

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Reception Classes Intake

September 2024



“a happy and purposeful atmosphere”

Ofsted: February 2023

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School
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Assistant Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill

Chair of Governors:
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www.gilesinfantandnursery.co.uk

At The Giles Nursery and Infants' School we provide children with the best possible educational start. Our ethos is one of aspiration and high achievement, and our values underpin all that we do.

- Positive attitudes to learning
- Creativity and a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem
- Equality of opportunity, independence, individuality, tolerance, sensitivity and cooperation
- Good relations, respect for others and the environment
- A broad and balanced creative curriculum
- Pupil achievement by providing quality experiences

Our aim in Reception is to provide a caring, stimulating and effective learning environment and an enjoyable learning experience for the children. Our team is knowledgeable and well experienced in how children develop and learn.



Central to our approach is an expectation that we will work in partnership with our parents and carers to:

- Meet the individual needs of every child;
- Ensure each child makes excellent and rapid progress, whatever their starting point;
- Provide an inclusive, rich and stimulating environment so each child can play, develop and learn in a happy, safe and creative way.

We have extensive facilities to enhance children's learning experiences. Our Reception classes are housed in a purpose-built block, dedicated to the needs of this age-group. The classrooms are light and spacious, containing flexible activity zones that facilitate, for example, music-making, art and craft, phonics learning, scientific investigation, celebrations of our local community and its diversity, and IT / computer skills development.

Learning is also extended beyond the classroom – our outdoor areas are well-resourced, weather-proof and fun! In addition to a well-equipped outside, secure playground, there are large canopied areas allowing all-year-round learning with special role-play areas, sand and water. We also have an "eco-area" which is planted with natural and native plants and ideal for outdoor scientific investigation.

Our children also benefit from the use of modern technology to support their learning, with banks of laptop computers and iPads which are used to enable IT skills development, and each classroom is equipped with an interactive white board to support group working sessions. Fine motor skills are developed using construction resources and art & craft activities.

Please visit our website, www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk, for more information on our Curriculum.

Our Staff Team

We place great value on having a highly qualified, experienced staff team. All our children benefit from an excellent staff:pupil ratio, which means:

- Each child is exceptionally well supported to achieve their early learning goals;
- A smaller number than usual in pupil groups means that children can participate in a wider variety of activities at any one time;
- Progress is closely and regularly monitored and assessed, with any interventions specifically designed and targeted to meet individual needs.

A high staff:pupil ratio also means that we are able to provide high quality, consistent support throughout the Foundation stage for all pupils.

At the end of the Reception year, children benefit from a gentle and smooth transition into Year 1. We take pride in the level of support we provide at this stage of our children's development. During the summer term Reception pupils spend time in Year 1 getting to know their teacher for the following academic year, as well as the physical layout of the main school building and the Year 1 play areas. Our Reception and Year 1 staff also meet together to discuss in detail the progress, attainment and achievement of each child to ensure their needs continue to be met on an individual basis.

Parental Engagement

We place great value on our relationship with our parents and carers, and their close involvement is critical to our pupils' learning and achievement. As well as having an "open door" policy, we actively engage parents and carers in many different ways; for example:

- Stay and read sessions;
- Curriculum talks, discussions and presentations;
- "Home to school work" to enhance learning with a parent or carer at home;
- Parent-teacher consultation meetings.

We believe it is important that we communicate with parents and carers at every stage of their child's development, and we know that parents value this highly.

Home / School Communications

The website is an excellent way of keeping in touch with what is happening in school. Newsletters are also produced on a weekly basis, usually on a Friday. These are circulated by email, and also published on the school website. Parents can also contact the school at any time, either by phone or email.

Friends and Relatives of Giles School (FROGS)

FROGS is our parent teacher association, which is open to any friends or relatives who wish to support the school. FROGS usually holds a variety of events throughout the year to support the life of the school. During the Covid pandemic activities have been restricted; we hope, however, to hold more events over the next year.

Out-of-hours Childcare

The school has breakfast and after school clubs, open every day during term-time. These clubs are very popular and spaces are limited, making pre-booking essential – please see the school website for further information.



School Council

There is a school council with members elected from each class. This year the children will be working together, on a number of projects, including looking at different ways to help the environment.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We take our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils very seriously and work closely with all agencies concerned to support the safety and wellbeing of our children and their families. All adults working in school have an enhanced DBS (disclosure and barring service) check and are required to attend safeguarding training. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Rouane Mendel, Headteacher.

Inclusion and Additional Needs

The staff in school have considerable experience in supporting children with a wide variety of additional needs. Our SENCO supports teachers to write individual education plans for children, and helps to organise a variety of learning interventions. The school works with outside agencies; for example, speech therapists or family support workers, and we seek specialist advice wherever appropriate.

Professional Links

The school has links with different organisations to support our work and to aid professional development. Examples include working with Sporting Futures to develop PE in school, HFL Education to support staff development, and the University of Hertfordshire in support of teacher training.

Community Links

The school has links with local organisations and community groups. During the year we hold charity fundraising events, e.g. supporting Children in Need. This way we encourage the children to be more aware of the needs of others in both the local and wider community.

School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme. These are provided by Hertfordshire Catering Ltd on behalf of the school. There is a varied menu which rolls over three weeks and changes twice a year. Children can choose their meal each morning; choices include vegetarian and chilled options.

Children are all registered for this scheme, even if they usually bring in a packed lunch. This means that if their packed lunch is forgotten, then a meal can still be provided.

School Milk and Fruit Schemes

Parents may order milk for their child to have during the day at a termly charge – families in receipt of certain benefits may receive this free of charge. All children are eligible for the school fruit and vegetable scheme run by the NHS, which provides a free fruit or vegetable snack each day.

Admissions

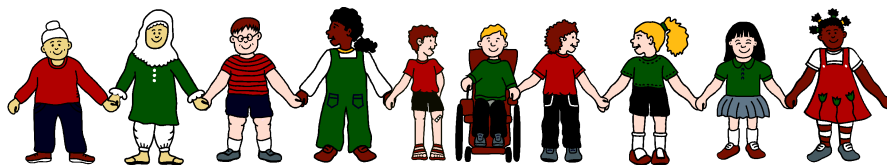
Children are admitted into the school in accordance with the Hertfordshire County Council policy and procedures for local authority maintained schools. Admissions for 2024 will open on 1st November 2023, and the closing date is 15th January 2024. Full details of how to apply can be found on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

In-year applications, for example where families may have moved into the area, should also be made via Hertfordshire County Council.

Entry to school is done as a single intake in September, although entry may be deferred by agreement with the school in consideration of a child's individual needs. Once children have been allocated a place at the school, there is a transition programme to help the children become used to being in school. This includes meetings for parents and carers giving the opportunity to find out more about school life and expectations, as well as the chance to meet staff and have any questions answered.

Moving on...

We have to say goodbye to our children at the end of Year 2. Most of our leavers move on to Giles Junior School, although some families may choose an alternative provision. Junior applications are made in the same way as Reception applications and reminders are sent out as the time approaches.



We hope that this leaflet has given you a flavour of life here at The Giles Nursery and Infants' School. Much more information is available on our school website, and we are available to answer any questions you may have – please email admin@gilesinfants.sch.uk