



St. Stephen's
Church of England
Primary School



*"Happy kids performing well, supported
by great staff, can't ask for much more!"
Parent Survey 2017*





St STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

Welcome to St. Stephen's

Welcome to St Stephen's C of E School Twickenham. We have a long tradition of providing a wonderfully rounded education for our children at our two-form entry school. Our passion for ensuring every child reaches their full potential within a happy, stimulating and secure environment means that we are the school of choice for local families. We are noted for our excellent pastoral care and imbue our children with a sense of care and respect for each other, their school family and the wider community.

We believe that every child should be encouraged to achieve the highest standards possible, in an atmosphere where all success, great or small, is properly celebrated. Our wonderful cross curricular approach to learning means children study each topic in-depth and across many disciplines, ensuring their subject knowledge is secure. Every child should be taught to accept and understand people with different beliefs, needs and circumstances to their own; enabled to develop morally and spiritually, gaining a growing knowledge of the Christian faith; given confidence to grow in responsibility and independence, equipping them for the challenges that lie ahead.

Our mission, as staff, governors, parents and members of the wider school community, is to make this vision a reality, constantly building each other up in love and learning.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family into our school community.

***St. Stephen's is highly ambitious for its children
and is a school that is going places.
OFSTED***



“The children are happy, the teachers love children, and my son loves his teachers. I really appreciate the personalised work with my son.”

Inclusion

St Stephen's is committed to providing a high quality education for all the children in our school. We believe that all children have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them, to be fully included in all aspects of school life. All children can make outstanding progress and we move each child from their individual starting points. We have high expectations of all children. Regardless of ability, every child's progress is regularly checked and any child who appears to be stuck is acknowledged and enabled to move forward again.

Additional Needs

Our aim is to break down the barriers that impact on happiness and learning. Additional needs can be both academic and emotional; we address all aspects of development. Carefully tailored interventions support children's development. These include early morning reading groups and social communication groups to promote friendship development.

All children are provided with opportunities that ensure they make progress. Children display talents in a range of areas, including music, core subjects, arts, sport and leadership. Successes are celebrated in and out of school. Again the school's high expectations move children forward, wherever their individual starting point.

“I think St Stephen's is a very happy, friendly school which prioritises the well-being of pupils.”

Independence

Part of our success is due to our emphasis on children achieving high level of independence. We feel that this life skill will ensure lifelong learning and consequently success. From reception, we are determined that children begin to do things for themselves. We will model and support, whilst encouraging children to be independent. Children learn by doing things for themselves

This emphasis on independence continues across the school learning to adopt the 5 Rs – resourcefulness, resilience, responsibility, reflectiveness and readiness. By the end of Year 6, we expect children to be able to apply skills readily and take responsibility for their own learning. This, combined with great teaching, is a powerful tool which builds success.

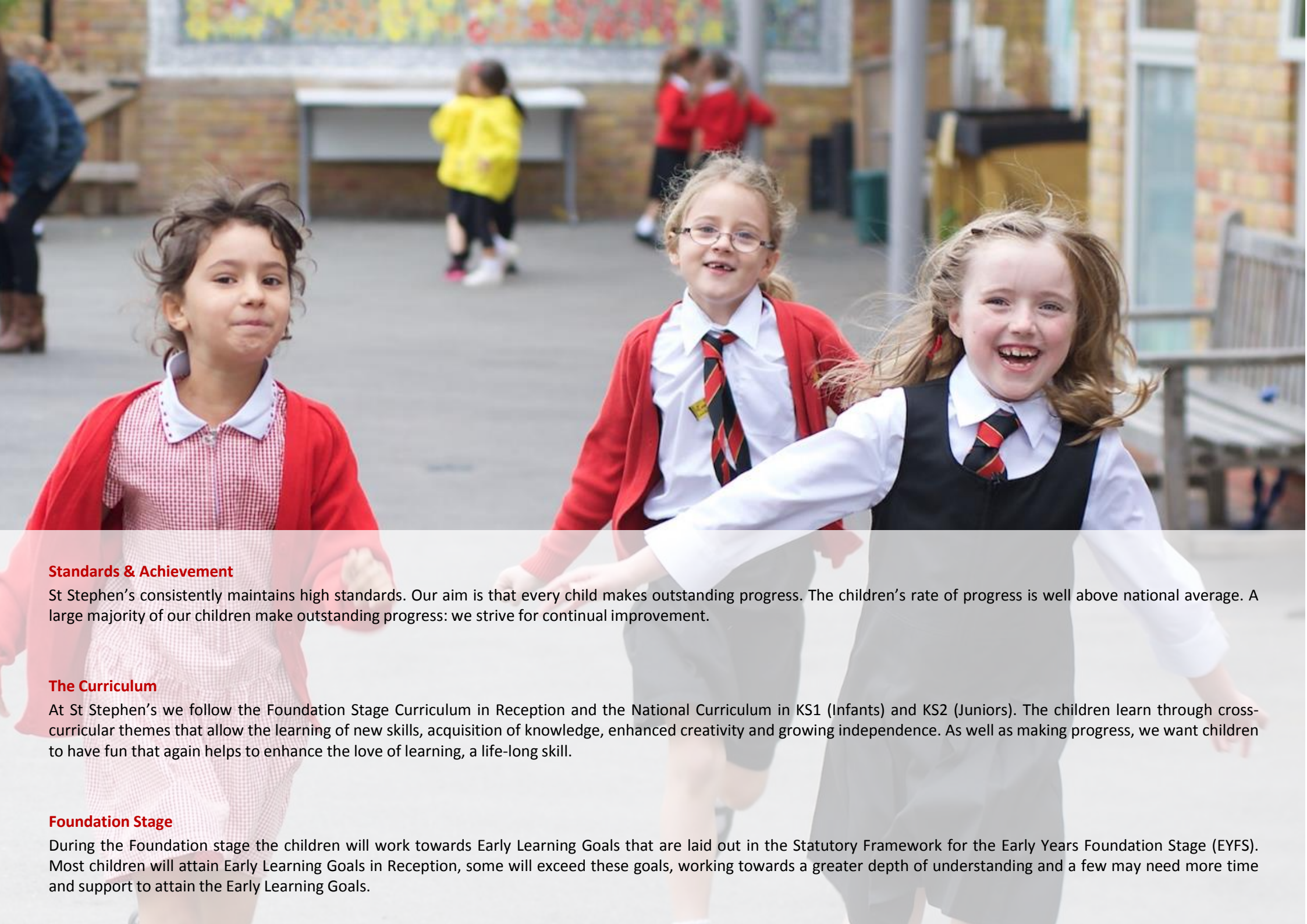
Pastoral Support

We have a reputation for outstanding pastoral support. For us, a child will only learn effectively if he or she is happy and feels safe. We work closely with parents to achieve this. Early intervention is the key. The school deploys specific interventions for children who may be experiencing difficulties, either inside or outside school.

Fun & Enjoyment

We believe that for children to make progress, they need to have fun and enjoy learning. We have high expectations of our children but also want them to develop a passion for learning. St. Stephen's provides fun and practical activities to support children, and as a result they make fantastic progress.





Standards & Achievement

St Stephen's consistently maintains high standards. Our aim is that every child makes outstanding progress. The children's rate of progress is well above national average. A large majority of our children make outstanding progress: we strive for continual improvement.

The Curriculum

At St Stephen's we follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum in Reception and the National Curriculum in KS1 (Infants) and KS2 (Juniors). The children learn through cross-curricular themes that allow the learning of new skills, acquisition of knowledge, enhanced creativity and growing independence. As well as making progress, we want children to have fun that again helps to enhance the love of learning, a life-long skill.

Foundation Stage

During the Foundation stage the children will work towards Early Learning Goals that are laid out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Most children will attain Early Learning Goals in Reception, some will exceed these goals, working towards a greater depth of understanding and a few may need more time and support to attain the Early Learning Goals.



The underlying principles of this document are grouped into four themes:

A Unique Child

Positive Relationships

Enabling Environments

Children Develop and Learn in Different Ways at Different Rates

Play underpins the delivery of all the EYFS and activities and resources provide a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. These are planned around the three prime and four specific areas of learning:

Prime areas

Communications and language
Physical development
Personal, social and emotional development

Specific areas

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the world
Expressive arts and design

At St Stephen's we teach these areas in a comprehensive, cross-curricular way. Topic-based activities and resources, both indoors and in our outdoor classroom, offer a rich environment where children can explore, express themselves and develop their potential.

“What sets the School above all others in the area, is its ethos and value of each child. It is the Christian values, whilst respecting children of all faiths. It is kind.”

Religious Education (RE)

Through RE and Collective Worship lessons, children are given the opportunity to build up a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We work closely with the Parish Church of St Stephen's whose team come into school on a weekly basis to lead a collective worship assembly.

During RE lessons children will be taught the skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and enquiry through planned activities. We encourage children to debate their views as well as share their 'big' questions about God. To enrich their experiences of RE children are able to explore a range of religious artefacts and visit places of worship.

As we are a Church school we devote a greater amount of time in the curriculum to the study of Christianity. We also cover four other world faiths - Judaism, Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism. Each year group will focus on a different world faith and this learning is very much enriched by guest speakers from the local and school community as well as the children themselves.

Our school values of friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace underpins all that we do at St Stephen's.





“Pupils all seem very happy and have a genuine concern for each other's wellbeing.”

Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship (PSHE&C)

PHSE&C seeks to educate the children in a way that builds self-awareness and positive self-esteem. It encourages the confidence to live healthily, keep safe, develop worthwhile and fulfilling relationships, respect for difference, become independent and responsible, play an active role as a member of a democratic society and make the most of their own and other people's abilities. These personal and social attitudes underpin our whole-school ethos. We encourage all our pupils to play a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community through class and school councils, fundraising events, supporting charities and involvement in community activities. We encourage children to foster pastoral relationships between year groups, for example reading with younger peers. An entrepreneurial spirit is also fostered with a variety of projects, such as Year 6's Stride programme. The PSHE&C programme includes drugs, sex and relationships education.

Sex and Relationships Education in KS2

Parents, teachers and governors have developed a comprehensive sex education programme. It is taught through PSHE&C and Science, in the context of family life, loving relationships and respect for others. The school policy is available to parents, who are invited to view teaching materials prior to the start of the programme of study. Parents are also given the opportunity to evaluate the teaching programme afterwards, as constructive feedback is always welcome and is used to inform future lessons.

The course takes account of all children's needs; however we respect parents' rights to withdraw their children from those parts of the programme not included in the National Curriculum.



“The children are happy, the teachers love children, and my son loves his teachers. I really appreciate the personalised work with my son.”

Maths

The 21st Century with all its change, challenges and opportunities means that children need a mathematical skill set that encompasses problem solving, independence as a learner and curiosity about the world. Here at St Stephen’s that is what we do: we equip our children with a life-long skill set that will help them to achieve their potential in mathematics. Furthermore, they get to use and apply these mathematical skills across the broader curriculum and get to see maths in real-life, purposeful contexts such as gathering data in Science, coding in Computing and entrepreneurial schemes in PSHE.

Our activities in learning are very much tailored to guide, support and challenge children on a mathematical journey whereby they can articulate their thinking using a range of strategies. We build children’s numerical confidence around a practical understanding of how number systems work using a variety of different manipulatives and mathematical representations. Children across the school – and of all abilities - are then encouraged to apply their acquired understanding, knowledge and skills to solve mathematical problems with confidence and complete investigations with competence and curiosity.

At St Stephen’s we want children to feel positively about maths thus being equipped to tackle increasingly complex challenges. Our classroom culture is one where mistakes are fine, even celebrated for the learning opportunity they offer, where children can change their mind, where everyone’s ideas are valued and children challenge themselves to be the best they can be at mathematics.

“So impressed at how quickly our son learnt to read - I never imagined that in just one year, he'd have the confidence and ability to read whole stories to his younger siblings! He loves it.”

English

At St Stephen's, we believe a high-quality education in English is vital to teach pupils to speak and write fluently. They can then communicate their ideas and emotions to others, and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them.

We aim to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

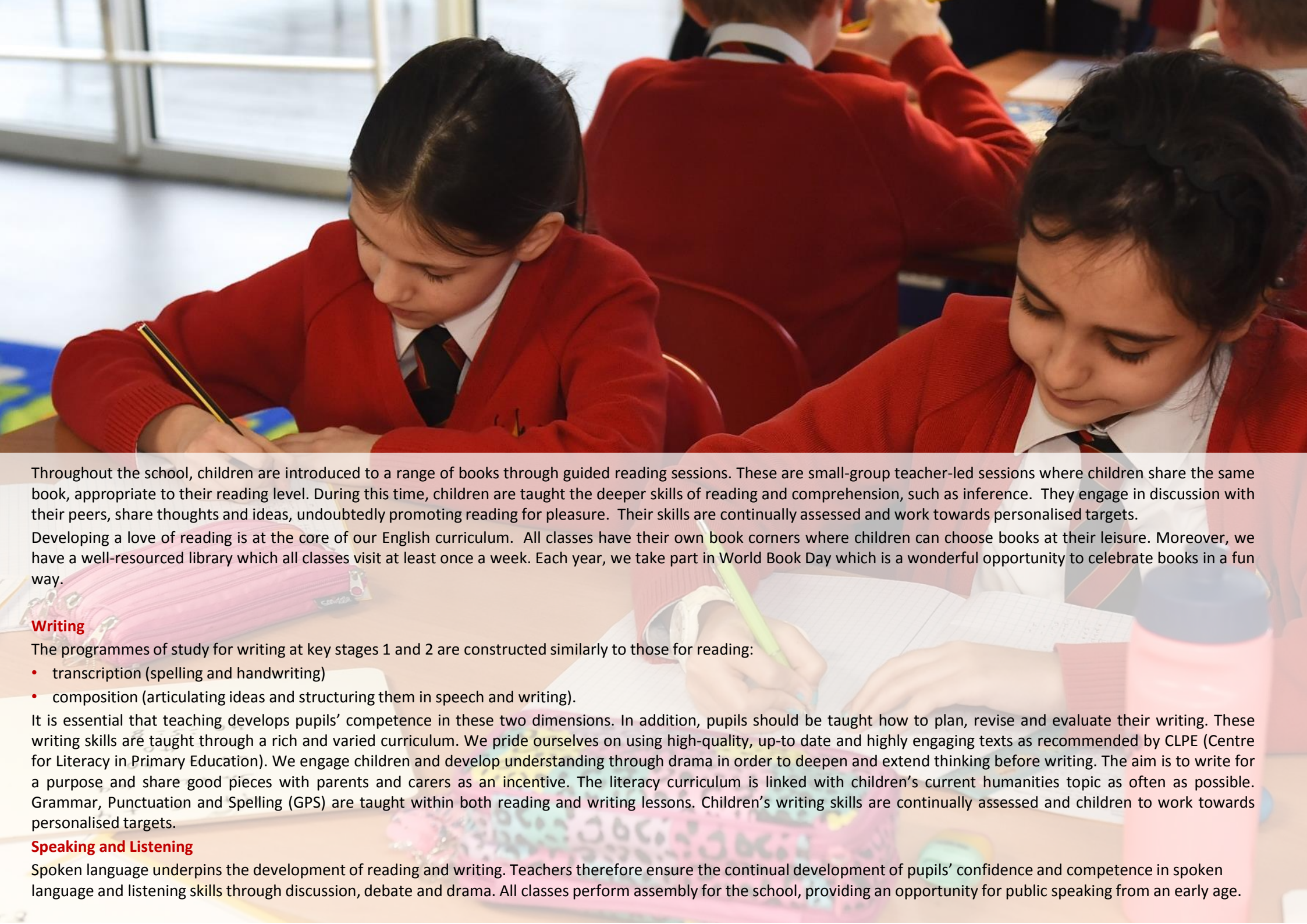
Reading

The programmes of study for reading at key stages 1 and 2 consist of two dimensions:

- word reading
- comprehension (both listening and reading)

In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, all children learn to word read using a well-trusted phonics programme called Read Write inc. Alongside this, children are exposed to a wide range of 'real books'.





Throughout the school, children are introduced to a range of books through guided reading sessions. These are small-group teacher-led sessions where children share the same book, appropriate to their reading level. During this time, children are taught the deeper skills of reading and comprehension, such as inference. They engage in discussion with their peers, share thoughts and ideas, undoubtedly promoting reading for pleasure. Their skills are continually assessed and work towards personalised targets.

Developing a love of reading is at the core of our English curriculum. All classes have their own book corners where children can choose books at their leisure. Moreover, we have a well-resourced library which all classes visit at least once a week. Each year, we take part in World Book Day which is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate books in a fun way.

Writing

The programmes of study for writing at key stages 1 and 2 are constructed similarly to those for reading:

- transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing).

It is essential that teaching develops pupils' competence in these two dimensions. In addition, pupils should be taught how to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. These writing skills are taught through a rich and varied curriculum. We pride ourselves on using high-quality, up-to date and highly engaging texts as recommended by CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education). We engage children and develop understanding through drama in order to deepen and extend thinking before writing. The aim is to write for a purpose and share good pieces with parents and carers as an incentive. The literacy curriculum is linked with children's current humanities topic as often as possible. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) are taught within both reading and writing lessons. Children's writing skills are continually assessed and children to work towards personalised targets.

Speaking and Listening

Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. Teachers therefore ensure the continual development of pupils' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills through discussion, debate and drama. All classes perform assembly for the school, providing an opportunity for public speaking from an early age.



Computing

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. We strive to ensure that our pupils become digitally literate – able to use, express themselves and develop their ideas through information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

At the core is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation: how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content across the wider school curriculum.

We are not restricted to desktops, laptops and interactive whiteboards but also tablets, digital cameras, voice recorders, Chromebooks, Lego Education and much more! By the end of Year 6, standards are well above nationally expected levels and children apply skills across the curriculum.

‘I really enjoyed Science – we were able to mush up a banana and then squeeze it through a pair of tights to represent the actions of the small intestine.’

Science

We believe that science enhances and develops children’s social, mathematical and analytical skills, and develops important life skills such as perseverance, problem-solving, critical thinking and researching. Through the teaching of science, children develop a natural curiosity about their world.

Scientific enquiry skills are cultivated at every level through a curriculum aimed at empowering the children to act and think like scientists. Our cross-curricular approach means we link our science learning to our topics. Year 2 grew herbs and used them as an ingredient in their soup-making, while Year 6 created motorised vehicles with their knowledge of electrical circuits.

Our hands on approach provides the opportunity to get stuck - in Year One, children watched chickens incubate and hatch in their own classroom; Year Five constructed their version of the solar system, filming their papier-mache planets orbiting in the playground. Children in Key Stage 2 designed experiments, based on observing different conditions for decay. Year 4 recreated the digestive system, using vinegar and washing up liquid, to mimic the journey of food from when it enters the mouth to when it leaves the body.

We want our children to leave us with a positive attitude to science and a strong grounding in its basic concepts and disciplines so they continue to engage and develop their knowledge at secondary school.

Sport & Physical Education

At St Stephens we feel Sport and PE is a vital tool in all children's development. Through PE we aim to help children make physical progress but believe exercise also has a positive impact on their general well-being, including boosting self-esteem, self-confidence, problem solving and team games. Aaron Downes, our Sports Coach oversees our PE and Games Curriculum.

Every child will have the opportunity to take part in at least two hours PE a week. PE lessons take place in the school hall or playground and cover a wide variety of topics, including gymnastics, indoor athletics, health and fitness, dance. During games children take part in many team sports, such as tag rugby, football, netball, cricket and athletics. These are all tailored towards the Richmond Borough Sports competitions which we regularly take part in. We have enjoyed high levels of success in these competitions, going on to represent Richmond at the London School Games, achieving medals in tag rugby and football.

Our fantastic house system allows all children to engage in competitions within the school, culminating in our annual Sports Day at Orleans Park School, where every child takes part. We also have a children's sports council, that comes up with ideas for sporting opportunities for the whole school community.

All children in KS2 have the opportunity to represent the school against other local primaries. We are passionate that all children take part in physical exercise, whatever their ability.

We have also achieved the coveted Gold standard for PE and offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs.

Modern Foreign Languages

Our children's progress in Modern Foreign Languages is outstanding. The children are taught speaking, listening, reading, writing and culture. In Reception, Years 1 and 2, we teach Spanish and then French in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. To support MFL we enjoy close links with Orleans Park School and also, each year, we host student teachers from Spain to support lessons.





“I believe that the community spirit of St Stephen's is brilliant and the range of extra-curricular clubs and activities are great.”

Art

At St Stephen's, we regard the visual arts as being of prime educational importance, not least because of its undoubted ability to engage, inspire and bring fulfilment to children. Our pupils work with a wide range of media where they learn and develop skills in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and sculpture. Our lovely, new, bright and airy art room, which is reminiscent of a real artist's studio, gives classes the opportunity to create work on a large scale and in groups, making as much creative mess as they need to along the way! In other curriculum areas, children are often encouraged to choose how they show their learning, and many will select a palette of watercolours and a brush to do so, proving once and for all that art is a powerful tool of communication and self-expression. A walk around our school evidences the talent of our pupils, whether individually or under the superb guidance of our artist in residence, Susan Moodie.

Design and Technology

Our D&T lessons give pupils an opportunity to use creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real-life problems.

The children design a product from different materials (be it wood, textiles or even food), create it and then evaluate the effectiveness. In all cases children are shown how to use the specific tools correctly and safely.

For example in Year One children make felt puppets, while our Year 2 make soup from produce they have grown themselves in science. Year 5 design and build toys using cams and levers, while in Year 6 children use an electrical circuit to build motorised vehicles. This subject is often taught in a block where the children work on their ideas over the course of a week, giving them the satisfaction of seeing a project right through from design to production in a short space of time.

Music

We are passionate about Music. Our aim is for all children to have the opportunity to develop talents and gain a deeper understanding and love of music.

The school funds a variety of projects, led by the Richmond Music Trust, with the aim of enhancing children's music learning. These include weekly Music Makers sessions in Year 1, where in groups of 15 children are provided with a firm foundation to learn an instrument and start a life long love of music. This is followed up in Year 2 with recorder sessions, while in Year 3 they move on to strings, receiving lessons in the violin, cello or viola. In Year 4 the children have an opportunity to write and perform their own song during sessions on singing. Our school music teacher, Mrs Young, supports these sessions and continues the children's musical learning in Years 4,5 and 6 with class-based lessons.

We believe it is important that children of all abilities are given the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their musical talents in a variety of situations. In class lessons, children use a selection of instruments such as keyboards, glockenspiels, recorders, xylophones, computers, percussion and their own instruments. They are encouraged to perform pieces to their peers. Class assemblies feature children's performances and the whole school performs songs for occasions, such as the Harvest Festival, Easter and Carol Services. The Summer Concert is a wonderful opportunity for each year group to showcase their learning.

Many children take advantage of the RMTs one-to-one music tuition in our Music Room. A number of extra-curricular musical clubs are on offer, including orchestra, which practises weekly with music teacher Tim Wilford. We also have a thriving singing club led by Mrs Young. Both clubs perform at our school services at St Stephen's Church, while the children in singing club get to showcase their talents at the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena and the Richmond Singing Festival at Kingston's Rose Theatre. Our orchestra accompanies our Year 6 Tea Dance and performs at the RMT Prom.





“The overall atmosphere is very positive and both my children are very happy and proud to be at St Stephens. We are very positive towards the sports and music focus at the school. The teachers are normally very good and engaged and I feel that both my kids are learning on a daily basis and making good progress.”

Drama

Children regularly engage in Drama across the curriculum. They write and contribute to assemblies and productions. In the Early Years, children improvise a play and present a Nativity, whilst Year 6 pupils adapt and produce plays to much critical acclaim! There are regular opportunities for children to take ownership of their work, create their own scripts and show learning through drama.



Humanities

Developing a deeper understanding of people and places and the need to live in balance, with an increasingly fragile environment, is more important than ever in today's world. We support children in understanding their role within their locality, their country and their world. Although we follow a thematic approach, teaching is very much cross curricular and we do not lose sight of the skills essential in developing young historians and geographers.

We aim to inspire pupils to develop a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We study a range of diverse places and peoples, from the United Kingdom and Europe to the wider world. Within this, children investigate different environments and learn about the Earth's key physical and human processes. We develop the children's investigative and interpretative skills. We teach concepts of time and chronology, how to learn from the past and the part history can play in helping young people to make sense of the present, preparing them for the future. Developing an understanding of our diverse heritage, the children will move towards achieving mutual understanding in our increasingly diverse society.

Children have the opportunity to recognise their contribution to, and responsibilities for, their locality, their country and the global community. To support this, children explore their world using innovative software such as Digimaps. They use technology to research factual information on world events and historic figures. Using primary and secondary sources they are able to make inferences about the past. They also experience a wealth of field trips with key humanities themes. Off-site trips develop an understanding of skills in both geography and history. These are extended in key stage two to studies into the local area, the impact of Heathrow airport and Twickenham rugby stadium. Residential field trips to Swanage, Year 4, enable children to study the physical features of differing localities. In year 6 a trip to Belgium enables them to use their historical skills to investigate the experience of life in the trenches. In both geography and history the children are taught to respect their environment and those who live in it, values that we as school follow.

We learn from the past to secure our future.



Clubs

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, run by outside experts and our own staff. The range is impressive and covers all interests. We have everything from football to design and technology, there is something for everyone. This is a perfect opportunity for children to try out a new activity. The list may vary from year to year, with information on what's on offer available at the beginning of each term from the school office and also can be found on the website.

“And I’m gobsmacked by the amount of opportunities the school gives the children. I am a very proud parent.”

Trips

Our children enjoy many school trips which enhance and support the curriculum. These include a visit to a Hindu temple in year Four, Legoland for Reception and the Imperial War Museum in Year 6. As well as these our children go on two residential school journeys during their time at St Stephen’s.

Year Four visits the Alnatt Centre in Swanage, giving them an opportunity to study the physical and human geography of Dorset, ready for a comparative study with St Margarets on their return. This is followed by a final journey in Year Six when children travel to the Peace Village in Ypres, and ideal location for visiting the battlefields as part of their WW1 studies. These off-site residential trips are invaluable for building team spirit, getting to know your peers and having fun! Each Year Groups goes on 1 trip per term.

“The children are happy, trips and visits are diverse, the atmosphere is warm and supportive. Teachers seem to know each child very well.”



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