



## Welcome to our school

Our school is a village primary school admitting pupils aged between three and eleven years. It is situated in the village of Wing near Leighton Buzzard. We value and encourage the 'village school' ethos and the school's involvement in village life.

Our school provides a caring and safe environment based on mutual respect, where children achieve their full potential and develop creative, enquiring minds to prepare them for future opportunities and challenges.

The school has four interlinked buildings which are modern, spacious and well maintained. There is a large school hall, the classrooms are large and light and there are designated rooms and areas for Art, Music, Computing, and Design Technology. We also have a covered heated swimming pool.

The school is fortunate to have extensive grounds with far reaching views. Within this there is a large playing field, a playground and a special garden area for those children who prefer to sit quietly. The Nursery has its own large, well-planned outdoor area with an all weather play surface and a spacious covered area allowing learning outdoors to be an integral part of every day.

We hope that this prospectus answers all your questions. Beginning school is a milestone in all our children's lives. In sharing this information with you, we hope it goes some way to preparing you for your role in what we hope will be a fruitful partnership here at Overstone School.

Yours sincerely

Naima France  
Headteacher

**This is a good school.**

**Pupils' behaviour is good.**

**Rising standards across the school are the result of carefully-targeted intervention and actions taken by the school leaders...**

*Ofsted 2012*

# Overstone Combined School

Our mission at Overstone is to provide a caring and safe learning environment based on mutual respect, where children have the desire to achieve their full potential, and are inspired to develop creative, enquiring minds which will prepare them for the future.



Our school motto reflects our mission and is integrated into many school activities:

## Learn, Desire, Inspire

### What are our aims for your children?

At Overstone we believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience; it should also be fun. As such we aim to provide a rich and varied learning environment which allows children to develop their individual skills and abilities to their full potential. Appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy, fulfilling and rewarding lives.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- *Enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners*
- *Foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other children and adults*
- *Develop children's self respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others*
- *Show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, promote positive attitudes towards other people*
- *Enable children to understand their community and the role they play within it; to help them feel valued as part of this community*
- *Help children grow into reliable, independent, self-disciplined and caring citizens*
- *Plan and prepare children for smooth transition through the school and beyond.*



**95% of parents would recommend the school to another parent**  
*Parent & carers survey 2014*

**Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and to others.**

**The school is a cohesive, calm and orderly learning community.**

*Ofsted 2012*



# What will my child learn?



## Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

Your child will be learning skills and acquiring new knowledge across 7 areas of learning and development:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



The wide variety of activities includes speaking, listening, working with shapes, space and number and using modern technology. Music, dance, role play and imaginative play will extend the children's creative skills. Physically, the children will develop their co-ordination, control and movement through formal PE sessions and playing: both outside in the play area, and inside with water, sand and paint.

The Foundation stage is a fulfilling and enjoyable experience for our pupils providing a strong basis for a future of successful learning.

**By the end of the Reception year, children's skills are above those expected for their age in all areas of learning.**

*Ofsted 2012*

## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

## Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Our carefully planned curriculum will help your child to become proficient not only in Numeracy and Literacy, but to become a confident, independent learner and to develop a lively and enquiring mind with the ability to gain, and use, knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to her/his future life.

Literacy and Numeracy is taught in a cross-curricular approach. Through the cross-curricular approach, the children study:

- Science
- Geography
- History
- Art and Technology
- French
- Music
- PE and Games
- PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)
- 'Philosophy for Children' (P4C)
- Religious Education



Information Communication Technology is an integral part of the school curriculum and practice. The children have access to PCs, iPads and other digital software

**Standards have improved in all subjects in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 over time and are above average overall by the end of Year 6.**

*Ofsted 2012*



## What we expect from your child

High standards of behaviour are expected and achieved at Overstone. The children learn to respect and value each other and thus grow into considerate, caring adults. To do this they follow a simple Code of Conduct, which is brought to their attention through good practice, during assemblies and the day to day running of the school.

### *Our expectations*

- At Overstone, we behave with care and consideration towards other people and their property
- We are well mannered and show respect to everyone we meet at school
- We always try to understand other people's views
- We make it as easy as possible for everyone to learn
- We are considerate and move about the school sensibly
- We listen
- We take care of our school and the environment
  
- ***As pupils:***
- We always try our best at all times
- We are proud to wear our school uniform
- We are only in the school building during lesson times
- We are ready to start lessons with all equipment ready.



**'The school is friendly and I like the fact that children experience learning in a variety of contexts'**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*



**Pupils demonstrate the impact of the school's positive promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in their attitudes to each other and to adults. They are polite and welcoming. Pupils enjoy learning.**

*Ofsted 2012*



# How we enrich your child's education

## Forest School

Forest School sessions are a tried and tested format which seeks to encourage, motivate, engage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences. Your child will spend regular sessions in an area of woodland that is natural, safe and accessible, working to their usual curriculum but in an outdoor setting.

### Forest school sessions allow children:

- The time and space to explore and learn at their own pace
- To develop a relationship with their outdoor environment through frequent and regular experiences throughout the year
- To use their own inherent individual style of learning
- To develop their own self esteem and confidence
- To learn to work as part of a team
- Opportunities to make their own assessment of risk
- Opportunities to develop thinking, speaking and problem solving
- Opportunities to build on their innate motivation and positive attitude to learning
- Opportunities to help them understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.



## Eco Council

The school Eco Council has two elected representatives from each year. Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. The elected representatives meet regularly to implement new ideas, schemes and other 'green' initiatives. Overstone Combined School is delighted to have been awarded their coveted Green Flag by the Eco Council.



**'Well done Overstone Combined School! The school has developed its outside area to provide a wide variety of very interesting habitats for the children to interact and enjoy. The children are well informed about plants, trees and animal life found in their surroundings.'**

***Eco-schools assessment 2014'***

## Music lessons

Specialist teachers visit the school to teach:

- Guitar
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Violin
- Keyboard
- Drums
- Brass instruments.

There is a charge for these music lessons.

## Additional responsibilities

Year 6 pupils also have a range of responsibilities in the school, such as helping to run the School Shop, helping in the Nursery, Junior Leaders and acting as 'buddies' in the playground for the younger children.

**The 'Junior Leaders' and 'buddy system' are well received and encourage pupils to support each other.**

*Ofsted 2012*

## School Council

Our School Council plays an important role in the life of the school and allows pupil opinion to feed into school developments. Each class (from Year 1 to Year 6) elects two representatives to the School Council each year. The School Council meets regularly and is pupil-led, with children acting as the Chair and the Secretary to the Council. Each member of the School Council proudly wears a shiny badge to show his/her status.

## Clubs

Children are able to take part in a wide variety of clubs and activities, which take place at lunchtimes and after school. These are organised by members of staff.

Sporting clubs include:

- Athletics
- Football
- Netball
- Cricket
- Cross-country.



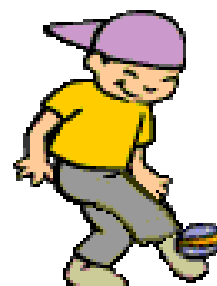
The netball and football teams regularly play matches against other local schools.

There is a diverse range of additional clubs available to the children including

- Choir
- School newspaper
- Dance
- Recorders
- Gardening
- Cookery
- Sewing
- Art.

**'Overstone has helped my children to make progress socially and academically'**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*



## School visits

Educational visits are an integral part of the curriculum and the school arranges a variety of day visits to places of interest for children from Year 1. In addition, a number of groups and individuals visit the school to perform or talk to the children.



## Links with the community

Strong links with the local community are an important aspect of school life, this includes:

- Year 6 children hosting a tea party for senior residents of the village
- Senior residents are also invited to the dress rehearsals of all concerts
- Delivery of harvest festival boxes to local residents
- Hosting an Open Evening and Community Information Fair to facilitate access to a range of information about local services.

We also encourage a sense of participation in the global community through a link with a school in Si Kunda in the Gambia via the locally-based charity 'Friends of Si Kunda', and representatives from within the village give occasional presentations about the charity's work.

## Diversity

Diversity forms a key element within the curriculum for all children at Overstone Combined School. Each class has a diversity display board which focuses on the current topic.

During Key Stage 1 topics covered include:

- Examining the culture, climate, people, food and dress in a number of countries around the world
- Barnaby Bear travelling around the world
- Learning about different religions
- Celebrations around the world
- Tasting different foods
- Listening to music from around the world
- Playing instruments from other countries.

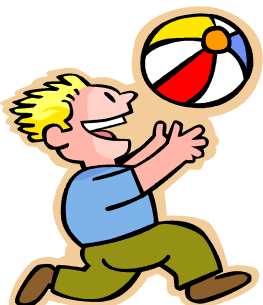
At Key Stage 2 the topics are explored in greater depth:

- Reading stories from other cultures
- Cooking and eating food from other countries.



In addition, some topics are covered as whole school events, recently these have included:

- Black History Week - learning about different important black role models through history
- World History Week - covering a range of diverse topics.



Working together



## Home School Agreement

Before your child joins the school, you will be asked to sign a Home-School Agreement. By signing this, you are agreeing to work with us in a number of ways, such as

- ensuring your child's punctuality
- promoting school rules and
- supporting the school's homework policy.

The Agreement is also signed by the Headteacher, demonstrating the school's commitment in areas such as creating a caring environment and providing access to a broad range of curricular and extra-curricular activities.

## Communication with parents and carers

We understand the need for good communication between the school and parents/carers.

We aim to communicate with parents and carers by school newsletter sent home with your child or by e-mail, and in person at open events, parents evening, and informally at the beginning or end of the school day. Parents/carers are always welcome and appointments can be easily made to talk directly or by telephone with members of staff.

**90% of parents strongly agree/agree that 'the school provides good access to my child's teachers'.**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*

We hold regular open mornings and open classrooms when parents/carers can come in to see the school at work or after school to see what their child has been doing and their classroom.

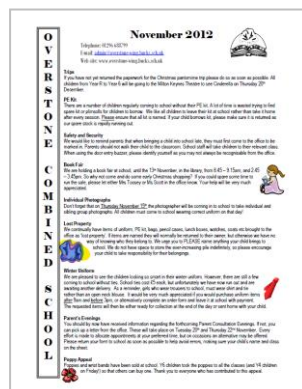
School newsletters are sent out each month, with additional newsletters going weekly to Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 and half-termly to Key Stage 2. The website is regularly updated with news and information about forthcoming events. Each Monday a 'Bits and pieces' email is sent with key reminders for the week ahead.

Many parents help voluntarily in the classrooms with activities such as listening to children read and helping with cooking.

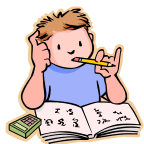
In addition, the school has a thriving Parent Teacher Association, which makes a large financial and social contribution through the organisation of a range of exciting and successful events including the annual school fete and bonfire night firework display.

## Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is vital for good educational progress and developing strong relationships. Therefore, if your child is going to be absent for medical reasons you should inform the school by note or by telephone on the morning of the first day, explaining the circumstances

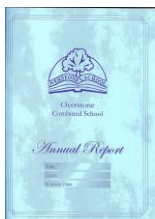


## Homework



Homework is set weekly; your child will participate in activities such as reading, spelling, writing, maths and science.

## Reports



The school will talk to you about your child's progress on a regular basis. A detailed Annual Report will be sent to you in early July.

**87% of parents strongly agree/agree that 'the end of year report gives me good information about my child's progress'.**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*

Parent Consultations are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and in the Summer term parents have the opportunity to consult staff about any queries relating to the Annual Report. Should you need to discuss your child's progress at any other time appointments can be made with the class teacher or Headteacher.

**81% of parents strongly agree/agree that 'parent's evenings give me good information about my child's progress'.**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*



**Most parents and carers think their children make good progress and inspectors agree.**

*Ofsted 2012*





## What else do you need to know?

### Safeguarding children

At Overstone the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

### Pastoral care

We have a strong commitment to pastoral care and the well being of the child because it supports learning, encourages positive behaviour and develops strong social skills. There are clear pathways for children who experience medical or emotional problems at school. Initially these may be dealt with by the class teacher, but should this not procure the desired result you, as parents, will be contacted.

### Special needs

Some children can have short or longer-term difficulties in one or more areas of the curriculum. Working with parents, the school aims to identify a child's problems early on and work for improvement in these areas. You are encouraged to bring to the school's attention any problem which might affect your child's education.

The school also recognises that a child's special needs may relate to special aptitudes, in which case the school will aim to meet these needs through its curriculum provision.

A support group for parents of children with special educational needs is hosted at the school and meets on a half-termly basis.

### Provision for pupils with disabilities

Application for admission to this school for pupils with disabilities is in accordance with the normal arrangements for admissions.

Facilities for access to the buildings and to the curriculum for pupils with disabilities are reviewed according to the individual needs of pupils. Pupils with disabilities join in with curriculum activities with other pupils as far as those particular disabilities will allow.

### Gifted and Talented

We recognise the talent of certain pupils in the core and non-core subjects, as well in extra curricular activities such as music and sport. Activities are planned to meet the needs of these pupils as well as to challenge others in an inclusive environment, encouraging all children to fulfil their potential.

### Admissions

Children will be admitted to the school on a part-time basis at the beginning of the term after his/her third birthday.

The school serves the area of Wing, Soulbury, Burcott, Mentmore, Ledburn, Crafton, Lower Ascott and Hollingdon. We always like to meet prospective parents in person. If you would like to look round the school, meet the Headteacher and staff and see for yourself what we have to offer, please telephone the School Secretary who will be happy to arrange your visit.

Children from outside the catchment area are also welcomed.

### Starting school at 3+

We aim to make your child's transition to the school environment as easy as possible, in particular by liaising closely with parents and providing appropriate contact with any previous establishments your child may have already attended.

Both you and your child will be able to visit us for taster sessions, enabling you both to see the group in operation and to become familiar with our setting. We will also visit you and your child at home before your child starts to ensure all your questions have been answered. This will help yourself and us to discuss the needs of your child and to provide you with an idea of how we run the unit.

We hold an induction meeting for parents of children joining the Nursery and Reception classes and also provide a pack of information before your child starts school.

As your child moves up through the school, you have the opportunity to meet their new class teacher and find out what they will be learning that year at our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions which are held in September.

### Attending school full-time

Children are admitted to the Reception class at the start of the school year in which they have their fifth birthday. There is one intake per year and children attend full time from the start of the September term. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any queries about this.

### Wrap around care

Wraparound childcare is available at Little Acorns Childcare from 7.30am to 6.30pm based on the school site. Little Acorns offers Breakfast Club, Lunch Club, Afterschool care and Holiday Club for school-aged children.

**'We are delighted with how well our daughter has settled into Nursery. The staff have been great and the creative activities are super.'**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*



**92% of parents strongly agree/agree that 'my child feels safe at school'.**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*

## What Ofsted said about us (May 2012)

In May 2012 Overstone Combined School was inspected by Ofsted against the new assessment criteria and framework with two days notice.



The following table summarises the findings of the inspection team:

<b>Overall effectiveness of the school</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Achievement of pupils</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Quality of teaching</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Behaviour and safety of pupils</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Leadership and management</b>	<b>Good</b>

Overstone Combined School is a good school. Ofsted noted that some of the things that make it good are:

- Pupils behave well and are helpful and polite
- Pupils work hard and make good progress all the way through school and the standards reached are better than most primary schools
- Pupils enjoy their lessons and their curriculum topics are interesting
- There are good school leaders, managers and teachers who make sure pupils are safe.



**Most parents and carers think their children make good progress and inspectors agree.**

*Ofsted 2012*



**'I do feel the school is a good one with high ambitions for their students...'**

*Parent & carers survey 2014*

