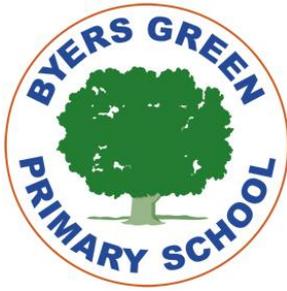




# **BROCHURE 2019 – 2020**





# Byers Green Primary School

Headteacher: Mr W. Kirtley

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Wear View  
Byers Green  
Spennymoor  
Co Durham  
DL16 7PN

July 2019

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in Byers Green Primary School. Although it seems hard to believe, we have now been in our wonderful 'new' building for over 11 years.

Our school is for children aged from 4 to 11 years. The number of children currently on roll is 85. In September 2019 the children will be organized into four classes: Reception, Years 1/2, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6. The published school admission limit for Reception is 15.

We aim to provide a safe and happy learning environment which encourages all children to reach their full potential. We value and strive for high academic standards, particularly in English and mathematics, but we also recognize that all children are individuals and nurture and support their development and progress in all aspects of their learning.

On 1 December 2015 we were visited by Mrs Christine Inkster HMI on behalf of Ofsted. In her report she made the following statement:

*"You and the leadership team have maintained the good quality of education provided by the school since the last inspection. You have high expectations of what pupils can achieve and work tirelessly to make sure that all pupils learn as well as they can. Pupils who spoke with me during the inspection confirmed that teachers explain things well to them, especially if they are 'stuck' with their work, and said, 'they get us thinking'. There is a very positive climate within the school where pupils' contributions are valued and staff morale is high. Pupils are proud of their school and they look after each other very well indeed."*

The information contained in this brochure is correct as of July 2019 but it must not be assumed that there will be no changes before the start of, or during, the following school year.

Choosing a school for your child is an extremely important decision. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or if you would like to arrange a visit.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr W. Kirtley**  
**(Headteacher)**

# **BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to develop an effective learning environment for both children and adults. It is our purpose to ensure that each individual is able to develop in an atmosphere of respect and mutual support. We are determined to provide an excellent standard of education and ensure that from the base level at which each learner starts we can demonstrate that we are clearly offering a value added experience where children are motivated to reach their full potential. We believe that each individual has positive qualities and skills and that it is our main mission to identify, extend and utilise these to the full.

**STAFF (FROM SEPTEMBER 2019)**

Mr W. Kirtley	Headteacher
Miss G. Dodds	Deputy Headteacher & Class 3 Teacher (Y3/4)
Miss L. Morgan	Class 1 Teacher (Reception)
Miss T. Forth	Class 2 Teacher (Y1/2)
Mrs G. Bradwell	Class 4 Teacher (Y5/6)
Mrs G. Mowbray	Maternity leave
Miss A. Jewett	PPA Cover Teacher
Mrs D. Hargreaves	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L. Dodd	Teaching Assistant
Mrs N. Robinson	Teaching Assistant
Miss E. Hardie	Teaching Assistant with PE Specialism
Mrs P. Blenkiron	Office Manager
Mr T. Costello	Caretaker
Mrs I. Savage	Cleaner
Mrs J. Griffiths	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs J. Hargreaves	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs S. Smith	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs J. Smith	Cook (Taylor Shaw)
Mrs A. Nicholson	Assistant Cook (Taylor Shaw)

**GOVERNORS**

<b><u>Co-opted Governors</u></b>
Mr G. Henderson (Chair)
Mrs M. Gilson (Vice Chair)
Mrs P. Blenkiron
Miss L. Brewster
Mrs A. Nicholson
Mrs J. Palmer
<b><u>Local Authority</u></b>
Cllr K. Thompson
<b><u>Parent</u></b>
Mrs C. Carr
Miss J. Longstaff
Mr J. Waters
<b><u>Staff</u></b>
Miss G. Dodds
<b><u>Headteacher</u></b>
Mr W. Kirtley

## **WHAT WILL WE AIM TO DO FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD?**

We will endeavour to:

- Care for your child's safety, welfare and happiness.
- Strive to ensure your child fulfils his/her educational potential.
- Provide a balanced, well planned, well resourced curriculum in line with local and national expectations.
- Care for the individual needs of your child.
- Set high expectations for learning and behaviour.
- Inform you of developments in school and matters relating to your child in particular.
- Be open, welcoming, receptive and supportive.
- Set and mark homework.
- Provide opportunities to discuss individual progress.
- Organise meetings for you to attend about school initiatives affecting your child.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD?**

You can help by doing the following:

- Ensure that your child attends school regularly, on time, and wearing school uniform.
- Inform school of any concerns or problems that might affect your child's learning and/or behaviour.
- Support your child in homework and other opportunities for learning.
- Attend parent-teacher and other school meetings.
- Notify school in the event of your child being absent.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

Children must arrive at school for no later than **8.55am**. At this time a bell rings and the children line up to enter their classrooms. Children are supervised by staff from **8.45am** onwards and are not allowed onto school premises before that time.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Foundation Stage &amp; Key Stage 1 (Infants)</b>	<b>Key Stage 2 (Juniors)</b>
<b>Teaching Session (including registration and assembly)</b>	9:00 – 10:30	9:00 – 10:30
<b>Morning Break</b>	10:30 – 10:45	10:30 – 10:45
<b>Teaching Session</b>	10:45 – 12:00	10:45 – 12:15
<b>Lunch</b>	12:00 – 1:00	12:15 – 1:00
<b>Teaching Session</b>	1:00 – 2.05	1:00 – 2.05
<b>Afternoon Break</b>	2:05 – 2:15	2:05 – 2:15
<b>Teaching Session</b>	2:15 – 3:15	2:15 – 3:15

The teaching time available (not including registration, breaks or assemblies) exceeds the minimum recommendations suggested by the Department for Education.

<b>Teaching Time</b>	<b>DfE recommendation per week</b>	<b>School amount per week</b>
Key Stage 1	21 hours	22 hours 30 mins
Key Stage 2	23 hours 30 mins	23 hours 45 mins

## **UNIFORM**

We request that children wear a uniform when at school. The uniform is:

<b>POLO SHIRT</b>	-	<b>NAVY</b>
<b>SWEATSHIRT/CARDIGAN</b>	-	<b>RED</b>
<b>TROUSERS/SKIRT</b>	-	<b>NAVY/GREY/BLACK</b>

The school logo is embroidered onto polo shirts and sweatshirts/cardigans. In addition to this, children's names are also embroidered close to the bottom of all sweatshirts/cardigans. This helps greatly when children mislay items of uniform. Waterproof jackets can be purchased with a reversible fleece. Also available are PE uniforms (white t-shirt, navy shorts, navy sweatshirt, navy joggers & bag), back packs and book bags. Samples are available to look at or try on in the office.

Although we do not stipulate a specific style of footwear, we ask that you ensure your child comes to school in sensible shoes or trainers. Jewellery, other than a watch (digital/analogue but no smartwatches please), should not be worn for school. If you are intending to have your child's ears pierced please try to arrange to do this during the summer holidays. Children who do come to school with studs/earrings will be required to remove them for PE lessons. Please discourage your child from coming to school with make-up, nail varnish, fake tattoos or extreme hairstyles/hair colours other than for agreed special occasions.

## **BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT**

**To make our school a safe and happy place to learn:**

- **We can follow instructions at all times**
- **We can treat other people as we would want others to treat us**
- **We can be well-mannered at all times**
- **We can treat all property with respect**
- **We can walk quietly around the school building at all times**

We have high expectations of children's behaviour and these are based around our school rules and reinforced by a clear system of rewards and consequences. Our aim is to develop in our children the idea of making the right choices about their behaviour and accepting responsibility for their actions.

## **HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT**

If we are to achieve the best possible education for your child, we need to work in close partnership with yourselves as parents. This will only happen if we all understand what is best for your child. To help with this we have a Home-School Agreement. We hope parents will work with us in keeping to the spirit of this agreement.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The purpose of our school council is to provide the opportunity for children to voice their opinions and make suggestions about school issues. It is made up of two children from each year group who are elected by their classmates.

## **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE**

The Early Years Foundation Stage is followed in the **Reception Year** and is made up of the following areas of learning and development:

- **communication and language**
- **physical development**
- **personal, social and emotional development**
- **literacy**
- **mathematics**
- **understanding the world**
- **expressive arts and design**

## **NATIONAL CURRICULUM**

Since September 2014 we have been following the new national curriculum which is outlined below:

	<b>Key stage 1</b>	<b>Key stage 2</b>
<b>Age</b>	5 – 7	7 – 11
<b>Year groups</b>	1 – 2	3 – 6
<b>Core subjects</b>		
English	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓
<b>Foundation subjects</b>		
Art and design	✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	✓
Foreign language (Spanish)	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓
History	✓	✓
Music	✓	✓
Physical education	✓	✓

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and personal, social and health education also make up part of our school curriculum.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** \*

Religious Education is a component of the basic curriculum, to be taught alongside the National Curriculum in all maintained schools. Our teaching of religious education follows the Durham Agreed Syllabus. This reflects the fact that the religious traditions in our country are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. All religious education will be non-denominational in nature, to take account of the differing beliefs and faiths within the local community and society as a whole.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP \***

Collective worship will also be non-denominational in nature. We hold a daily assembly that constitutes an act of collective worship. Assemblies are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature and encourage children to think about the part they have to play in their own lives and in the lives of others.

## **SEX EDUCATION \***

We believe that we have a shared responsibility with parents to offer relationships and sex education to children. In school we use the 'Lucinda and Godfrey' resource. This is a whole school scheme of work for Reception to Y6. It is based on two characters, Lucinda and Godfrey, who begin school together. It follows the characters through their primary years as they grow and change, providing information at an appropriate level to the children's emotional and physical maturity. In addition, the school nurse will talk to Year 5 and Year 6 children about puberty and the changes that it brings on an annual basis.

**\*Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education, collective worship and sex education. Any parent wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher for further information.**

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

We recognise that some children may need additional help and support to overcome specific difficulties and make progress. Our arrangements for identifying and assessing children with special educational needs (SEN) follow a graduated response in line with the new SEN Code of Practice which came into effect in September 2014. Further information is available on our school website.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Schools clearly need to be accessible to all pupils. Our school building was specifically designed with access in mind and is all on one level. We have accessible toilets that can be used by both disabled children and adults.

## **HOMEWORK**

We recognise the benefits of homework and will set it on a regular basis. To be successful a structured programme of homework needs the willing support and help of parents to ensure it is completed and returned to school on time. We consider that the homework set and the time needed to complete the task should reflect the age, ability and maturity of the pupils. Homework set may be to support the learning covered in class or revision. Parents can be given guidance as to how they may assist their children with homework.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Children undergo a number of formal assessments at different times during their school life:

- At the end of the Reception Year (Early Years Foundation Stage)
- At the end of Year 1 (Phonics)
- At the end of Year 2 (Key Stage 1)
- At the end of Year 6 (Key Stage 2)

Children's progress is also monitored informally across the school year by their class teacher as well as more formally (for children in Y1-Y6) through termly tests in reading, mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS AND PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS**

Each child receives an annual written report at the end of the summer term. This report includes comments on progress made during the school year and an indication of future targets. In the autumn and spring terms there are opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress formally. There may be other times during the year when parents have queries about their child's learning. Parents can always contact school and make an appointment to speak to their child's class teacher if they have any questions or concerns.

## **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION**

Byers Green Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We believe that children maximise their potential in an environment which is safe, secure and supportive of all their needs, including any needs they have for protection from abuse. Our school is committed to promoting the welfare of all children by working in partnership with parents and carers, the Local Authority (LA) and multi-agency partners in early help and child protection, in accordance with locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements procedures and practices. All staff and volunteers adhere to our policy "**Keeping Children Safe in School Safeguarding our children: Early Help through to Child Protection**" which can be viewed on our website or on request from our school office.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Good attendance is vital if children are to make good progress with their learning. It is therefore very important to ensure that all unnecessary absences are eliminated. Parents are requested to inform school on the first day of a child's absence. Failure to do this by 9.05am will result in a follow-up text message/telephone call by school. This procedure ensures that we know the whereabouts of all the children in our care. The children's safety is our primary concern and we hope parents will co-operate with this request.

The DfE has recently amended the regulations relating to attendance for all schools. References to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days have been removed and it has been made clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Local Authority is able to issue penalty notices (fines) to parents who fail to ensure their children's regular attendance at school. An absence request form must be completed for any proposed absence during term time (including family holidays).

## **MEDICAL ISSUES**

We do appreciate the difficulty of arranging medical and dental appointments, but, if at all possible, please arrange non-urgent appointments outside of school times. In cases where children have an important medical or dental appointment during school hours parents must inform school. If children have to leave school during normal school hours then an adult must come to collect them and sign them out. Children will not be permitted to leave school unaccompanied between 9.00am and 3.15pm.

Minor injuries will be dealt with in school by a member of staff who is first aid trained. In cases of more serious injury or illness parents will be contacted immediately.

Parents are asked to complete a school medicine consent form if their child needs prescribed medicine during the school day. We are not able to administer non-prescribed medicines or medicines which are only prescribed three times per day.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

It is vitally important that we have up to date contact information for all parents. Please let us know as soon as possible if you change address or telephone numbers. This is particularly important in relation to mobile phone numbers as the vast majority of our day-to-day communication is via our text message system (Teachers2Parents).

## **DINNER MONEY**

Dinner money is collected on a Monday. Please send the money in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked. As of September 2019, the cost of a school meal will be £2.05 per day (£10.25 per week). Since September 2014 all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in state-funded schools in England have been eligible for free school meals.

## **SCHOOL MILK**

Milk is provided free for Reception children until their fifth birthday. Milk is also available for purchase at a subsidised price for children aged 5 – 11 years. This is provided through the 'Cool Milk at School' scheme and forms are available from school.

## **FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

A piece of fruit or vegetable is available every day free of charge for Infant children.

## **ADULT HELPERS**

We are always looking for adults who are able to give up a little of their time and help in school on a voluntary basis. A number of adults already come into school and help in a variety of ways including hearing children read, supporting classroom activities and assisting with our book club. Any adult who would like to become involved should talk to a member of staff.

## **FRIENDS OF SCHOOL**

Our Friends of School group is made up of parents, other family members and staff. This group organizes regular activities such as coffee afternoons and discos which raise additional funds for the benefit of all our children. Anyone wishing to join please ask in school for details.

## **SAVINGS SCHEME**

We operate a well-established savings scheme through NE First Credit Union which helps to get children into the 'saving habit' from an early age. Savings can be deposited on a weekly basis and the scheme is open to adults as well as children. Anyone wishing to join please ask in school for details.

## **LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

A number of different clubs operate at various times throughout the year, some at lunchtime and others after school. Recently these have included: multisports, tag rugby, craft, chess, basketball, netball, SATs revision and drama. All of these have proved very successful and the children have benefitted greatly from the different opportunities. Parents will be informed of forthcoming activities which are appropriate for their children.

### **CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS**

Our teachers make every effort to see parents informally to discuss any concerns as quickly as possible. However, schools are busy places, particularly in the morning, and staff are not always available to see parents immediately. It may be necessary for parents to make an appointment to see the class teacher or the Headteacher at a mutually convenient time. By working together we hope that most issues will be dealt with at this stage. However, if parents feel that the problem has not been resolved they are entitled to make a formal complaint through the school complaints procedure. Copies of this policy can be viewed on our website or on request from our school office.

### **TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

At the end of Year 6 our children transfer to a variety of local secondary schools. Details are available directly from each school.

### **ADMISSIONS**

Pupil admissions are administered by the Local Authority. For further details please contact school or County Hall.