

# St Helen's CE Primary School

Alveston, South Gloucestershire





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# Welcome

Welcome to St Helen's Church of England Primary School in Alveston, South Gloucestershire. We have put this prospectus together to help you gain an understanding of our school, how it is organised and what makes it unique.

Inside, you'll find information about our vision and values, the way we organise our school and curriculum, our approach to teaching and learning and extra-curricular life at St Helen's.

The school was last inspected by OFSTED in January 2015 and we were judged to be 'Good' in all the key areas of the inspection and in our overall effectiveness. Amongst other things, OFSTED said that, "Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and their work. Lessons are often

challenging and all pupils are keen to respond and move on to more demanding work. This results in the most able pupils fulfilling their potential and a good proportion attaining the highest levels" and "...the school prepares its pupils well for the next stage of their education and life beyond."

You can find the full report on our school webpage.

The best way to find out about our school is to come and visit, to see us in action and meet the fantastic children and staff.

**Andy Spens**  
Headteacher

**Jim McLaren**  
Chair of Governors



**Andy Spens,**  
appointed Jan 2014

‘Excellence, enjoyment and  
achievement together in a nurturing  
Christian community’



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# Our Vision

Our vision is something that motivates and inspires us, keeping us focused on where we want to go as a school. It's a vision for everyone in the school, the children, staff, parents and governors.

## Excellence

Having high standards and expectations of each other.

Being innovative and continuously improving.

Going the extra mile.

Learning from our mistakes.

Challenging for all.

Aiming to be the best!

## Enjoyment

Being excited about learning!

Creating memories.

Being enthusiastic and engaging.

Experiencing a variety of opportunities.

Feeling safe and secure.

Having fun!

## Achievement

Everyone developing and making progress.

Feeling proud of yourself.

Everyone feeling valued.

Developing resilience.

Appropriate challenge for all.

Reaching our potential.







# Our Values

'St Helen's Church of England Primary school is a good church school. Christian values underpin the life of the school.

Its core values create an environment which allows children to flourish in their personal development. There is a delightful family atmosphere that permeates the whole school.'

SIAMS Inspection, March 2013.

Our values are the ways that we seek to do things at St Helen's. As a Church of England School, these are based on the Christian faith, but our values are important to us all, whatever our faith and background.

We talk and learn about these through collective worship and in class and we try to put them into practice in every situation at school. They are values for the whole school community, for the adults and for the children. Each term we send home a 'Value of the term' sheet for families to talk through together. We have 12 values that we work through as a school.



# Teaching and Learning

At St Helen's we know that children will only learn well if they feel happy, valued and safe.

High academic standards, excellent progress and attainment in reading, writing and maths are a real priority for us as these skills are essential in preparing children for later life.

We also believe that one of our main roles is to inspire learners, to engage them fully in their learning and follow their interests and passions.

We provide children with a rich, exciting curriculum through trips, engaging topics, the use of our amazing woods and other outdoor spaces, through sport and in the arts.

'Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and their work. Lessons are often challenging and all pupils are keen to respond and move on to more demanding work.'

This results in the most able pupils fulfilling their potential and a good proportion attaining the highest levels.'

OFSTED Inspection,  
January 2015





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# Extra Curricular Learning

These activities provide children with the chance to try something new, learning alongside other children and developing new skills.

We have a variety of after school clubs, including many different opportunities for sport. These include two gymnastics clubs, two Football clubs, Netball and Sports Heroes for our younger children. In addition to this, we offer peripatetic music tuition in a variety of different instruments.

St Helen's is situated in a fantastic environment, with playgrounds, a large field and our own enclosed forest area and pond. The Reception outdoor area was redeveloped and launched in September 2015. We look to make the most of our outdoor space whenever possible.



Chance to Shine project  
with Gloucestershire Cricket Club



# Inclusion

It's important to us that every child reaches their potential, whatever their needs may be. We work hard as a staff team to build strong relationships with children and their families and to provide learning opportunities that are appropriate for every child.

We have an inclusion leader who is focussed on identifying children who may require additional opportunities or support to reach their full potential. This may involve access to one-to-one tuition, working in a small, focused support group or a place on a 'Gifted and Talented' course at a local secondary school.

We have a team of dedicated and experienced Teaching Assistants who fulfil a variety of roles in school, including offering specialist learning support.



# Ethos and Behaviour

The behaviour of pupils is good. They are courteous, considerate and supportive of each other.

This is exemplified well in their behaviour at playtime which, while lively and happy, demonstrates that pupils are aware of the needs of others and adapt their play accordingly.

OFSTED Inspection,  
January 2015

Children behave well at St Helen's and follow our 'Flying High' behaviour code.

We aim to promote good behaviour through a weekly Celebration Assembly, house points, certificates and praise, and address inappropriate behaviour through clear, consistent, stepped sanctions.

Our children are members of a house team, with a weekly house trophy awarded to the team with the most points. Children compete in houses during the year, with other children from different year groups, developing leadership and team spirit.



# Partnership and Provision

Primary education is most successful when there is a strong partnership between school and parents. We aim to work closely together and to be available to talk both informally and also more formally, through parents' evenings and meetings.

We provide advice on supporting your child's learning at home and also encourage parents to help in classes, around school and on school trips.

Our breakfast club runs every morning from 7:45am until the beginning of school. We also have an 'After School Club' that runs on our site, providing care until 6pm.







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# Starting at St Helen's

'There is a great commitment by the whole school community to ensure that the children have every opportunity to grow and develop into mature and caring young people.'

SIAMS Inspection - March 2013

We know how important a good start is. It sets the foundation for the rest of school and so we work closely with children and parents as part of our induction programme. There will be opportunities for parents and children to visit the class in the summer term, before they start in September. This helps them to settle quickly and develop good relationships.

In Reception, children learn in many different ways, both inside and outdoors. Activities are fun, engaging and play based, ensuring each child achieves their potential.

Children have opportunities to follow their own interests and plan their own learning and we want them to leave Reception with a love for learning, feeling confident and increasingly independent as learners.



A decorative pattern of stylized, overlapping leaves in a light green color, located on the left side of the green banner.

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Please get in contact to arrange a visit.