Stage One – i.e. at the end of Year 2 – to find out the level each individual child is working at in English, Mathematics and Science. However, teachers continually assess children's progress on a daily basis and the results are used to inform planning for learning activities. A more formal approach is taken at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) in line with government expectations.



Fantastic days out!!!

A range of support is provided for the children in our care. On average, about 25% of children need special help at some point in their schooling. This may be because of physical, learning or behavioral issues and may be long or short term. Needs are identified in several ways: information is gathered from parents, pre-school groups, outside agencies, teacher observations and diagnostic assessment. Children with identified needs are included in a Special Needs Register and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is devised. Most of the support given is within the classroom, but small groups and individuals are withdrawn when it is thought appropriate. Progress is carefully monitored and detailed records are kept. The value of parental support and its effect on the learning and development of children is recognized and we involve parents at all stages. Your child's class teacher and the Learning Support Co-ordinator are available to discuss your child's needs and explain the support being offered. Additional work is also undertaken by the learning mentor

If it is felt that further professional help is needed, a child is referred to the appropriate agencies and decisions made about the most beneficial support. Parents are a vital part of this process and no decision is taken without full parental knowledge.

The School Curriculum

Ofsted found that ' the school's curriculum is good because it engages pupils well in their learning and promotes enjoyment of a broad range of subjects.'

Our school has a diverse cultural background and we celebrate and embrace the richness that this brings to the school. This is reflected around the building and in the range of activities the children undertake.

The curriculum is varied and lively! We invest heavily in school trips and visitors to school to enhance the children's learning. The school can be seen to be vibrating to the beat of the drumming workshop, the children enthralled by visiting authors or captivated by birds of prey swooping across the hall. Residential trips take place to a working farm in Wales for Years 5 and 6 and a fun excursion to the Isle of Wight for children in Year 4. Our events can be seen on the school website – count the smiling faces!!

In the foundation stage the children follow the Early Learning Goals. Children begin school with a wealth of knowledge. The period of education from 3 to 5 is the foundation stage and children work towards six areas of learning – Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication, Language and Literacy; Mathematical Development; Knowledge and Understanding of the world; Physical Development and Creative Development.



Building sandcastles on the Isle of Wight



Making new friends in Wales!

Children from Year 1 follow the National Curriculum in English, Maths, ICT, RE and the foundation subjects – History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music and P.E. In addition we teach Personal, Social and Health educations (PSHE) including citizenship and French.

We have interactive whiteboards in all our classrooms and also the library. A projector in the bottom hall allows us to put on presentations for children and parents and share good work in assembly.



Having fun during Music Week



A visit to the recycling depot during Outdoor Week

Earlsfield is a multi-cultural, multi-faith school and has children with a wide range of religious beliefs. We aim to recognize and celebrate different religions through assemblies and classroom teaching. We aim to make the main focus of religious education at Earlsfield a moral one. Above all, we aim to establish a sense of understanding and acceptance of different religions through use of children's own experiences. Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. if they consider it necessary.

Assemblies are important parts of the school week when the children can meet together, either as a whole school or in smaller groups. Assemblies are very much a vehicle for celebrating achievement and positive behavior.



Bonjour!!! French Café Day



Singing at the Royal Albert Hall

The Governors of Earlsfield School have established a policy for sex education as required under the Education Act. Aspects of sex education are taught from Year 1 upwards in accordance with the Channel 4 scheme Living and Growing. Workshops are held every two years to inform parents of the content. The content is taught in a sensitive and caring manner and parents have the right to withdraw their children should they wish.

PE is an integral part of the curriculum and the children partake in a range of different activities and we also draw upon coaches from local secondary schools and sporting institutions.

Staff and Governors

We have a strong teaching staff that has a variety of different skills. The constantly changing curriculum means that we have to keep up to date – as such we are committed to professional development to allow the teaching staff the opportunity to disseminate their knowledge. Some staff are classroom based; others carry out specific targeted support. Historically we have a low staff turn over, a large part of this can be attributed to our commitment towards staff development.

We have a large non-teaching staff who make a valuable contribution to everyday life at school. They carry out a range of vital roles such as administration, support in class and supervision at lunchtimes. Where they have been specifically trained they carry out specific interventions such as speech and language.

Our Governors are fully involved with the school and want the very best for your children. We have parents, teachers business people, members of the local community and other interested people from all walks of life on our governing body. They oversee

- the general running of the school
- financial control
- the premises
- the curriculum
- interviewing and selecting staff
- the school's policy on discipline
- keeping in touch with parents by producing the annual school profile



Book Week 2007 – even the staff made an effort on Pyjama Day!

Working In Partnership

The school enjoys an excellent partnership with parents and one commented 'I cannot praise the school highly enough for the education and care that has been given to my children' – parental comment to Ofsted 2006.

It was also noted that 'parents know their children make good progress and are overwhelmingly supportive of the staff and their work.'

Parents are invited each term to meet their child's teacher and parents of children receiving extra support can also meet with the learning Support Co-ordinator or the adult who is carrying out the intervention. Parents can look at displays of work around the school, and will also have the opportunity to look at their child's work. On the last Thursday of every month we have an Open House between 3:15 and 3:45 where parents are free to walk around the school.

Parents receive an Annual Report of Achievement on their child's progress in all areas of the curriculum at the end of each academic year. In addition, interim reports of attitude to work are sent home in the Autumn and Spring terms. These are short, focused reports.

At Earlsfield Primary School we are proud of our commitment in working with parents in order to maximise the opportunities we offer the children. Our Home School Agreement outlines the part played by the school the child and the parent in effective learning.

We know that children are not always forthcoming about school so we provide other opportunities for parents to learn about the work their child is doing. There are class assemblies to which parents are invited in order to see some of the work done in class. We send home a written summary outlining the work the children will cover each term and we offer the opportunity to attend Curriculum Meetings and other focused meetings. Newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and the notice board in the playground keeps parents up to date on a daily basis.

Many parents assist in school and we welcome all offers of help. Parents are also invited into school to talk to groups of children about their job, hobby, memories, pets or baby, if it is relevant to one of our topics. There is also sometimes the opportunity to accompany children on visits or to join in with special events.

Parents have had many kind things to say about us!! In our end of year questionnaire they told us that we were good at...

- getting the best out of individual children
- showing a caring attitude towards pupils and parents
- creating a fantastic atmosphere
- having a strong sense of community
- making people feel welcome by being approachable and supportive
- having a school spirit in everything we do
- making children feel valued and their opinions count

Every parent is automatically a member of the PTA and a Committee is formed at the beginning of each school year. Parents can support the Association by offering help at special events such as the Summer Fayre and the many other events that are run across the course of the year. The PTA is primarily concerned with raising money for the school, which is spent for the benefit of the children. PTA funds have been used to really enhance the outdoor environment through purchasing climbing equipment, soft surfacing and funding art projects. They have also contributed on an annual basis

Towards school journey and have recently bought new furniture for classes and books for the library.

It is our aim to support parents as fully as possible in the best interests of their child. We encourage all parents to approach the school if they have any enquiries/comments about the education or care of their child or about any school policies or procedures. We ask all parents to discuss any concerns they may have with either the class teacher, Year Group Leader, Deputy Head or Headteacher. A copy of our Complaints Procedure can be obtained from the School Office or from our website and a selection of school policies are available from the reception area.

Pupil Welfare

The care, guidance and support that staff give pupils are outstanding and have a significant impact on their progress – Ofsted 2006

Caring for the children

We pride ourselves in making the children feel safe and secure. We do this by making sure that the children know who to turn to if they have a problem or a worry. All concerns brought to us by parents are followed up as soon as practically possible.

Accessibility

We take great pride in the building and ensure that is clean, welcoming and that accommodation is well organized. On the ground floor, we have a number of ramps and disabled toilets to allow us to facilitate wheelchairs and other members of the community who may need to use these facilities. We carry out termly health and safety inspections.

Safety

We take the safety of the children and staff seriously. The school is protected by an intruder alarm, a CCTV system and door entry system. All visitors, including parents who help in and around the school, whether on a regular or irregular basis, are asked to report to the School Office, sign the visitor's book and collect a visitor's badge. CRB checks are regularly undertaken. Fire drills are carried out on a regular basis and routine maintenance of equipment takes place on an annual basis.

Child Protection

At Earlsfield we have policy and procedures in place for handling any cause for concern that may arise. The Children's Act gives every child the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to have enquires made to safeguard his or her welfare.

The Headteacher and Learning Support Co-ordinator are the designated Child Protection Officers. Staff monitor children's welfare and report any concerns to them. The school has a legal duty under the Children's Act to refer cases causing concern to the relevant authorities.

First Aid

We have a number of qualified First Aiders available throughout the school day. Simple cuts and bruises are dealt with as they happen within school, but should anything more serious occur, parents will be informed immediately in order that the child can be seen by his/her doctor, or in an emergency, at the hospital. Injury report forms are completed with a copy retained in school and a copy sent home.

School Uniform

We have a smart, comfortable and relatively cheap uniform that children are expected to wear at all times. We also have a simple PE kit. We aim to ensure that the school uniform is practical and purposeful. Shoes are an integral part of the school uniform as they must be practical to meet the rigors of the school playground and building.

Jewellery of any sort should not be worn in school, the only compromise being basic stud earrings (not hoops). Children who wear unsuitable earrings to school will be unable to take part in any sort of physical activity and older children will be asked to remove them for the day.

School dinners

All menus meet nutritional guidelines and we often run taster sessions for parents. School dinners are provided by Harrison Catering Company. Vegetarian and other dietary requirements are catered for. Please inform the office of any special dietary need.

Packed Lunches

Some children prefer a packed lunch. These should be balanced and include healthy options.



Buy those healthy snacks here!!!!

Extra Curricular Activities

Visits and Visitors

The curriculum is enriched by visitors including contributions from community members such as the school nurse and policeman and other visiting professionals such as opera singers or politicians. An exciting range of educational visits is designed to support the curriculum. Children at Earlsfield take part in an amazing amount of visits.

Theme days and weeks

Each term we experience a number of theme days or weeks. This will involve visitors to school, possible dressing up and some fantastic activities. In the past these have included Music Week, Sports Week, Explore The Outdoors, French Café Day and Book Week. We also celebrate Black History Month and a range of festivals.

Clubs

At Earlsfield Primary School we offer two kinds of club – those which are run voluntarily by the staff in their own time for which there is no fee, and those which are run by external providers who charge for their services. The latter usually are usually open to all or most year groups and are generally sporting clubs.



Funny or not so funny??!!



Year 4 Trumpet lesson – it's free

School Council

The school has for many years had a School Council to encourage responsibility, democracy and ownership. Every year the new school council visits the Houses of Parliament and meets the local MP. Each year all classes select a representative to sit on the council which meets to discuss issues and initiatives.

Peer mentoring

Older children carry out peer mentoring in the playground and they are easily identified at lunchtime by their distinctive blue t shirts.

Snack Squad

We have a very popular Snack Squad (run by Year 5 children) that takes place on a Friday allowing the children to buy healthy options at playtime. It was so successful in its first year that it raised £600 for charity, £1000 for wet lunchtime games and £1400 to take all year 5 to see the Lion King. After all, if you work hard all year you deserve to be rewarded!

And Finally...

Registration

1. The building is open from 9am onwards – if it rains however children are supervised in the building from 8:45am onwards. Parents are asked that they leave their children at the side door on wet morning to avoid congestion.
2. The gates are locked between 9:10am and 3:10pm. This ensures that the children remain in a safe environment. Please feel assured that the gates are not opened early under any circumstances – the well being of the children is our key concern.
3. At the end of the day any children who are not collected will be sitting in the bottom hall. Please try to collect your child on time as it causes distress to your child and inconvenience to the school if you are late collecting them

Absence and Lateness

Please either send a note or telephone the school to explain absences or lateness. In the event that you do not you will receive an automated call requiring a response.

Children are expected to be in school at 9:00am. If they arrive later than 9:05am they will be marked late. If your child is late he/she should report to the office staff. Every minute late is a minute wasted.

Persistent non-attendance or lateness will come under the scrutiny of the school's attendance panel or the Educational Welfare Officer.

How can we help?

If any parent/carer has an issue or concern they are asked to discuss it with the class teacher in the first instance. If the matter needs further discussion, then an appointment can be made to see the head of Deputy Headteacher. Alternatively, a letter explaining the nature of the issue can be sent to the Head Or Deputy. In the event that this does not resolve the issue the governing body or LEA will be approached to try and reach a resolution.



Working in partnership with young doctors at St.Georges