

Welcome to Wool CE VA Primary School



Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

At Wool Primary we strive to support and challenge pupils as they grow emotionally, academically and spiritually. Underpinning our Christian ethos is the parable of the mustard seed:

The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13: 31-32

[Jesus] told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Our school vision encompasses a vision of the Kingdom of God where God's love rules, where everyone is welcome, where everyone is valued and where everyone can flourish. Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer that the Kingdom of God is something that God wants us to experience now as well as in the future, 'on earth as it is in heaven.'

At Wool CE VA Primary School we believe that everyone matters. Each of us is a unique individual and, like the mustard seed, we all have the potential to **grow** and to **flourish**. Jesus said that **faith** as small as a mustard seed could achieve great things, even move a mountain. In faith, and with **perseverance**, we **aspire** to live as God wants us to; to **love** and **respect** God, each other, our neighbours and ourselves. Like the tree that the seed in the parable becomes, we want our school to be a place where everyone feels at home and can **grow and flourish**; for us all to become the people that God calls us to be.

General Description of the School

Wool CE VA Primary School is situated near to the Parish Church in the rural village of Wool, Dorset. Our attractive building and wonderful grounds enables us to offer excellent facilities for the education of young children.

From fitness equipment to our spiritual garden, adventure play trail to pond and playing field, we love creating opportunities to learn within our surroundings.

We prioritise creating a supportive and positive learning environment that nurtures children and encourages them to be the best they can be. Our school policies reflect our Christian Values and our commitment to valuing every individual child.

Wool CE VA Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We have a Safeguarding policy in line with the LA model which is available to all parents on request at the office.

It is also available on our school website; www.woolprimary.com

Prospective Parents

Prospective parents and their children are warmly invited to visit the school to see the advantages the children enjoy. If you are interested and wish to arrange a visit please call 01929 462569 or email office@woolprimary.dorset.sch.uk



Our Staff

These are the people who will be caring for your children during their first years at school. All teaching staff hold specific posts of responsibility.

Headteacher: Mrs E Griffiths

Senco: Miss N Hardy

Class Teachers: Mrs S Warburton
Mrs R Taylor
Miss Snooks
Mrs Johnson
Mr Charman

Teaching Assistants: Mrs K Smith
Mrs M Harris
Mrs N Dacre
Mrs K Vaughan
Mrs S Mitchell
Mr D McKaigg

Administration Officer: Emma Robinson

Finance Officer: Lisa Trim

Lunchtime Supervisors: Mrs K Akers
Miss J Gillam
Mrs S Parsell

Cleaning Staff: Mrs S Kirkbride

Crossing Patrol: Miss L Maidment

Child Care Supervisors: Miss J Gillam
(Wrap Around Care) Mrs S Mitchell

School Times

Front gate opens at:	08.30am.
Classroom doors open at:	08.35am
School starts at:	08.45 am
Playtime is at:	10.30 am - 10.45 am
Lunch is at:	12.00 pm - 13.00 pm
Home time is at:	15.05 pm

Wrap Around Care

We are proud of the Wrap Around care we are able to offer and feedback from parents reflects satisfaction with both the quality of care and the cost of the provision.

Breakfast Club

Sunrise breakfast club runs from 7.30am every day. The children are provided with a nutritious breakfast and fun activities. Booking forms are available on our school website, on SIMS Agora and from the school office. Bookings can be made in advance or on the day.

After School Club

Twilight after school club runs from 3.05pm -5.30pm every day. The children are provided with snacks and drinks and a range of activities. Booking forms are available on our school website, on SIMS Agora and from the school office. Bookings can be made in advance or on the day.



Admission and Transfer

Admissions

According to the law, children are entitled to full time schooling at the start of the school term following their fifth birthday. The Dorset Local Authority (LA) specifies that children be admitted to school at the start of Autumn Term (September) for children aged five between 1 September and the following 31 August. Children attend full time from September. Our Admission Number is currently set at 25 and we welcome children of all denominations and backgrounds.

Foundation Stage

We strive to make the transition from pre-school to Reception Class for new Foundation Stage children and their parents/carers as smooth as possible. The summer term before is dedicated to a series of formal and informal meetings. The children are invited to Stepping Stones sessions in the Reception class or school hall with their parents/carer. In addition, the class teacher visits the preschools to get to know the children and to liaise with key workers. The children also spend ½ a day at school without parents/carers and at the end of the Summer term a parent's information meeting is held as well. We love using our blog on the school website to share what we are doing in school and we run an open door policy so that home and school can communicate easily and effectively.

Every Child Matters

Our teaching is tailored to each individual child's needs. We fully recognise and understand that children all learn at different rates and mature at different times. Each child has individual targets and goals which are regularly updated as they progress through the school. We regularly assess, monitor and record each individual child's progress. Your child's teachers are always willing to discuss your child's progress and welcome feedback from your experience at home.

Transfer to The Purbeck School

We work closely with The Purbeck School throughout the children's time at our school. Whilst at Wool Primary, children can attend academic and sporting events that are held at The Purbeck School and students and teachers from secondary setting also visit our school to aid the pupils making this transition from primary to secondary school.

We want all children to feel comfortable at school, and also to take pride in their appearance. We have a school uniform and we hope all the children will be proud to wear it.

School Uniform

Our school uniform colour is a combination of royal blue and grey. Most items can be bought from High Street shops. Items marked with a * below, some of which have the school logo on, are sold in AF Joy, North Street, Wareham or online at: <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/WoolCEVAPrimarySchoolBH206BT>

- Grey skirt, pinafore dress, shorts or trousers
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan *
- White shirt or blouse
- Royal blue and silver striped clip on tie *
- Royal blue T-shirt* (Summer term and Autumn term 1 only)
- Blue gingham dress (Summer term and Autumn term 1 only)
- Plain white, black or grey socks
- Plain grey tights
- Plain black, flat school shoes
- Book bag*

All school uniform should be clearly named.

Children eligible for Pupil Premium funding will be entitled to assistance with purchasing items of uniform with logos. Please see our Pupil Premium Strategy Statement for further information.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities.

If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically.

If any parent would like to request a modification to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the headteacher.



Physical Education Clothing

PE kit comprises:

- navy / black shorts
- trainers
- PE T-shirt with school logo
- a named bag for PE kit



In cold weather children may wish to wear a tracksuit for outside activities. Other, more specialised clothes, may be needed at certain times of the year (eg football boots). You will always be informed if this is needed.

If a child has had their ears pierced recently, parents are required to supply micropore tape to cover the earrings during PE. PE kit must be clearly named.



Parents / Carers and the School

Parent / Teacher Discussions

You know your child best and we do all we can to ensure home and school work together effectively. If you ever have any good ideas, concerns or worries please share them with us. We always wish to know of anything which might affect your child's progress or wellbeing at school. A member of staff is always available at the start and end of the school day and additional appointments can be made if needed.

There are also termly opportunities to meet more formally with your child's teacher.

Communication

Communication is very important as schools are busy places! We use ParentMail to send text messages and emails to parents. Newsletters are emailed weekly to keep you updated with what's happening in school and our website is regularly updated with events. www.woolprimary.com

We have a school app which is frequently updated with events and information. To download the app please visit the App Store or Play Store, search Ourschoolsapp and once downloaded simply search 'Wool CE VA Primary school' or enter your postcode.



We have recently launched a Facebook page to communicate with parents:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wool-Primary-School-2096405087356743>



Voluntary Help in School

We have a strong and thriving tradition of parental involvement in the school. Our volunteers help with one-to-one reading, school trips and topic work. They also support in the classrooms or through PTFA events. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call 01929 462569 or speak to your child's teacher.

It is important to note that any adult with access to children in school will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)

The role of the PTFA is to raise funds to further provide facilities and activities that would lie outside funding from the Local Authority. The school has a very active PTFA that supports the life and work of the school. All parents of children who attend the school are automatically members of the Association.

The PTFA Committee organises a variety of fund raising and social activities every year. There are two major events - the Christmas Fayre and the Summer Fayre but additional events such as bingo, discos and film nights also run throughout the year. The Annual General Meeting is held early in the Autumn Term, where the PTFA Committee is elected. Please contact 01929 462569 if you are interested in helping with the PTFA events.

Parent Governors

The governing body has two parent governors who are openly elected for a term of four years. The governing body meets twice a term to support the leadership and operation and organisation of the school. The Local Authority organises training for new governors and all parents are eligible to apply for this role. More information can be found on page 19.



Teaching and Learning

The aims of our school are to:

Enjoy and Achieve

by inspiring the desire to learn

Celebrate Successes / Value all Contributions

by providing a range of learning styles

Stay Healthy

by making healthy choices as a result of high self esteem, healthy diet and positive caring attitude.

Stay Safe

by developing an understanding of what dangers exist and how to avoid them

by expressing feelings and thoughts

by being able to respect others

Make a Positive Contribution

by empowering children to positively contribute to school and wider community through decision making and active involvement

by learning respect and consideration for others and the world around them

Achieve Economic Well-Being

by developing the confidence to take risks

by nurturing aspirations of every child by understanding their true potential

by equipping children with skills to allow them to flourish in the modern world

National Curriculum	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
	Years 1, 2	Years 3, 4, 5, 6
Maths	√	√
English	√	√
RE	√	√
ICT	√	√
Science	√	√
PE/Games	√	√
Music	√	√
French		√
Art/DT	√	√
Geography/History	√	√

The National Curriculum

Our creative curriculum is the means by which we try to achieve the aims of the school. We endeavour to give the children a basic knowledge of many different skills and to provide a solid foundation on which pupils can build and enjoy their future learning. Much of our curriculum is delivered through a planned series of cross-curricular themes and topics.

When the curriculum is planned, the needs of each individual child are taken into consideration and the work provided is matched to their ability. Some of this work is carried out as a whole class at the same time. For certain pieces of work children will be grouped according to their needs and level of understanding. In accordance with the National Curriculum, English, Mathematics, Science and IT form the 'core' curriculum. In addition to these core subjects the children are taught Music, Art, Design Technology, Geography, History, French, Physical, Personal, Social, Emotional Education and Religious Education.

Foundation Stage

There is a large emphasis on learning through play both indoors and outdoors. There are opportunities for free as well as structured play in Reception. Children are encouraged to make choices, solve problems, be creative and develop socially as individuals, whilst learning more about the world. The teacher carefully plans activities which develop each child's creative, physical, social, mathematical, literacy, knowledge and understanding skills.

Children are assessed upon entry with ongoing formative and summative assessments throughout the year. These are always shared with parents/carers and are conducted through both observations and recorded evidence.

Key stage 1

Children in years 1 and 2 follow the key stage 1 National Curriculum. At the end of year 1, children take the phonics screening test. At the end of year 2, children are formally assessed in reading, writing and maths.

Key stage 2

Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 follow the key stage 2 National Curriculum preparing them for their transfer to Secondary School. At the end of year 6, children take statutory assessment tests in reading, maths, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Teacher assessments in science and writing are also reported.

Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE is often called the 'Hidden Curriculum'; it includes:

Health Education - This is concerned with an awareness of self, the needs of others and the care of the environment. The school has formally achieved Healthy School Status and we continually promote ways of achieving good health and keeping safe, as well as indicating health hazards. We participate in the government initiative of providing Key stage 1 pupils daily with free fruit.

Sex and Relationships Education - Within the Science curriculum, it is expected that children will gain a basic understanding of animal and plant development. We encourage children to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. All aspects are broadly covered by school topics, which will include:

- Naming parts of the body
- Growth from child to adult
- Similarities and differences in animals and plants
- Life cycles of animals and plants
- Family relationships
- Looking after ourselves

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Appropriate support is given to children with special needs. Teachers provide tailored work which matches ability and endeavours to overcome any difficulty children may be experiencing. In addition to this, support may be provided by Special Educational Needs Support Staff (SENSS), a teaching assistant (TA) or Special Educational Needs TA. Our highly skilled SEND lead works closely with teachers to ensure difficulties are identified early and interventions put in place quickly to address barriers to learning.

Various agencies including: Special Educational Needs Support Service, Educational Psychological Service, Speech and Language Therapy Department, Behaviour Support Service can be called upon where necessary.

All pupils with additional needs will receive a regular provision map from the teacher which highlights targets set for the child. Provision maps are reviewed regularly with parents.

Higher and Advanced Performers

As with all children, the National Curriculum is the starting point for planning a school curriculum that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. At Wool Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop their full potential, be that intellectual, physical, aesthetic, creative, emotional, spiritual or social.

Wool Primary School is committed to providing a sufficiently challenging curriculum for all its students. In addition, we will provide opportunities to identify and, in turn, nurture those who are more able to aim high, aspire and be successful.

Home Learning

We are often asked about how best parents/carers can support children's learning at home. Sharing books at home with your child helps to develop a love of reading and has a positive impact on their academic achievement. Children will be given reading books to bring home and we do ask parents to help ensure the safe care and return of school books.

Our school subscribes to DoodleMaths and Times Tables Rock Stars. These are fantastic online learning tools which can significantly improve confidence in maths.

In addition, children in key stage 2 may have weekly homework linked to topics and current learning objectives.

Educational Visits

To enhance classroom learning further, we sometimes plan educational visits to places of interest nearby. On these occasions we may ask for voluntary financial contributions in order to fulfil entry or transport costs. We are mindful to keep these as low as possible.

Purbeck Partnership

We are part of the Purbeck Education Partnership which includes all Purbeck Primary schools and The Purbeck School.

Headteachers from all the Primary schools and The Purbeck School meet on a monthly basis to organise and discuss how we can work together to further enhance the children education experience.

Collective Worship

Children take part in a daily act of worship which is led by a member of staff or church community. Our local vicar or delegate from church will lead one act of worship a week and we are also visited by the 'Open the Book' team. In addition, once month we worship in The Church of the Holy Rood.

We consider it reasonable to assume that parents who send their children to this school are sympathetic to the Christian character of the school. Parents do, however, retain the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education and Collective Worship for religious reasons. Please speak to the headteacher for further details.

Extra-curricular Clubs

We strive to offer a range of extra-curricular clubs to pupils, some of which there is a charge for. At present we offer dance, science, SAT's and football clubs.



Personal Belongings

Children are not to bring valuable items to school as we cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Children in years 5 and 6 who are given permission by parents/carers walk to school unaccompanied may bring their mobile phone into school with them, this must be handed to the teacher for safe keeping and should be collected at the end of the school day.

Toys should not be brought to school and the school reserves the right to confiscate inappropriate items.

Any money that children need to bring must be in an envelope clearly marked with the child's name and class and given directly to the school office.

Lost Property

The lost property container can be found in the school office. Children and parents are welcome to look there for any mislaid items. These containers are cleared at the end of each term. We strongly advise you to label all of your child's belongings to reduce the risk of items ending up in lost property.

School Council / Friendship Squad

The School Council comprises of two members of each class voted in by their peers. They meet regularly to help make our school community a safe and happy learning environment. The children's discussions have a big impact on the decisions made about aspects of school life.

Each term children apply in writing to the head teacher to become a member of the Friendship Squad. Each day the Squad helps other children in the playground to play games or find a friend.

Health and Welfare

Our first priority is your child's welfare and we will usually discuss any concerns we might have about your child with you. There might be occasions however, when we have to provide information to or consult other agencies such as Children's Services Social Care before we contact you. Our responsibility to do so is determined by Dorset Safeguarding Board. If you want to know more about these procedures, or the school's child protection procedures, please speak to the Headteacher who is our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Absences

If your child is absent, please inform us as soon as possible by telephoning or emailing the school office. If you choose to report the absence by telephone, then this must be followed up with a note to put on file. This is very important - not only is it the Headteacher's responsibility to account for all the children, but also schools have a legal obligation to publish a table showing the numbers of unauthorised absences. It is important to note that if a child arrives late after the register is closed, i.e. 9.05am, this is marked as an unauthorised absence. The annual progress report you receive will detail the number of unauthorised absences for your child.

Leave of Absence for Holiday

From September 2013 amendments of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 removes reference to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days.

The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant leave of absence in term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Illness in School

In cases where we suspect illness, parents are contacted by telephone. In case of emergency, two telephone contact numbers must be provided for every child. In line with Health advice children must not come back to school following sickness/diarrhoea for 48 hours.

Hospital and Clinic Appointments

Wherever possible, parents are asked to make dental / doctor appointments for pupils out of school hours. When this is not possible teaching staff should be informed beforehand and the appointment evidence provided. The child must be collected and returned by a parent or authorised adult. If a child is being removed from school for an appointment, parents are asked to report to the office where the secretary will sign a child out and back in upon return.

First Aid at school

Whilst most staff are emergency first aid trained, Mr McKaigg and Mrs Mitchell are the school's designated lead First Aiders. When children graze, cut, sting or bruise themselves at school, regulations today do not allow the use of antiseptic creams and lotions, antihistamines or analgesics. We can clean the affected area (with water) apply a cold compress (water), stick on a plaster (when necessary) and administer tender loving care. The injury and treatment given are recorded in an accident book. Other more serious injuries are reported immediately to parents and if necessary, medical help will be sought. It is vital that school is informed of any allergies your child may have.

Medicines in School

If a pupil needs medication during the school day, the parent or carer must sign a consent form giving the exact time and dosage for medication to be given.

Medication is stored safely in a locked cabinet and administration of medication is carried out by a member of staff.

In the case of asthma inhalers, children are encouraged to administer these themselves with the supervision of first aid trained staff.

Medicals / Routine Checks

During their first year at school children's height and weight is measured. Hearing tests and sight tests are also carried out by the school nurse.

The School Nurse is also available throughout the year for drop in sessions.

Flu immunisations take place during the Autumn term annually. Consent forms must be obtained by the school in order for your child to receive the vaccination.

If your child has a serious or recurring medical problem, please record it on the admission form or inform the Headteacher.

Lunchtime Arrangements / Mid-morning Snack

The government provides hot school meals to all pupils in reception to the end of year 2 free of charge. We also give the option to key stage 2 pupils to purchase a hot school meal. Our hot school meal provider is Chartwells and parents are able to select menu choices online using their website: <https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk/>

We encourage healthy food choices in packed lunches. The children are supervised as they eat lunch in the hall.

Children have free access to fresh water all day. Juice may only be drunk with lunch. Lunch boxes should be clearly marked with the child's name and glass bottles and cans are not allowed. Sweets and gum are forbidden in school.

A healthy snack (i.e. piece of fruit / veg) is provided for KS1 children and we encourage KS2 children to bring a healthy snack eg raisins, carrot, apple - no cakes or biscuits please.

Pupil Premium

Please note that if you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be entitled to a free hot school meal each day - forms for this purpose are available from the office.

Road Safety

In the interests of road safety, parents meeting children on foot are asked to come into the playground. Parents using cars are requested **not to stop at the main gates or around the junction next to the school**, as the view of the Crossing Patrol person would be obscured and children's safety put at risk.

School Transport

If you wish to apply for school transport, or if you have any other queries relating to transport please contact the school office or Transport and Engineering Department, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ, Tel: 01305 224544.

Emergency Closure of the School

Fortunately, it is very seldom that emergencies arise necessitating the closure of the school. However, it can happen when bad weather prevents staff reaching school or when the heating system fails. It is not possible to give detailed arrangements in this prospectus, but it should be said that children will never be sent home on their own. Guidance and information is sent out annually during the Autumn Term.

Complaints

Wool CE VA Primary School is organised on the basis of a partnership between parents, staff and governors. It is hoped that any concerns expressed by parents about school curriculum and related matters will continue to be considered and dealt with in discussion with **teachers** and the **Headteacher** in the first instance. If matters remain unresolved you can approach the Chair of Governors, via the School Office or via our website.

Should you wish to make a more formal complaint under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act, copies of the local arrangements should be requested from the **Headteacher**, or alternatively from the local libraries, or from the County Education Officer, Education Department, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ.

Disclaimer

Although at the time of publication all information was up to date, changes do occur which may mean minor alterations to details.

Wool CE VA Primary School is a health promoting school.

**We operate a 'No Smoking' policy within the
school building and grounds.**

What does CE VA mean?

The school is Voluntary Aided (VA). This means that under the 1944 Education Act it is enabled to remain faithful to its original Church of England (CE) foundation. A majority of Governors represent the Church of England. The Church owns the grounds of the school and assists in the financial support of the school. The Voluntary Aided status of the school enables it to enjoy a much greater stability and security than those schools wholly controlled by the Local Education Authority. Many village schools in rural Dorset owe their existence to their Voluntary Aided status.

Voluntary Aided status allows the Governors to appoint staff, thereby ensuring that teachers support the principles behind a church school. These are reflected not only in Religious Education and daily worship, but in the desire that Christian ideals should inform every aspect of the school's life and should be encouraged by example and involvement of the local parish church.

Governing Body

The Governing Body consists of 11 members elected to oversee the running of the school. As terms of office expire measures are taken to recruit new members. The School Governors meet twice a term to discuss the Headteacher's Report and all matters which have a direct bearing on the well being of the school. To share the work load, the Governing Body has three sub committees - Curriculum, Environment and Finance/Personnel. Governors opt into one or more of these groups and meet on a regular basis.

Mr M Glanville	Chair - Foundation
Rev C Langford	Vice Chair/ Ex-officio
Mr L Bell	LA Governor
Mrs E Griffiths	Headteacher
Miss N Hardy	Staff
Mrs E Robinson	Parent
Mrs E Murgatroyd	Parent
Mrs P Wharf	Foundation
Mr D Cornes	Foundation