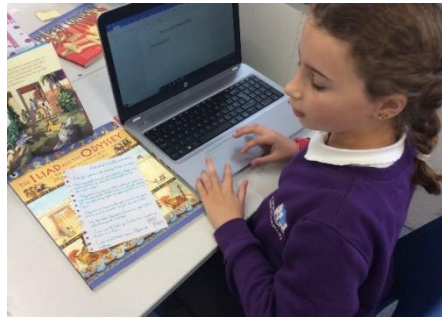


# High Bickington C of E Primary Academy



[www.teamacademytrust.com](http://www.teamacademytrust.com)



# Welcome to our Church of England Primary Academy

Welcome to High Bickington C of E Primary Academy. Our prospectus aims to give you a flavour of the life and work of our small village academy. It will also give you an insight into our day to day routines.

We pride ourselves that High Bickington is a happy and friendly place, where children learn in a safe, caring and purposeful atmosphere. Every child is treated in a fair and equitable way, giving everyone the best chances to thrive. Safeguarding and child protection are paramount.

We recognise that all children are individuals; have their own talents and have individual needs. Our mission is to ensure that where ordinarily available inclusive provision (OAIP) and high quality teaching are not quite enough, gaps are closed through expert SEND provision. We will always strive to ensure that your child achieves well. We believe that personal and social development are as important as academic progress and attainment. We therefore encourage every child to develop their talents and abilities and, most importantly, to enjoy their primary years.

Staff will always make themselves available to meet with you. If you should have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team.



A photograph of three students in a classroom. In the foreground, a girl with blonde hair in a purple school uniform is leaning over a desk, using a ruler to measure a piece of paper. Behind her, another girl in a purple uniform is also looking down at the work. In the background, a boy in a white shirt is writing on a piece of paper. There are various school supplies like scissors and rulers on the desks.

## Our Vision

**Let your light shine: Life, Love and Learning to the Full**

*'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.'* (Matthew 5:16)

## Our School Code

**Let Your Light Shine and Treat others as you would want to be treated.**

- Show respect to everyone
- Have a polite and considerate attitude
- Insist on your best and challenge yourself
- Notice others; be a great friend
- Every day, be ready to learn



## Our unique school and its site

Our school is situated in the North Devon village of High Bickington. The school is split across two sites with Years 1 – 6 in the main school building in the village centre and our Early Years a short walk away at our new site. The school hopes to develop the new site in to provide brand new classrooms for all year groups in the future.

High Bickington School was opened in 1858 in former almshouses and is one of the oldest schools in the Diocese of Exeter. Since that date, the original building has been enlarged and modernized, but still remains, in essence, a Victorian building that includes a slate-flagged archway leading to the adjacent church. Classrooms are bright, light and airy.

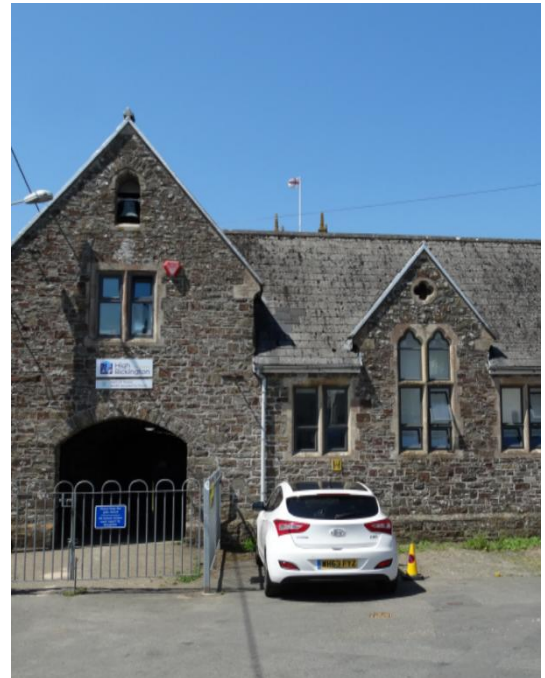
All class rooms are equipped with modern hi-tech facilities including chrome books, iPads and interactive whiteboards. Children have access to computing equipment throughout the day including the use of a secure internet system.

Although space is at a premium, we insist on maintaining an exceptionally well-stocked library that the children access daily.

The school is able to offer a diverse curriculum with specialist provision in a number of curriculum areas and additional music provision (guitars, key boards, drums and rock band).

The school became an academy in 2017 when it joined TEAM MAT. The support of this relatively small, child-centred trust has seen High Bickington grow and thrive.

The school was judged to be 'Good' in all areas at the most recent Ofsted and J1 (the top judgement) at the most recent SIAMS.



## School Trustees

The Trustees are a group of people who have one thing in common - the desire to help our academy be the best it can for our children and staff. They are made up of members appointed by the Diocese of Exeter and representatives of the local community.

Our Trustees oversee all strategies of the school including monitoring the school budget and appointing staff. The day to day management of the Trust is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the school leadership team.

Trustees visit the schools regularly. They are also committed to ensuring we have a safe environment and work with the Head of School, and school leaders to ensure there are established rigorous procedures for the safeguarding of children, in the recruitment of staff and in ensuring all adults working with children receive the appropriate clearance checks.

The Trustees annually review the school staff and monitor standards to ensure the school has a rigorous agenda for continual development.

## Admissions

In line with statutory requirements, our admission policy is reviewed annually, the detail of which can be found on our website. As a multi-academy trust, the school Trustees are the admission authority. Applications for places in our Nursery are done through the school office and those for the Reception Year are currently made via Devon Local Authority.

Prospective parents are invited to view the school during the day and meet staff. Parents are able to discuss how they might prefer their child to start, with arrangements being flexible to meet individual needs. Most children complete their primary education with us once they have started. At the end of Y6, most children transfer to Chulmleigh Community College.

## School Organisation

There are generally about 80 children on roll at the school. They are organised into four classes Reception, Years 1&2, Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. Each class has its own class teacher and teaching assistants.

Throughout the day pupils experience a range of teaching approaches as they learn in each curriculum subject. The teaching approach in EYFS is very different to the approach in Y5&6, but right across the school, children will experience high quality teaching.

Some teachers have subject specialisms in addition to class responsibilities. We utilize these specialisms across the classes to ensure that all children have



# School Uniform

We have a smart and practical uniform that can be purchased from various outlets. The badged sweatshirt is available from the school office, where information about other aspects of the uniform can also be obtained.



## The uniform consists of:

- Purple sweatshirt with school logo
- White polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirts
- Purple and white striped or check dress in summer
- Flat black shoes / trainers

## PE Kit

- Family group t-shirt (available from the school office – first shirt is free)
- Blue or black shorts or joggers
- Trainers

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery except for a wrist watch and plain ear studs. Studs will need to be removed or taped for games and PE.

## Being away from school

Our school curriculum is very full and varied: children need to be in school to maximize learning. Therefore, we hope that parents will take holidays which coincide with those of the school.

Requests for holidays during school time will not normally be authorised, particularly if the child's attendance is below the national average. This will help to ensure that their child's education is not compromised. Inevitably, children do need time out for unexpected sickness and medical appointments. In these instances, parents should contact school as **early as possible on the day of absence.**



## The School Day

School Opens	8:45am (9:00 Early Years)
Registration	9:00am (9:15 Early Years)
Session 1	9:00 – 10:45am
Morning Break	10:45 – 11:00am
Session 2	11:00 – 12:05pm
Daily Worship	12:10 – 12:30pm
Lunch Time	12:30 – 1:30pm
Session 3	1:30 – 3:30pm (3:15pm Early Years)

## Partnerships

As a church school we have close links with a range of organisations in our immediate locality. Further afield we have fostered a range of partnerships within our Multi-Academy Trust and in India. Through these links, we aim to bring the culture and spirit of these partners into the classroom.

We are continually looking to foster links within our Trust and there is a lot of sharing of opportunities between the schools, including residential visits and staff expertise. Our schools benefit from our work together, and from each school's local distinctiveness.

We take part in sports festivals, musical events and a bi-annual TEAM Promenade Concert at the Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple.



## Parents / carers and our academy

We actively encourage the involvement of parents in the life of our school. Parents give direct help through a range of activities such as listening to children read; helping on school trips and in sharing their expertise in the classroom.

We regularly invite parents to assemblies, special events and school productions. Our Local Governing Body (LGB) runs an annual evening to keep parents up to date with developments in the academy.

Parents are encouraged to participate in our PTA. They meet regularly to raise funds and organise social events.

However, the most important way in which parents / carers can be involved in the work of the school is to support home learning. In most cases this will involve reading, but other homework tasks are set from time to time. Parents also play an important part in helping their children to complete the Character Development Goals for their year group.





## Working with You

We recognise that we are partners with you in providing the best education we can for your children. We want you to feel welcome and included in school life. We are always willing to meet to talk about your child.

The class teacher or the Head of School are normally available at the end of the day, but should you need a more formal discussion an appointment can be made through the school office.

We send out a weekly newsletter and once a term, parents also receive a curriculum newsletter that outlines what your child will be learning during the term and how you can help.

Parent-teacher meetings occur twice each year and these are supplemented by a written report in July.

We also have a website that includes lots of additional information about the Trust.



## Curriculum

Our curriculum provides a broad and balanced experience that promotes active and interesting learning alongside personal, social and spiritual development.

We put a great deal of emphasis on achieving high standards in the basic skills. All pupils have daily reading, writing and numeracy sessions and regular access to computers. We encourage these skills to be used in a creative and real way through our BIG EVENT curriculum.

This provides a memorable experience, mostly through visits out, that are linked to a termly theme. This is used as a starting point for work across a range of subjects.

Alongside, we promote social skills development and support children's mental health and wellbeing. We also employ specialist teachers.



## Homework

We have a homework policy that is available on our website. It gives a focus on children practising their basic skills in numeracy and reading.

In addition, we would encourage children to pursue interests within the context of the class project for the half-term and prepare pieces of work to share with their class and year group. This type of contribution will be highly valued by teachers and other adults.

Children in Year 6 will receive more formal homework tasks to help prepare them for secondary school. Much of this will be to consolidate basic skills and should take no more than 60-70 minutes per day.



## Enrichment

We work very hard to ensure the curriculum for the children is enjoyable, relevant and active. We regularly invite artists, musicians and theatre groups into school to work with us.

We are committed to a programme of outdoor education that includes day and residential trips for each year group. These are designed to promote social skills and independence as well as to enhance subject-specific learning.

At present we offer the following residential visits:

- Y3&4 2 nights at St. George's House Christian Outdoor Centre, Croyde
- Y5 3 nights at YHA, St Paul's, London
- Y6 5 nights at Adventure, Bude

We ask parents to contribute towards the costs in the context of the school's charging policy as published on our website.

We also offer our children the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities that take place at lunchtime and after school. When these are run by our school staff there is no charge.

## Religion and World Views (RW)

We are a Church of England Academy with an Anglican Foundation.

In our RW lessons children learn about the Christian faith and are also taught about other world religions and views.

There is a daily Collective Worship when KS1 and KS2 school gather to sing and learn together. Our themes are varied and are related to current topics in the news, world events and our School Values.

Major Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter are celebrated at the school and our local Church.



## Assessment

We encourage children to value their own progress and develop an understanding of how they can improve.

Working in partnership with their teacher, children will regularly review their achievements and contribute to learning targets. Children are assessed regularly across all aspects of the curriculum within lessons. Feedback is swift and purposeful, enabling the child to improve work.

Information from assessment is used to ensure that children are developing a secure understanding of their work and that they are being appropriately challenged as individuals. Outcomes of assessments are shared with parents at parent evening meetings.



## Success for all

Across the TEAM Academy Trust, we aim to provide the best education for each child regardless of race, disability, gender or ability. Every child has individual needs that we identify and respond to in our day to day educational provision and there are a range of intervention and support groups for pupils of all abilities. The Trust works closely with families who have children with additional needs. We ensure each pupil has equal access to all activities that take place in our schools.

The school recognises that some children are particularly able or talented. Provision is made to ensure these children are challenged in class and, throughout the year, special events are organised to provide extended curriculum experiences.



## Behaviour

Behaviour at High Bickington is overwhelmingly positive.

We aim to create a safe, caring atmosphere in our academy based on our values and code. Children are encouraged to help each other and live in a context of consideration and mutual support. We have high expectations of behaviour from all.

Children are encouraged to see the school community as their own and are given a range of responsibilities. Positive behavior is noticed and commented upon. Children can also earn merit points that lead to certificates and badges of commendation.

Negative behaviour is rare, but we are mindful that it may occur and impact negatively on others. A child's negative behaviour will be discussed with them, and this will often be shared with parents. We want children to learn from these experiences and will give lots of support to ensure they do better next time.

## Physical & mental health and wellbeing

Our academy aims to provide the children with the knowledge and activities needed to promote good physical and mental health.

Children take part in a variety of sports including swimming, football, cricket and athletics. PE is an important part of our curriculum and includes dance and gymnastics too.

Children are given other opportunities to shine – including through drama and music as a way to promote excellent mental health.

Healthy snacks and fruit are encouraged at break-time and water is provided in all classrooms. Our academy's meals are prepared on site using fresh local ingredients. A healthy meal with a vegetarian option is prepared each day and menus are sent home



each term.



High **C of E Academy**  
Bickington

# HIGH BICKINGTON C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY

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