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Sibsey Free Primary School

Sibsey Free Primary School

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Lincolnshire Education Authority,

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Welcome children, parents and carers to Sibsey Free Primary School!

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school. Beginning a new school is an interesting and exciting time for both children and parents, whether your child is coming to school for the first time or joining us from another school.

The aim of this booklet is to help answer some of the questions you may have and to help you understand a little better what we are striving to achieve for our pupils.

Your arrival sees the start of a partnership between children, staff and parents that usually lasts for several years. It is a partnership between home and school where the main consideration is the child. We do have high expectations of our pupils and we firmly believe that this prepares them for the best possible future experiences. I wish that I could promise your child would not have any bumps, bruises or tears along the journey but this is all part of life and it is how well we learn to manage and bounce back from those unfortunate moments as well as enjoy and appreciate the vastly overwhelming positive experiences. This understanding is reinforced by the professional and respectful conduct of our staff and also by you as parents.

I believe that it is very important that parents feel that our school is open and available for them, enabling them to talk to staff, and to develop a greater understanding of how we both can find the right way forward for our children.

If you would like to know more about any of the points mentioned or would like to visit us please telephone me at school (01205 750335) to arrange an appointment.

Our school website may be a useful place to have a look at some of the things we have been doing and to see the children at work. You can find us at www.sibseyprimaryschool.squarespace.com

I am delighted to welcome you and your family to Sibsey Free Primary School and I look forward to working with you.

Mr. G. Wright (Headteacher)



The Staff

The staff of the school are committed to providing the very best in primary education for the children. They will strive to provide all pupils with a curriculum that is balanced, broadly based and promotes spiritual, moral, social, cultural, academic and physical education of the highest quality. The governors and staff work together supporting and encouraging each other to expand their skills and knowledge to meet the many developments taking place in the primary curriculum.

The Governing Body

The governing body of the school consists of 1 Local Authority Governor, 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), 2 Foundation Governors, 2 Parent Governors, and 5 co-opted Governors.

The governing body is supportive of the teaching staff, pupils and parents and is always striving to provide a learning environment with high educational values that will benefit all who are involved in the life of the school.

About our school

People often ask, "Why is it called 'Free' School?" The answer probably lies in the origins of the first school to be built in the village. This was in 1723 when a school was built on land leased for nine years belonging to Mr. John Gape. It was situated "contiguous to the churchyard", probably in Vicarage Lane. The master was to give instruction to his scholars in reading, writing and arithmetic.

In 1796 there were three schools in the village – the original school near the churchyard and two Dame Schools. In 1822 the lease referred to above expired. The proprietor of the land was unwilling to renew the lease or otherwise let the premises to the trustees. Instead he offered them a new site and the materials of the old schoolhouse and eventually in 1827 a new building was erected. In 1837 as well as the main school there were three preparatory schools in Sibsey.

In 1869 the present building was constructed by Mr. Samuel Sherwin of Boston at a cost of £565 and at the same time the schoolhouse for the master was erected at a cost of £282. The school was designed by Mr. Kirk of Sleaford and the first headmaster was Mr. Wood.

The maintenance of the school building remained under the charge of the Trustees as an Aided School until 1992 when the Local Education Authority took over control and became responsible for the upkeep and repairs. 1996 saw the beginning of the long overdue refurbishment with the start of an extensive new building programme which was completed in September 1997. Since 1997 two more classrooms have been added to help with the rapid growth in pupil numbers. (The school has doubled in size since 1996.)

In 2006 the Governors approved the building of a log cabin which now houses the Bright Sparks @ Sibsey Playgroup and associated breakfast, after school and holiday clubs. There is a very close working relationship between the school and the Bright Sparks @ Sibsey group which enhances the transition for the children between the two settings.

In 2013 a new entrance, office and library area were built and the interior of the school renovated. This has led to improved security and safety for our children whilst providing a professional and welcoming environment for all.

Our school is situated by the side of the A16 approximately 5 miles north of Boston. The front of the school is Victorian in its design but the school itself has undergone many changes over the past few years with new classrooms, a hall, new entrance facilities and the conversion of the school house into an learning suite and offices.

The school is extremely well equipped and there are plenty of activities for the children to be involved in both during school hours and in after school clubs.



The school has a lovely field with adventure equipment designed by the children and a outdoor learning area. There is also a space at the front of the old school house which has been set up as an Autism quiet area. This area is a memorial to a former pupil and is available for all children to use for quiet reflection and reading.

We encourage the children to be actively involved in making decisions about school life and the fabric of the environment.



Admissions

Admission Policy Sibsey Free School operates the admission policy of Lincolnshire County Council. Generally, children are admitted to our school in the September following their fourth birthday, however full details of our admissions procedure can be found in the school's admission policy available on request or on line at www.sibseyfreeprimary.co.uk.

If parents have any queries on admissions we will be pleased to answer them. If parents would like to look round the school before their children are admitted we will be pleased to arrange a visit.

The school has an admission limit. At present the Published Admission Number (PAN) is 25. This means that the school can accept up to 25 children in each year group. If a parent wishes a child to join the school in a year group that is already at 25 then they will need to go through an appeal process. Details of this process are available by contacting 01522 782030. For details of midyear admissions either contact the school or refer to the school's admission policy, or contact Admissions on 01522 552241/553301.

As you will realise in a school of this size there is rarely an even distribution of ages so we do have classes with overlapping age groups. Whatever the age or ability of the child his/her needs will be catered for. The school will provide a safe, caring, friendly, stable and disciplined environment within which all children are valued, encouraged to care for others and strive for quality in all they do.

Choosing Sibsey Free School as your Child's School

If your child is already at school and you wish to enroll them at Sibsey Free School, you will need to complete a midyear admission form available on-line at Lincolnshire County Council (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions). We would recommend that you visit the school to have a look round before you make any decisions about your child joining us.

If your child is going to school for the first time, he or she may start with us at the beginning of the school year (September) after their fourth birthday. Very occasionally we and parents decide together that this is inappropriate for some children and then the children may be admitted for a short period of time on a half day basis or perhaps at the beginning of the Spring Term (January) if their fifth birthday falls in that term or at the beginning of the Summer Term (May) if their birthday falls in that term. However, all children must start at our school at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.

How do you apply for a place? (First Time Admissions)

From 2005, the Local Authority was required by law to coordinate admissions to primary schools. This has meant that application forms are the same for every school and parents apply directly to Admissions, Lincoln. Parents can collect an information pack from the local Primary School or can obtain one directly from County Offices, Lincoln, by phoning 01522 782030. Application forms are only available on-line at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Parents must fill in just one application form on which they express up to three preferences. From these preferences parents are offered one place. The offers are made at slightly different times each year but the date can be found either on the website or in the Admissions Guide which is published every year. In this booklet you can find all the details you need when applying for a place in school. It is very important that you read this carefully.

All parents must fill in an application form, even if they want a place for their child in their local school and even if they have already given the child's name to a primary school.

When do you apply?

The County Admissions Team must receive your application by a date that is indicated in the application pack. Parents are encouraged to complete the form on-line. If you do not meet the deadline, it may not be possible to process your application at the same time as the others. This may mean that other children are considered ahead of your child.

Appeals

Headteachers and education officers always do their best to make sure that your child goes to a school that suits him/her and pleases you but this is not always possible. If you are not satisfied with the school place your child has been given, you should first speak either to the Headteacher at your child's school or to the Headteacher of the school to which you want your child to go to. If, after seeing the Headteacher, you still want to get the decision changed you should appeal online www.lincolnshire.gov/schooladmissions or contact the Education Team on 01522 782030 for a paper appeal form.

This will usually involve a special committee being set up by the county council - an Independent Appeals Committee. You have to write down on a special form your reasons for wanting your child to go to the school of your choice. These forms are available from the School Admissions Team and should be returned to the Admissions Appeal Clerk, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YQ. You should make sure that it arrives before the date given in the letter which is sent to you.

Midyear Applications for Places

All parents requesting a midyear place for a child at our school will have to apply to the local authority using a midyear application form. This form can be downloaded from the internet (as above) or can be requested from the school admission team on 01522 782030. Parents must apply on the form of the local authority where they live. The school admission team will only consider midyear applications where an application form has been completed. If places are available and we can admit the child, the school admission team will send an offer letter to parents. If the application is refused, the school admission team will notify parents of the appeal process and will send out relevant papers and guidance.



Uniform

The children attending our school are encouraged to wear the school uniform. The aim of wearing a uniform is to provide all the children with a sense of pride and belonging to our school community. Our school uniform with logos can be purchased online from <https://www.nationwideschooluniforms.co.uk/> or you can visit their shop, situated on Vale Rd, Spilsby. Uniform is delivered free of charge to school. More affordable options for shirts, trousers, skirts and dresses without the logo are available at local supermarkets and other shops. Jewellery is not permitted at our school apart from ear studs which should be removed at the beginning of PE lessons. Children in all year groups are provided with waterproof clothing by the school.

The school provides waterproof trousers and jacket for all pupils for outdoor learning, free of charge. This is kept in school.

- Pale blue or white polo shirt
 - or pale blue or white shirt
 - Royal blue sweatshirt or jumper
 - Grey trousers (long or short)
 - White, grey or black socks
-
- Pale blue or white polo shirt
 - or pale blue or white shirt
 - Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan, sweater, pullover
 - Grey skirt
 - Grey pinafore
 - Summer dress striped or checked (royal blue/white)
 - White, grey or blue socks or tights



Physical Education

All children will require:

- Navy shorts
- White or blue T-shirt
- Plimsolls
- Drawstring P.E. bag.



Children will also require an outdoor PE Kit

- Navy games skirt or shorts, white or blue T-shirt
- Navy football shorts, white or blue T-shirt or blue football jersey
- Tracksuit or jogging suit
- Trainers or football boots

Children in The Pines Class will require

- A complete change of spare clothes, including pants and socks

- Wellington boots
- A school book bag

The Aims and Values of Sibsey Free School

A Vision Statement for Sibsey Free School

Our vision is for each child to leave Sibsey as knowledgeable, enthusiastic and caring individuals that respect and contribute to the world they live in. Knowing that the choices we make today impact the outcomes for tomorrow helps us take pride in our school values:

"Today is the best preparation for tomorrow."

OUR STEPS FOR BEING BRAVE

- 1 Try to fight the feelings of fear. Don't be scared!
- 2 Try new things and have a go!
- 3 If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again.
- 4 Stand up to things that are wrong.





TODAY YOU WILL BE:

BRAVE

KIND

BRILLIANT

HONEST

YOURSELF





OUR STEPS FOR BEING BRILLIANT

- 1 Be the best that you can be.
- 2 Be respectful and polite.
- 3 Bring out the best in others.
- 4 Make the Sibsey family proud.



OUR STEPS FOR BEING KIND

- 1 Treat people how you would like to be treated.
- 2 Nice words and nice actions are for everybody.
- 3 Show a caring heart and respect that we are all equal.
- 4 Help and support others, take turns and make sure people feel included.



OUR STEPS TO BEING YOURSELF

- 1 Believe in yourself.
- 2 Knowing what makes us different is what makes us special.
- 3 Be your own thing if it brings you happiness.
- 4 Aim high and follow your dreams.



OUR STEPS FOR BEING HONEST

- 1 Tell the truth!
- 2 Own up to our mistakes.
- 3 Tell people how we're feeling; be honest to ourselves.
- 4 See honesty as the key to success.



A Mission Statement for Sibsey Free School

Our mission is for our children to leave us with strong, happy memories and a range of experiences that they will treasure throughout their lives. To help prepare our children for their next stage of learning, we aim to equip them with the skills they need to be resilient, confident, independent, tolerant, emotionally aware and highly literate individuals. We strongly value the importance of outdoor learning to support this journey. We encourage and embrace opportunities for our children to experience the unique opportunities of living and working in a rural community, whilst also preparing them for the contrasts of life in the wider community and beyond.

The School Day

Morning session: 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Afternoon session: 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Playtimes: 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

EYFS/ Key Stage 1 only 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Please ensure that your child does not arrive at school before 8.45 a.m. as there may be no supervision for the children and the school cannot be held responsible for your child's safety. Children who have to come to school on the school bus/taxi will be supervised by a member of staff. The main pupil entrance will be opened at 8.45 a.m. and children will be expected to go quietly to their respective classrooms where an initial learning activity will be in place organised by the teacher.

Children never leave the school premises once they have arrived, or leave school early unless parents, or adults appointed by the parents, are available to take them. If parents wish their children in Years 5 and 6 to walk home on their own the Headteacher must receive a written request from the parents. We would not sanction any child younger than this to walk home on their own. Mobile phones are not brought into school unless on exceptional circumstances and agreed by the headteacher with the parents.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Sibsey Free School supply hot cooked meals at lunch time. There is a choice of meat or vegetarian meal. Parents who wish their children to take up one of these options order on line with our provider. Details available from the school office. Should your child not wish to take up these options you will need to provide a packed lunch. Please ensure that the lunch you pack is as healthy as it can be. If you require guidance please ask our administrator for information on healthy packed lunches. Please make sure that the food is in suitable containers, preferably plastic boxes and that drinks are not in glass bottles or cans.



Supervision of the children at lunchtime is delegated to the lunch time supervisors. The supervisors have the same authority as other staff and children are expected to respond in a similar fashion.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to a free school lunch (income based) details can be obtained from the school administrator.



During the day all children will have access to fresh drinking water. The children may also bring a snack to be eaten during the mid-morning break. We would encourage you to send a more 'healthy' snack such as fresh fruit, vegetables or plain biscuits rather than crisps or chocolate. Sweets should not be brought to school, as they are very dangerous in a playground situation. The school operates as a 'nut free' zone.

Whole School Curriculum

As the children move through the school they move from learning through play, to a more formal approach. We aim to foster a love of reading, to develop independent, creative thinkers and to promote the highest standards in all that we do.

We provide a challenging, broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is accessible to all our pupils. We believe that school is an important influence on a child's development and our curriculum promotes the academic, physical, cultural, moral, spiritual, and social welfare of each individual pupil. It seeks to develop the potential of every child in order to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and provide a sound basis for future education.

Their work is based on the basic curriculum, which is made up of the National Curriculum subjects of Mathematics, English, science, design and technology, computing, history, geography, art and design, physical education, music and modern foreign languages together with the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus for religious education.

The children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is of great importance to us and is emphasised whenever possible. Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) is covered in a variety of ways both as an aspect of other subject areas and explicitly as a subject in its own right.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

Religious Education is taught throughout the school, according to the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious which has been tailored by the school.

The act of Collective Worship is a very important part of our school day. The children gather in assembly - sometimes we meet as a whole school, for example on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, on other occasions the children meet in Key Stages or as class groups. There is always an opportunity for quiet reflection or prayer, wherever the children meet.

The Vicar of the Parish Church of St. Margaret's visits the school regularly to undertake Collective Worship. We also attend church on a regular basis celebrating the major events in the church's year and celebrating the success of our leavers at the end of the summer term. Our Collective Worship Policy provides the opportunity for parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship after consultation with the Headteacher. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education by written request to the Headteacher.



Relationships and Sex Education

We aim to support the child's development towards becoming a socially responsible adult, within a caring, moral and family orientated environment. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from formal Sex Education lessons, other than those parts which are required by the National Curriculum Science Orders, by written request to the Headteacher.

All sex education is carefully planned within the schools' curriculum framework and is undertaken as part of Personal Social and Health Education. In Y5 and Y6 the children are shown a health education video as part of their sex education. Parents have the opportunity to view this prior to the video being shown to the children.

Physical Education

Our Physical Education curriculum comprises of a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Throughout the year this will include such things as gymnastics, games, dance, athletics and swimming.

Swimming lessons are available for pupils in Key Stage 2 and we aim to have all our children reaching 25 metres before they leave us at the end of Year 6.

We invite local sporting organisations into work with the children on their Physical Education activities and they support the teachers in their delivery of P.E. lessons.

For indoor P.E. most children wear our blue and white P.E. kit, comprising of T-shirt, plimsolls and shorts. For outdoor activities they will require shirt, shorts, trainers and tracksuits (depending on the weather) Training shoes with coloured soles are not to be worn in the hall and tracksuits or jogging bottoms are only worn for outside activities.



The children keep their P.E. kits at school, preferably in a drawstring P.E. bag to place in their lockers. Parents can help us enormously by ensuring that the appropriate kit is always at school and all kit is clearly labelled – it helps us reunite lost items with owners!



Health and Safety in Physical Education.

For Physical Education, Games and Swimming lessons, parents are expected to help their children observe the following simple but essential rules.

Bare-feet or plimsolls in the hall for gymnastics/dance.

Shorts, vest or t-shirt should be worn when P.E. is inside in the hall.

Jogging bottoms, tracksuits, sweatshirts and trainers can be worn for outside P.E. activities on the field or playground.

Children should have separate footwear for outside activities.

Long hair should be tied back - this is particularly the case with swimming, where a swim cap can be used as an alternative.

Ear studs should be removed before any PE session (including swimming); if they cannot be removed then the child must tape over his/her ears before taking part.

Homework

Expectations for homework vary according to the age and ability of the children.

Aims of homework in our school:

- To develop independence and individual responsibility.
- To provide opportunities to improve the quality of learning for children. To allow children the opportunity to practise skills and develop knowledge in a broad range of curriculum areas - but particularly Numeracy and Literacy. To extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision. To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership.
- To provide parents and pupils the opportunity to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- In Year 6, to prepare the children for secondary transfer where homework expectations increase.

There is a homework progression map on the school website. In Key Stage 1 homework will tend to focus on reading, and basic number work such as simple addition and subtraction with the end of Key Stage 1 beginning work on their multiplication tables. In Key Stage 2 this type of work will continue but will be enhanced with problem solving, research and development of English and Mathematics work carried out in the classroom.

From time to time your child may also bring home work which has not been finished in class. We hope that you will support us in helping your child with their unfinished class work should this occur.

Homework should not be a stressful experience for child or parent and we emphasise the importance of spending no more than half an hour on any activity sent home unless the child specifically asks to spend more time on it. Advice is sent out on termly curriculum newsletters.

Your support is vital!

Please help your child by sharing their reading book with them and helping them to learn their number bonds to 20 and all their times tables. These basic skills, coupled with you enabling them to have real life experiences such as counting and handling money, are hugely beneficial.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

We are extremely proud of our outdoor classroom, which supports our curriculum learning outside. In Reception, children are fortunate to experience the Forest School approach throughout the year.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The school offers a range of after school and lunchtime clubs to the children. These clubs are usually run by teaching staff, teaching assistants and outside agencies. They include TAG rugby, computer, choir, football, netball, origami, musical drama, gym, arts and craft. We have also run dance, athletics, badminton, table tennis and a chess club. The sports clubs can include matches against other schools.

We have peripatetic music teachers who visit the school weekly and instruct the children in woodwind, percussion, piano and guitar. There is a charge for this facility but it provides our most able musicians with the opportunity to take part in extended music tuition. Other musical opportunities are provided with participation in Musical Drama groups, choir performances and the annual Spilsby Music Festival.

We have regular visitors to school who come to enhance our curriculum. We are regularly visited by theatre groups or specialist groups. Every class will endeavour to have at least one educational visit per year, linked to an aspect of their curriculum. These may include a visit to a site of historical, geographical or religious interest.

We also offer the children in Year 5 and Year 6 the opportunity to participate in a residential activity, approximately 4 days in duration. These activities are carried out on a biannual basis, typically with children visiting Castleton and the surrounding area in Derbyshire in the first year and the following year the children attending Burwell Residential Centre in Cambridgeshire where amongst other things they make a short film.

Bikeability Training, the use of cycles and walking to school



We encourage as many children as possible to walk to school as part of our Healthy Schools' Initiative. We are also keen to promote the use of cycling as a method of travelling to school. Our ultimate aim is to reduce the amount of congestion

outside school at the beginning and end of each day and to improve the health of our children.

As regards cycling to school, only children who have obtained their Bikeability Certificate are permitted to cycle to school. Children are trained in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6).

Pupil Involvement

We promote the involvement of children in decision-making connected with school life. The Pupil Voice Committee, which is made up of a number of children from across the year groups, meets regularly (with adult support) to discuss, canvas opinion from around the classes and then plan initiatives to improve life in our school. Projects that have been particularly successful include the renovation of the toilets, new playground markings, a school and anti-bullying code (which has been integrated into whole school policies), and a multitude of fundraising events.



Children are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school. They are given every opportunity to make comment on how things are organised and what could be done to make life in school even more enjoyable. Children from the Pupil Voice Committee consult with classmates about school events. They also attend planning meetings with Governors and devise rules for the benefit of the whole school community.

We promote the concept of Peer Mediation where older children act as mediators in minor disputes between children and help to resolve small problems under the guidance of adults. Children also act as Playground Leaders to guide younger children in play activities and games. There are also 'Legacy Ambassadors' who promote the values of the Olympics and encourage children in school to play more active roles in the community and within sporting organisations. We also have children trained as First Aiders that support their younger peers on the playground.

Assessment and Monitoring Progress

Through our school curriculum we set expectations for learning and attainment explicit to pupils, parents, teachers and governors and establish standards for the performance of all children.

Children in the EYFS will undertake a Baseline Assessment when they arrive at school.

In addition to the ongoing teacher assessments for all children carried out on a daily basis, children will be assessed in English and Mathematics in Year 6 by a combination of teacher assessment and standardised tests set by the Department for Education.

Children undertake formal summative assessments at regular intervals during their time at our school alongside regular teacher assessments. These are used by the teachers to support their work and their assessment judgements and to report progress made.



Informing parents of progress

There are opportunities for parents to attend formal consultation evenings each term in order to discuss with the class teacher their child's development. We also provide opportunities for parents to come into school when the children are working to see the type of learning in which they are engaged. We also have Curriculum Workshops and Open days where parents are able to see at firsthand how certain aspects of the curriculum are taught.

The class teachers will send parents a brief summary report on their child's progress at the end of the every term. At the end of the academic year each child receives a detailed written report that reflects their performance during the course of the year. These annual reports comply with all Local Authority and government requirements. Should there be any occasion when you wish to see either the Headteacher or class teacher for a matter concerning your child or to see the educational records of your child's achievements then you are asked to contact the school to make an appointment. Teachers are always willing to help with any queries or problems which may arise.

Parental and Governor Involvement

Parents and governors are encouraged to work closely with the staff of the school for the benefit of the children.

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to discuss with the Headteacher any matters which concern the education and wellbeing of their child. The teachers are pleased to meet with parents. If the problem is not too pressing, advanced notice would be appreciated. Parents are always made to feel welcome and are encouraged to become involved in the life of the school whilst always being expected to follow the Lincolnshire Parent Code of Conduct. Parents and friends of the school will often be asked to help in different activities and in the preparation and collection of resources.

The governors are kept fully informed on curriculum developments and make regular visits to see the children at work. Some Governors have a curriculum area or other responsibility and regularly liaise with the relevant staff over developments in these areas.

Parents and volunteers are very welcome in our school to support the children in their learning. Many parents come into school to assist with activities such as reading, art, baking and sport as well as offering expertise during special curriculum weeks. The school recognises its responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children and all volunteers undergo an Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check before they work with the children.

Friends of Sibsey Free School

This organisation comprises parents, friends of the school and staff who are committed to supporting the school by raising funds and organising social events. In recent years the group has provided us with an outdoor classroom, school trips, classroom materials, computer equipment, playground and field equipment, games for the children and interactive whiteboards. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

In The Pines class, we want children to be engaged in the learning process and for their learning to be relevant and purposeful. Therefore, our philosophy is centred on the notion that children learn best by doing. We know that play, both indoors and outdoors, is an ideal vehicle for young children's learning. Play helps children to explore, investigate and make sense of the world around them. Play allows children to be challenged in their thinking and helps them to practice and rehearse skills and to be motivated in their learning

During the morning we focus on phonics, reading, writing and maths, which is delivered in a very practical and interactive hands on way.

We are very focused on the children's physical development, from their gross motor (large muscles groups, needed for physical activity) to their fine motor (small muscle groups, like fingers needed for good pencil grip). Every morning the children are involved in the "Movement for learning" program for young children.

In the afternoon we are very much driven by the children. Children's interests are very much 'in the moment' and this is why in we teach "In the moment" and our planning is often spontaneous, building on the interests of the children.

Each week the children also take part in Forest School. Children are able to explore, discover and initiate their own learning and development. Each child will experience appropriate risk and challenge and experience regular success. Positive relationships with others and the natural world are encouraged.



Education for All

Every member of Sibsey Free School is regarded as of equal worth and importance, irrespective of his/her religion/ belief, culture, class, race, gender, age, sexuality and or disability.

Inclusion Statement:



Sibsey Free School is committed to enabling all children to reach their full potential, having full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, to be fully included in the school community, and as a result, make a successful transition to secondary education and so into adulthood.

All Pupils will learn best in a school where they are valued for who they are and for the unique contributions they make to the school community. This is part of the whole ethos of Sibsey Free School. We promote the inclusion of all children and recognise the particular needs of those with SEN (Special Educational Needs), e.g. children with Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. dyslexia), those with sensory or physical impairments, those with speech and language difficulties and those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.

Not every child will find all aspects of school life straightforward, and as our school is committed to meeting the needs of all its children, there will be occasions when a child may require further support in a specific area. This may be because of a learning difficulty or equally because a child is gifted in a particular aspect of the school curriculum.

Further information about this and our approach to Gifted and Talented pupils can be found on our website.

School Policies

The school operates policies covering Pupils, Staff and the Curriculum. Copies of policies can be found on the school's website www.sibseyprimaryschool.squarespace.com, or are available by request from the school office.

Complaints Procedure

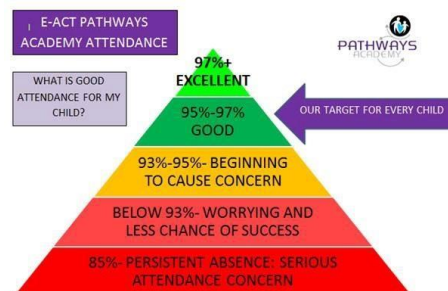
At our school we aim to deliver the best possible education to all our children and to care for their health, safety and welfare at all times. From time to time, however, it is possible that we have not lived up to your expectation. If this does happen please tell us. If you do not tell us, we will not be aware of your concern, and therefore there will be little we can do to set things right. So if you have a worry or concern about what is happening in school, PLEASE TELL US AT ONCE. The school has adopted a Complaints Procedure which gives helpful information on the best way of expressing any such concerns.

If you feel you have a problem concerning your child's education, then please approach the class teacher initially. If after this first discussion you are still unhappy, then please make an appointment to see the Headteacher. If you still feel your complaint has not been dealt with adequately, please put all the details in writing and address your letter to the Clerk of the Governing

Body, whose name appears at the front of this brochure. Your complaint will then be dealt with by one of the Governor Committees. If you wish to take the matter further details of how to do this are in the school's Complaints Procedure.

Absence

If your child is away from school due to illness or any other reason, the school should be notified. It is important that you contact the school as soon as possible on the morning of the first day of absence so that we can be sure that your child is safe. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you by 9.30 a.m. the administrative staff will contact you to establish the reason for your child's absence. If the school is not informed this will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and the number of such absences is recorded on the school management system



Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital for a child's development.

Absence from school for any reason, can have a negative impact on a child's educational progress. Holidays taken during term time are discouraged and any parent wishing to do so will be required to complete an application form which is available on the school website or from the school office. Any such holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will not be approved and will be registered as unauthorised absences. The governors are constantly striving for improved attendance and in some individual cases may be forced to issue a fixed penalty notice.

Medical Needs

The school operates a Special Medical Needs Policy which includes medical needs relating to asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis and any other long term medicinal need, physical difficulties, plus guidance on other, less common conditions.

Sickness / Diarrhoea

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, please keep him/her off school for 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped. This type of illness spreads so quickly between children.

Medication

We recognise that at some time in their lives most children will require some form of medication. No child will be excluded from school, solely on the grounds of their need for medication and we would welcome any parent who wishes to administer their child's medication. All medicines that are kept on the school premises will be stored in a way which ensures safety for those not requiring the medication but ease of access for those who are.

If parents wish a member of staff to administer short term medication, it should be in the original packaging and must be prescribed by a doctor or dentist. The medication must be clearly marked with the child's name and dosage and must be accompanied by a completed short term medication form (available from school).

Inhalers for asthma are kept where the children who need them have access. In EYFS and Key Stage 1 they will be kept by, and their use monitored by, the class teacher or First Aider. As children

progress through the school and prepare for secondary transfer they will be expected to take some responsibility for their own inhalers.

Whilst medicines may be administered by members of staff, under the direction of the School First Aider, the school accepts no responsibility for any reaction or consequence in the administration of medicines, nor will we accept any responsibility for failure to administer medicines for any reason whatsoever.

Furthermore the school categorically refuses to allow its staff to administer medicines where:

- Any aspect of technical or medical knowledge or expertise is required, unless staff are trained and have written permission from the parent ii) Any aspect of administration is crucial to the child's welfare.
- Intimate physical contact is necessary. Unless this is necessary for the administration and staff are trained and have written permission from the parent.

Health care plans are held for those children with health care needs requiring longer term medication.

Full details are available in the school's Special Medical Needs Policy available on the school website or by request from the school office.

First Aid

The school has trained First Aiders, who will deal with minor cuts, grazes etc. In addition staff have emergency first aid training. Accidents that occur during the school day are recorded in the appropriate book depending on the severity. Where a head injury occurs, a form will be sent home to notify the parents of the accident. When a more serious injury occurs, we will make every effort to contact you immediately.

Hair

Any hair which is long enough to cover a face should be tied back when appropriate.

Emergency Numbers

You will be requested to provide us with a list of emergency contact numbers at the beginning of the school year and we do request that parents/carers keep us updated with changes of jobs, telephone contacts, child minders etc. as in the event of an emergency only a relative can give permission for a child to be treated by a doctor or nurse.

Child Protection

Sibsey Free School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all the children in school. We follow the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures when dealing with any issues that arise. In most circumstances, the school will initially endeavour to discuss all concerns about their child(ren) with parents/carers. However, in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with Child Protection procedures, the school will discuss their concerns with Social Care and/or the Police without parental permission. The school will always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents.

Safeguarding encompasses all issues connected with the welfare and safety of children. Policies connected with safeguarding are available on the school's website or available from the school office. Whilst not exhaustive, the following is a list of policies available: Child Protection, Safer Recruitment, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour, Care and Control, Special Educational Needs, Special Medical Needs, Race Equality, Health and Safety, Procedure for safe use of Photographs, Drugs and Drug related Incidents, Confidentiality and online safety.

Rewarding Success

At Sibsey Free School we aim to work from the positive. Children are praised for good behaviour and receive reward and recognition for good work and effort. Our aim is to help children realise that there is more to be gained and more credit given for good examples of effort and achievement than there is for poor behaviour or lack of effort.

We recognise the unique contribution that all children make to life at our school and all children are valued accordingly. Every effort is made to give credit where it is due and to encourage positive behaviour. We encourage respect for people and property and good manners are actively promoted. There is a feeling of mutual respect between all members of the school community.

Across all the Key Stages of the school children receive team points, stars and stickers for examples of quality work and effort. For those children showing concerted effort and achievement over a period of time, special certificates are awarded.

At the end of each half term the teachers identify children from each class to receive special certificates for outstanding achievement during the course of the term. Parents are invited into school to watch the children receive the awards.

Certificates are regularly given out for sporting achievement and success. Whenever we have special events in school children are rewarded for their contributions.

At the end of each academic year special awards are made to our Year 6 leavers for their contributions to life in our school over the time they have been with us. This includes a special award from the church for outstanding care for others.



Behaviour

We set very high standards of behaviour at Sibsey Free School. We have few school rules but we do stress the need for politeness, courtesy, responsible behaviour, consideration and respect for each other and property. We want all who work and play at school to feel happy and valued members of the community. The overall responsibility for the behaviour, safety and discipline in our school lies with the Headteacher, supported by the staff.

The children are periodically reminded of their responsibilities by the Headteacher and staff.

In dealing with behaviour emphasis is placed on the positive, emphasising good behaviour rather than always identifying misbehaviour.

If we have concerns about the behaviour of a child we invite parents to school to discuss the matter. Equally good behaviour will be praised and recognised.

We stress the need for politeness and respect for each other and property, for we want all who work and play at school to feel happy and valued members of the community. The school's Behaviour Policy and a written statement regarding behaviour at school are available on the school website.



Objectives

1. All members of the school will be guided and encouraged to act with due regard for their own and other's safety.
2. All members of the school should act sensitively to the feelings and needs of others.
3. Children will be guided and encouraged to develop an understanding of their role and responsibility towards themselves and others.
4. Acceptable behaviour will be clearly defined and children will be reminded of what is acceptable behaviour.
5. All staff will set high standards of behaviour for the children to witness.
6. Children will be praised and encouraged whenever they exhibit good standards of behaviour and work to the best of their ability.
7. Guidance will always be available for children who need to share worries and gain additional support.

Transfer to Secondary School

Sibsey Free School is in a selective area. This means that parents, **if they wish**, can opt for their children to take the eleven plus examination during Year 6. From the results of these tests the children will be offered a place at a school which is seen to be appropriate. We are unable to make recommendations to parents, but are always willing to be available for consultation on this or any other issue concerned with secondary transfer.

This school feeds several secondary schools, the most usual being:

William Lovell Church of England Academy, Stickney

Boston Grammar School for boys (A selective academy)

Boston High School for girls (A selective academy)

The Giles Academy, Old Leake

Skegness Academy, Skegness

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Horncastle (A selective academy)

King Edward VI Academy, Spilsby

It is strongly recommend that parents and children discuss their preferences together and that parents take the opportunity to visit the schools and talk to the staff before making a decision. All of these schools offer ample viewing opportunities to parents before making any final choice.

