



# Church Hill Infants

*Little steps and giant leaps*





# Welcome to Church Hill Infant School



**Foreword: Meera Bulsara, Headteacher, Church Hill Infant School**



It gives me great pleasure to introduce you and your child to our fantastic infant school... where so many exciting learning opportunities and experiences are just waiting for them to experience.

## School family

Our school is a community... a family of teachers, support staff, children and parents. We are committed to working together to ensure that all children enjoy all aspects of school life, and have a passion and desire to learn. We want to ignite your child's curiosity and inspire children to be ambitious, resilient and have a desire to learn from the world around them.

## Little steps, big leaps

We are also committed to fully preparing our children for their future. Not just academically, but equipping children with the wider social, self-care and life-long skills needed to better cope with, and excel in, school and life.

## Passionate about education

All our highly experienced staff are passionate about education, which is demonstrated in our very high standards...and commitment to providing the best possible learning opportunities for all of our children.

## Parent partnership

Another key factor in a child's education, are parents! And you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, that parents are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here... and increasing your child's enjoyment of learning.

## Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our wonderful school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please call the school office on 0116 2692083.



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**Why Harnam and Yamini selected Church Hill Infant School for their daughter**

Harnam and Yamini Raikmo live in Leicester with their daughter, Prithi, who is six.

## Learning from other cultures

Harnam and Yamini chose Church Hill mainly because of the wide mix of ethnicities and cultures it embraces, something which Harnam feels is an important part of a child's education. "We had the choice of another highly rated school but we liked Church Hill because of its friendly and inclusive ethos. There are children there from every background and who speak many different languages - it's lovely when Prithi comes home and tells us words she has learnt in Chinese and Polish!"

## Appropriate support for each child

Another reason why Harnam is so pleased with Church Hill is that the teachers take account of each child's abilities, ensuring that bright children are not held back and that the less academic are supported appropriately. "Prithi is a very capable child and is given work to challenge her so she doesn't become bored. This approach means that every child has the chance to reach their own potential and it is important to start at an early age."

## Emphasis on behavioural standards

"Good behaviour and respect for both teachers and each other is prioritised and that makes such a difference to the atmosphere of a school. I also like the way the teachers are so well-spoken because that helps children to pick up proper English rather than slang; it is a good grounding for them, especially those for whom English is a second language."

## "Excellent school"

"They have at least two PE lessons a week as part of encouraging health and fitness and Church Hill Infants is fortunate to be able to use the Junior School's swimming pool. In every way, Church Hill has been an excellent school for Prithi."

## Children say

Prithi says: "I really like Church Hill Infants because we all get a chance to take responsibility over activities in the class room or at play time. We are also encouraged to share knowledge within the class, so we are always learning something new."





# School day



Amy was worried about her daughter's separation anxiety, but Church Hill Infant School knew how to make sure mother and daughter were supported, reassured and cared for

Amy and Stuart Winkless live in Thurmaston with their daughter, Ella Rae, who is five years old.

## School hours

- **Morning Session**  
8.50 am - 12.00 noon
- **Lunch**  
12.00 noon - 1.15 pm
- **Afternoon Session**  
1.15 pm - 3.00 pm

Classes are open for the children to come in at 8.40 am. This allows time for the children to hang their coats in the cloakroom and change their shoes.

## Uniform

The school uniform colour is red. Sweatshirts, fleeces, jumpers and cardigans printed with the school logo are purchased on line. These are worn with white polo shirts and grey trousers (for boys), and grey pinafores, skirts, trousers (for girls). The entire uniform collection is available to order on line. Samples of sizes of the school uniform can be viewed at the school

office. Further information on how to order can be found on our school website.

## School meals and snacks



Nutritious, warm school meals are cooked in the kitchen of the Junior school. We offer a free hot school meal to every Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 child. All our meals comply with the school food standards to ensure that they get the nutrition they need across the whole school day. Fruit and

milk is available as a mid morning snack.

## School Council

Children have a voice in running the school through the School Council. For example, lately children have been involved in interviewing candidates for the job of Playground Pals.



Playground Pals help other children have a lovely playtime!

## Change of heart

Amy was absolutely determined that Ella Rae was not going to go to Church Hill Infant School; not because she had heard anything bad about it but because she wanted her to go to the one in her catchment area. "For some reason our application for a place was delayed and we were denied a place," Amy says. "I was absolutely devastated as I had set my heart on my first choice but we had no option but to look at alternatives. Knowing what I know now, I would be even more devastated if I had to move Ella Rae from Church Hill - and there is absolutely no way that I ever plan to." It is rare for a parent to be so passionate about their child's school but Amy most definitely is. "It's not like a school, it's a family," she says. "I have never known anywhere quite like it. Every member of staff, including the Headteacher, is incredibly approachable and understanding and even though Ella Rae is only one of 29 children in her class she is treated as an individual, and so am I. I probably need to be in close contact with the school more than many other

parents but I've never been made to feel a nuisance. I have only ever been supported and reassured and that means a great deal to me."

## Support mechanism

Amy's main concerns have been for her daughter's emotional wellbeing as Ella Rae suffers from separation anxiety when she is away from her mother. "She finds it very difficult to be away from me and to see her crying and unhappy when I leave her at school is heartbreaking. Given that I have no choice but to send her to school it is immensely reassuring to be able to trust the people who are caring for her for six hours every day. If Ella Rae has been particularly tearful one morning, I can ring the school and someone will go and check that she's ok and it's obvious that they really do care about her, and about how I am feeling. The support mechanism at Church Hill isn't just for the children, it's for their families, too."

## Engaging the child's imagination

Fortunately, the tearful days are

becoming less common and Ella Rae is now becoming more comfortable at school. Amy believes this is largely due to the caring attitude of her teachers and the fact that she enjoys her lessons so much. "Ella Rae knows that if she has a disagreement with her friends she can tell her teacher and the issue will be sorted out fairly. All children fall out from time to time but the school's approach is low-key and very effective and we have never had a real problem on that score. I also love the way that a lot of the lessons are presented in a fun and inventive way; Ella Rae might come home and tell me she's been playing shops, and I think - in lessons? But it's a lovely way to teach numbers and basic sums and it works. It's a great example of learning through play and it engages Ella Rae's imagination."

## Children say

Ella Rae says: "I like my school because everyone is friendly and beautiful."





# Curriculum



We have a meaningful and authentic curriculum that underpins all aspects of learning



Sunita believes that a happy child is more likely to achieve academically, and her daughter is proving the point at Church Hill Infant School

Sunita Bhal and her husband, Raveen, have recently moved from London to Leicester. Their daughter, Anoushka is five years old and has recently joined Church Hill Infant School.

## The Foundation Stage

Reception will be your child's first class at our school. We work in partnership with local preschools to make the transition to school life as smooth as possible. Learning starts at day one, although children will see it as fun and an extension of their play and development. The school follows the Early Year Foundation Stage Curriculum in Reception.

## Key Stage One

After Reception, most children will be working towards and within the National Curriculum in Year 1. The National Curriculum for Key Stage One provides core knowledge around which teachers develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.

The Key Stage One Curriculum is based on 4 core subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Religious Education.

Foundations (non core subjects) are Computing, PE, art and design, design and technology, Geography, History and Music.

The national curriculum is just one element of the school curriculum. The teachers plan through meaningful topics and themes to ignite curiosity and provide other experiences which promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school. Our ultimate aim is to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

## Trips and events

We provide a range of educational experiences which enhance the learning at our school. From visiting places of interest like the Botanical gardens to whole school theatre visits. We use local facilities too - for example, buying a stamp from the local post office to post a letter! In Year 2, our 3 day residential trip to Beaumanor Hall is always something our children look forward to.



## Inspiration to learn

Sunita has a very specific attitude to children's education, which is that if they are happy and are inspired to learn then they will do so. In Church Hill Infant School she has found a place which she feels is in tune with her beliefs.

Sunita felt that the life they were living in London, surrounded as they were by museums, cultural activities and a wealth of exciting opportunities was more than enough to entertain and educate Anoushka and decided therefore to defer her formal education for a year. It was only when they moved to Leicester that she felt Anoushka needed the stimulation of school and it was Church Hill which she believed had most to offer.

"We looked at several schools but it was always Church Hill that Anoushka liked best," Sunita says. "It felt right for us all - with the happy family atmosphere I wanted for her, and an emphasis on the children's wellbeing. I firmly believe that children need to be happy and

comfortable in their school environment so that they will develop a passion for learning. I would never want my child to feel pressured to achieve but to be inspired to do so; that way she is more likely to reach her full potential."

## Enthusiastic and caring

Several things about Church Hill stand out for Sunita, including the bright and spacious classrooms and the extensive outdoor areas. She also likes the way in which the younger children are gently introduced into the rest of the school by sharing its facilities and by having lessons with other teachers. "I like the idea of the children interacting with adults other than just one class teacher as it helps them to form relationships and to get on with different personalities and teaching styles. All the teachers are very enthusiastic and caring, and that attitude rubs off on the children."

## The key to learning

"As far as I am concerned, a child's emotional welfare comes first. They need to feel comfortable with their classmates and their teachers before they can move on to academic achievement and what I love about Church Hill is the relaxed relationship the pupils have with the teachers. There are clear boundaries in terms of behaviour and respect but Anoushka knows that the staff are approachable, friendly and always ready to listen."

## Children say

Anoushka says: "It is the best Superschool I have ever seen. I love getting my homework as it is lots of fun to do. Being a School Councillor makes me feel very important and it is so nice to help. My teacher is great and gives me lots of ideas on how to do my work and she makes me happy."





# Curriculum



Ryan and Samantha's daughter loves Church Hill Infant School so much she doesn't want to miss a day

Ryan and Samantha have two daughters; Sophie is six and Maisie, one and a half.

## Swimming Pool



We are fortunate to have a swimming pool on site and swimming is part of our curriculum.

## Behaviour and respect



It is our intention to encourage children to be self-disciplined and grow up with respect for other people and property. This means learning tolerance and control.

## Involving parents

Regular parent/teacher consultations and open days are arranged to discuss the progress of children, and parents can come to see work in progress. Staff will consult with parents at other times should the need arise. Parents also receive an annual written report on their child's progress.

## Transfer to the Junior School

Most of our children transfer to Church Hill C of E Junior School at the end of Year 2. To help children transfer, we visits the junior school, run joint year 2/3 activities and have a shared sports event.

## First choice

Ryan says: "We had heard excellent reports about Church Hill from other parents and because most of Sophie's nursery school friends were going there we didn't want to separate her from them...It is also a springboard to a selection of very good secondary schools - there's nothing wrong with thinking ahead!"



## A welcome addition to classroom-based learning

"It's a fantastic little school. It is clean, bright, friendly and welcoming and we have always been happy with how Sophie has settled in. I love the creative approach to learning and how the teachers use everyday objects as tools, such as playing outside with sticks, water or sand for counting and measuring. This is a welcome addition to purely classroom-based teaching, and something the children thoroughly enjoy - and that enjoyment makes the learning experience even more effective."

## Love of learning

Sophie really loves her school, says Ryan, to the extent that she and her friends often play 'schools' in the car on the way home. "She honestly hates it if she's not well and has to miss a day and she is very proud of her 100% attendance record for this year."

## Children say

"I like my school because I have lots of friends and they are all kind. I like my teachers and I like my head teacher because some times they make me laugh and giggle."





# Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Louise believes that Church Hill Infant School is the only one which could have brought out the best in her very different sons

Louise lives in Thurmsaston with her sons Joseph, nine, and Daniel, who is six.

## Children with Special Educational Needs

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who have special needs of any kind. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that each child can access education. Where appropriate a referral to an external agencies may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Education Needs Register, and an Individual Education Plan written to help them reach their potential.

### Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school and the curriculum.

## More Able Children

All children have talents and we want to develop them as fully as possible. We acknowledge the needs of more able, talented and gifted children. We aim to identify able and gifted children and to provide regular, stimulating activities appropriate for their needs.



## Challenging situations

With some very challenging situations to face, Louise has been more than grateful for the understanding and support she has received from her children's school. No-one really knows what to expect from a first child and although Louise had registered that Joseph's speech seemed slow to develop she had no real concerns until he started school. "It quickly became apparent that he was quite a long way behind the other children and before long his teacher mentioned to me that she thought he would need some extra help," she says. "By the end of his first year Joseph had been diagnosed with autism and it is greatly to the credit of Church Hill that they took his condition on board and put a range of measures in place to make sure he had all the help they could provide."

## Going the extra mile

Joseph was given extra one-to-one sessions to encourage his speech and the school brought in a specialist

speech and language therapist who not only worked with Joseph but with his teachers, too, so that they had a greater understanding of how to support him. When Louise attended a course run by the Local Authority for parents of autistic children, the school arranged for a member of staff to accompany her. "The school went to such a lot of effort and we all learned a great deal about Joseph's condition, so it was not only Joseph who benefitted but any other children with similar needs who might join the school. There was never a time when anyone at Church Hill said 'we can't deal with this'; they just got on and did it, willingly."

## Different children, different needs

At the other end of the scale, Daniel is a bright and enthusiastic child, keen to learn and achieving well above average. "He's always the first to put his hand up in class and can't wait to do his homework after school!" says Louise. "His teachers are wonderful with him

in the same way they were with Joseph but in Daniel's case by pushing him gently to do the best he possibly can. I am so impressed that Church Hill has shown the willingness and the ability to address the needs of two such different children."

## No better place

There are many other things which Louise could point out about Church Hill, things which have convinced her she could not have chosen a better school for her two boys. "It has been a fantastic school for us all and has brought out the best in my children despite their very different personalities. At the end of the day, no-one could ask for more."

## Children say

Joseph says: "School dinner is the best!" Daniel: "I like learning new things and I learn a lot of new things at school."



# Clubs



Dance Reading clubs

Multiskills

Fencing

Football

Tennis

Maths breakfast clubs

Recorder club

Cheerleading



David and Eloise want to be involved in their children's education and at Church Hill Infants School find that they are welcomed in every way

David and Eloise Hollis live in Thurmaston with their children Ben, 7 and Katie, 9.

## Involving parents in education

For Eloise, one thing which particularly stands out is the approachability of the staff. "It is one of the friendliest schools I have ever come across," she says. "The teachers are open and honest, always willing to talk and there are no artificial barriers put up between school and parents. In fact, parents are actively welcomed into the classroom to take part in lessons and I really love the fact that we have the chance to be so involved in our children's education."

Both David and Eloise agree that the transition from preschool to infant school was smooth and easy. "It is very daunting for a parent if, having been so much a part of their child's nursery education you have to suddenly leave them to the care of others at infant school. At Church Hill we feel that the transition process is gentle, gradual and sensitively handled, and that the school

considers parents' involvement to be an essential part of the learning process."

## Social maturity

Eloise and David set a great deal of store by good manners and behaviour and are pleased that at Church Hill these traits are reinforced from a very early age. "They are taught to respect others and to be polite in all areas of their lives and this message is put over from day one," says David. "It is not enforced in an intimidating way but taught as something which should be a matter of course. We have noticed how socially mature our children are at school, at home and in other situations and I appreciate the fact that Church Hill shares these values with us."

## From football to fencing

David has been impressed by the extra-curricular provision which for Ben has included football and fencing, but

in particular the Year 2 residential visit where the children spent three days away and out in the open building dens, preparing their own lunch and having an all-round amazing adventure. "It's a young age to be staying away from your parents but the atmosphere is so homely at Church Hill that it was like being with family for Ben," David explains. "Just like the experience Katie had on the same trip two years beforehand, it was a fantastic experience for Ben and he didn't miss us one little bit!"

## Children say

Ben sums it up by saying "I can't decide what's best because I like everything... We get to play lots of different sports and I love the after-school football and fencing."



# Admissions



# Getting involved



We actively encourage parents to come into school to help with activities such as cookery, swimming, craft work or playing games with the children. We also have family learning and parent workshops when parents are invited to come and work on specially designed activities with their child.

This requires a certain commitment on the part of parents but we believe that by working in partnership, teachers and parents together produce a more effective all-round education.

## Getting ready for school

To help prepare your child for starting school you will be invited to a parent induction evening during the term before admission. Other induction events include

- Parent and child play and stay where your child will be able to meet their class teacher and other children
- Home school Visit – staff from school will visit you and your child at home to get to know you better
- If they attend a local preschool, we will visit your child and speak to their key worker.

## Applications

Parents wishing to send their child to Church Hill Infants should contact the school around the time of the child's third birthday. The school can provide you with information on how you can apply. Applications are made on line through the Leicestershire Local Authority's Website. The Local Authority is responsible for school places.



## First two weeks

To enable a happy start to school life, the first two weeks will be part time. This is the time where we will teach your child about school routines and develop their confidence in making new relationships with both adults and other children.



## Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers and the Community. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.



## Do you want to be a Governor?

Governance is a very important part of school life. If you would like to be a School Governor please contact the school office.



## PTA

We have recently started a Parent teacher association (PTA). If you are interested in joining, and helping the school raise funds, please contact the school office.





# Want to look around? Call us!

## Church Hill Infant School Aims

We aim to:

**Offer** a rich, child centred 21st century curriculum which provides meaningful, relevant and authentic learning experiences which enable each child to be the best they can be.

**Work** in harmony with parents and the community to establish positive and successful partnerships to maximise the learning potential of our pupils.

**Inspire** children to acquire independence and to feel genuinely confident; equipping them with the skills to take responsibility for their own lives.

**Nurture** our pupils to become co-constructors of their learning; enthusing a natural curiosity and passion for learning

**Celebrate** and share achievement and success and ensure every child does matter irrespective of ability and background.

**Provide** a safe environment for children to take risks and learn from their mistakes, developing positive attitudes to learning.

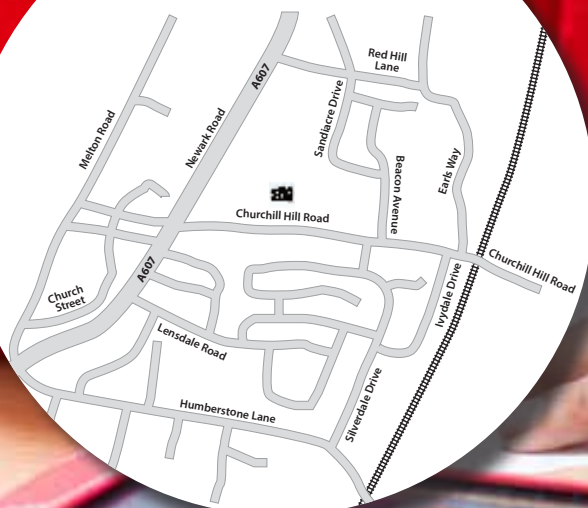
**Have** the highest expectations of all our children, of ourselves and of others.

**Provide** a happy, friendly and caring team of staff who are passionate and accountable for achieving the best possible outcomes for our pupils; academically, socially and morally.

**Embrace** school improvement and innovative teaching and learning strategies which challenge, motivate and inspire all

**Value** and champion the uniqueness of individuals

## How to find us



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