



Gosforth C of E Primary School and Nursery Prospectus 2026 – 2027

Headteacher: Mrs Leanne Long

Gosforth Church of England Primary School
Gosforth, CUMBRIA, CA20 1AZ

Tel: 019467 25244

E-mail: admin@gosforth.cumbria.sch.uk

Welcome

Governors, staff, pupils and parents offer you a warm welcome to this insight into our school.

It is a school which combines traditional values and a Christian ethos with modern ambitions. The environment is nurturing and caring, and the expectations are high. We want to see our children happy, confident and the best they can be.

All children are encouraged to work with initiative and enthusiasm and regular visits from external agencies enrich curricular activity. We work hard to provide the individual learning and friendly atmosphere which spells success.

Parental involvement forms a significant part of school life at Gosforth, with parents involved in the classroom, in fund-raising activities and on the playing field, which must have one of the most spectacular views of any school in England.

On the edge of the Lake District National Park, our commitment to the environment is ongoing, including our work to install environmentally-friendly technologies to reduce costs and energy consumption.

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, we welcome children of all denominations and faiths from Gosforth itself, from the surrounding catchment area of Saltcoats, Holmrook, Drigg, Stubble Green and the Wasdale Valley and many villages as far afield as Ravenglass and Beckermere.

Excellent before and after school care at our nursery, with bespoke facilities for this age group, make the school a popular choice for working mums and dads.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child in person to see our school in action. In the interim, please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions. Further information can also be found on our website.

Mr Christopher Walton
Chair of Governors

Mrs Leanne Long
Head teacher

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Vision

Gosforth CE School provides a safe learning environment where all children can develop self-confidence and resilience as they explore their own individual talents and interests. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith whilst promoting Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Our school vision is based upon the Biblical link:

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

We concentrate on five chosen Christian Values. These are:

Friendship

Courage

Creativity

Perseverance

Truthfulness



Aims

We believe that the quality of opportunity our pupils enjoy is directly linked to their success, and we offer:

- a broad and balanced curriculum;
- a variety of challenging, stimulating and structured experiences;
- activities within innovative and well-resourced classrooms;
- activities where support and encouragement to succeed are paramount;
- a positive partnership between home and school;
- visits and community projects.

Throughout this prospectus, there are numerous examples and illustrations of how we deliver our vision and aims, and we will be happy to discuss this further with you during your visit to our school.

Code of Conduct

Towards other people:

I will behave towards everybody, as I would like them to behave towards me. This means that:

1. I will be kind, helpful and polite to everyone.
2. I will not bully anybody either by my words or my actions.
3. I will be honest in what I do and in what I say.
4. I will not distract others from learning because of my behaviour.
5. If others make a mistake, I will try to understand and forgive them.

Towards my work:

I will try my best to learn. This means that:

1. I will work as hard as I can.
2. I will do my homework thoroughly.

Towards the places where I learn and play:

I will care for the school, its grounds and everything in them. This means that:

1. I will help to keep the school clean, tidy and free from damage.
2. I will respect the property of others and not interfere with it.
3. I will look after my property and that of the school.

Spirituality



Spirituality



We think it	We feel it	We live it
We learn about life  We have opportunities and experiences to become aware of the world in new ways, gaining knowledge, to wonder about life's 'wows' and 'ows'.	We learn from life  We reflect on our experiences, look inwards and consider the big questions of life. We are learning from life by exploring our own thoughts and perspectives and those of others.	We put into action what we believe  We have opportunities to respond to our learning and reflections; to do something creative as a means of expressing and applying our thoughts and beliefs.

Spirituality is about connecting to something bigger than ourselves, like feeling part of the world and having a deeper sense of purpose. It helps us be strong and courageous in life.

When we say "**We think it**," it means that our thoughts are powerful. We want to encourage our pupils to wonder about life's 'wows' (things which are amazing) and 'ows' (challenging situations). If we think positively, we can face the 'ows' with a strong mindset and perseverance. Spirituality helps us change our thinking to see problems as chances to learn and grow.

"**We feel it**" means understanding and dealing with our emotions. Feeling things deeply, like happiness or fear, is part of being human. Spirituality teaches us that it's okay to feel emotions, and even if we feel scared, we can still be brave. Being strong is about facing our feelings and moving forward with courage.

"**We live it**" is about showing what we believe by the way we act. It's not just about thinking and feeling; it's about living in a way that shows kindness, truthfulness, and bravery every day. When we live spiritually, we make choices that reflect what's important to us, like friendship and staying true to ourselves.

So, spirituality helps us to think clearly, feel deeply, and live with strength and courage. It teaches us that being strong isn't about never feeling afraid, but about facing our fears and challenges with a strong and courageous heart.

Our Policies

The welfare, well-being and health and safety of our pupils is something we take very seriously. We have a range of policies and procedures, which support our vision and aims.

Behaviour

As you will see from the Code of Conduct on the previous page, we encourage the highest standards of behaviour across the school. The whole school uses the 'Good to be Green' behaviour system. The full behaviour policy is available from the school and incorporates our anti-bullying stance.

Bullying

The subject of bullying is brought into class discussions and children are encouraged to report all incidents of bullying should there be any. Parents too are encouraged to talk with staff if they are worried in any way about their child. Should it prove necessary, parents, teachers and pupils will talk through the problem to the benefit of all. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant to signs of bullying.

Equality and Diversity

As reflected in our vision and aims, we fully accept our responsibilities to do everything we reasonably can to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations throughout the school and the wider community.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

You need to be secure in the knowledge that we take our duty of care very seriously. Safeguarding procedures are in place and all staff and governors, and volunteers in regular contact with our pupils are subject to a DBS check. We also make regular health and safety inspections of the building and all our activities are subject to a thorough risk assessment.

Policies are available from the head teacher on request.

Nursery



At nursery, our vision is to provide high-quality care and education, meeting the individual needs of each child in a safe and stimulating environment.

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The high-quality care and education we offer at our nursery provides activities for children which are catered to their individual stage of development as well as their interests.

We offer care and education for babies and children ranging from 6 months to 11 years. This consists of full day care in our baby, toddler and pre-school areas, as well as out-of-school care for primary-aged children - both before and after school.

Our nursery is open five days a week between 7.30am and 5pm and offers continuous care and education between these times.

The Curriculum

For those who may not be familiar with the different stages of the Curriculum, there are three:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (up to 5 years old)
- Key Stage 1 (5 - 7 years old)
- Key Stage 2 (7 - 11 years old)

Reception

The Reception Class is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage which builds on any nursery experience your child may have had and equips them to move into Key Stage 1 of the Curriculum.

There are seven areas on which we focus at this stage of development.

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



To this end, we adopt a mixture of child-initiated and adult-led learning in a well-equipped setting, which includes a decked area with direct access to the classroom, enabling free play.



Key Stages 1 and 2

All children study the National Curriculum subjects of English; Maths; Science; Computing; History; Geography; Design & Technology; Art; PE and Religious Education. Children in Key Stage 2 also study Spanish.

These are taught both as individual subjects and as half-termly themes. In both cases, the programme of study encompasses the age, ability range and interests of the child.

Some children will have attained well above the expected levels of performance by the end of this stage of their development, while others will not attain this level. This is why we adopt an individual and targeted approach to your child's development.

Information sheets (topic webs) containing more detailed information about the curriculum will be given out each half term.

English

In English, the children are involved in reading, writing, speaking, listening and drama; they also discuss topics, exchange ideas; write reports, express feelings and read instructions. There are several elements that make up the English Curriculum...

Reading

“Reading is at the heart of the curriculum.” OFSTED 2024

“Pupils of all ages achieve well in reading, including pupils with SEND.”

OFSTED 2024

A wide variety of strategies to develop reading skills are used and children are encouraged to choose books that are of interest to them and to take them home to share with their parents or guardians.

We have a well-stocked library and time is set aside for children to read and look at books.

Texts for the children to study are also carefully chosen and link, where possible topic areas.

Speaking and Listening

Children are encouraged to listen attentively to adults and other children, to contribute their ideas and to respect the views of others.

Opportunities are given to talk and discuss issues at length. Children are able to extend their skills through poetry reading, role-play and drama. Speaking and listening is an important means for pupils to try out the language they will be using as writers.



Spelling

Children are taught spelling strategies and individual or group spellings are learnt each week. Encouragement is given to check their work with spell-checkers, dictionaries and their peers, but also, more importantly to develop those strategies that support their own particular individual needs. In KS1 the emphasis is on phonic skills and knowledge of high frequency words.

Writing

From their initial, experimental writing, children quickly progress to conventional writing and more formal pieces of work. They are encouraged to draft their work before arriving at a final version and to write for a variety of purposes and audiences.

We ensure that the children have opportunities to explore a range of writing styles and they are encouraged to discuss their ideas with you at home as well as in the classroom setting. Talking is key to their organisation of thoughts and ideas.

Mathematics



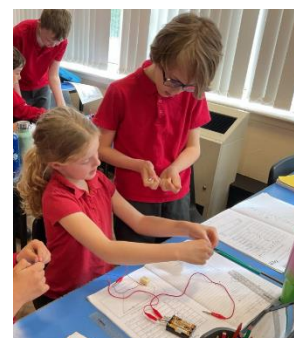
Children study mathematics daily covering a broad and balanced mathematical curriculum including elements of number, calculation, geometry, measures and statistics. direct teaching every day, which is oral, interactive and stimulating.

Teaching styles and lesson structure provide opportunities for pupils to consolidate their previous learning, use and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills, pose and ask questions, investigate mathematical ideas, reflect on their own learning and make links with other work across the curriculum. We focus not only on the mathematical methods but also focus on mathematical vocabulary and use Maths Mastery to broaden and deepen mathematical understanding.

Science

Children learn the essential elements of scientific enquiry and are encouraged to observe closely and record results with an increasing degree of clarity and accuracy.

We are fortunate to enjoy a number of visits from local scientists to our classrooms and opportunities to take part in events hosted by local engineering companies.



Art



Children are encouraged to explore the elements of art (colour, shape, space, texture, tone, pattern and form) and to experiment with a variety of techniques in order to develop creativity.

The opportunity is also given to learn from and work with visiting artists, who have helped the children create some of the delightful artworks which you will find throughout the school.

Computing

The school has tablets that allow all pupils to develop their confidence and skills. They are used in all areas of the curriculum and each classroom has computer-aided learning techniques such as interactive whiteboards and iPads.



Children are encouraged to use computers for language research, problem solving, data handling, publishing and communication.

History



Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of history beginning with their own families and relations. Use is made of visiting speakers and local museums. Each November we mark Remembrance with a service in church which is attended by our wider community.

Geography

Pupils are gradually introduced to geographical concepts and ideas beginning with their own immediate environment. At Key Stage 2, comparisons are made with other areas of the world and global issues analysed.



Modern Foreign Languages

The opportunity to develop language skills through an emphasis on spoken language assists with the current transition requirements for secondary school. Spanish is the main language taught to the children in KS2.

Design Technology



Opportunity is given to design equipment or make models to provide answers to questions or overcome problems. Skills built throughout their school career enable children to make appropriate choices of materials for the product they are making.

Physical Education

Children participate fully in a variety of activities including dance, gymnastics, football, netball, cricket, rounders and athletics. Pupils also attend swimming lessons in Year 1 and 2.



A series of visiting coaches and after school clubs open up further opportunities for participation in a breadth of sports. We also regularly compete against other local schools.

Music



Children in the school are introduced to music through songs, games and percussion instruments by class teacher tuition. They can progress to take weekly lessons from an external piano teacher (at a cost) or join the school choir, which regularly gives school and local performances.

Religious Education

“Gosforth Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.”

Inspector of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report, 2025

Religious Education is broadly Christian, although we do look at other world faiths and views.

St Mary's Church of England (Gosforth) provides the focus for celebration of Christian festivals, and we have many church visitors who assist with activities in school.



Collective Worship



Daily collective worship explores different themes and gives the children the opportunity to reflect. They also have the opportunity to showcase their successes. We say grace before lunch and each day closes with a prayer.

Special Educational Needs

“Staff are skilled at identifying when pupils may have SEND. They know how to make adaptations to the way that they deliver learning, so that pupils with SEND can access the curriculum fully.” OFSTED 2024

Our approach is one of early intervention, working with parents, carers, nursery, class teachers and health professionals. A range of targeted support can be put in place and will be included in an Individual Education Plan which is monitored and updated. Some pupils may require further support for Special Needs with additional funding provided by the Local Authority for 1:1 support.

The Head teacher is the Special Needs Co-Coordinator (SENCO). Mrs Long will be happy to discuss in more detail any concerns that you might have, or facilities that your child may need, to achieve their integration into the school community. The school has disabled access.

Get Involved

Fund Raising

Friends of Gosforth School (FoGS) would welcome your support. This is a charity run by parents to raise money for the additional extras, while providing social occasions for the children and their families.

Discos, refreshments, bag-packing and charity collections help to subsidise visits, residential, visiting theatre and dance groups and Christmas treats.

All parents automatically qualify as members of FoGS, so please do consider how you can help. Meetings are still running virtually one per half term.

Minibus drivers

If you happen to be old enough to have D1 on your driving licence you could volunteer to drive the minibus which is used for class visits and attending sporting events.

The Practical

Contacts

Gosforth C of E Primary School and Nursery, Wasdale Road, Gosforth, CA20 1AZ.

Headteacher: Mrs Leanne Long

Tel: 019467 25244

E-mail: head@gosforth.cumbria.sch.uk

School Times

Morning Session 8.55am - 12.15pm

Lunch Break 12.15pm - 1.15pm

Afternoon Session 1.15pm - 3.30pm

Please do not arrive before 8:45am when the school doors open. If children have not arrived by 08:55am they should be accompanied into school by an adult via the school office and signed in. If your child is ill, please use the Studybugs App to advise school by 8:45am. Any planned term time absence should be discussed with the Headteacher. We do not authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Out of Hours School Club

Morning Session 7:30am - 8.55am / Afternoon Session 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Full wrap-around care is hosted in our nursery building. Arrangements can be made to collect children from after school clubs and a holiday club is also provided.

Houses

To encourage good relations across the school and foster team spirit, children are allocated to one of three 'Houses'; Birch (Green), Wilson (Red) and Sharp (Yellow).

Uniform

The mandatory uniform is a white or red polo shirt, red sweatshirt or cardigan and grey trousers or skirt. Black shoes must be worn with plain grey, black or white socks. Girls may wear grey tights. Red and white gingham dresses or plain grey shorts may be worn in the warmer weather. PE kits are blue shorts, t-shirt (in house colours) and trainers. A navy hoodie and joggers can also be purchased for outdoor lessons in colder weather.

Uniform can be ordered online from Barney's Print Shop. Most parents elect to have some uniform with the school logo and some items of the same matching colour. We ask that all articles of clothing are clearly named.

Hair and Jewellery

All pupils with long hair (past the shoulder) must wear it tied back. Dyed hair is not permitted nor are shapes or lines cut into the hair.

Wearing jewellery at school is not permitted. If pupils have pierced ears, they should only wear small studs. Staff are not permitted to cover, remove or replace earrings for pupils (which must be removed for swimming and sporting activities). Children may wear a watch. No nail varnish allowed.

School Meals



A hot daily menu is available offering a nutritional and balanced diet provided by Orian. The menu for a three-week period can be found on the School Hub website. This is where meals should be ordered. Children can opt for the alternative of a filled roll or jacket. A pudding, yoghurt or fruit are available daily.

Children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in KS2 can bring a packed lunch if they wish but can opt to have a school dinner on any day of the week by ordering on the School Hub website before 9.30am. There must be funds in your School Hub account before you can order a meal. The cost of a meal is £3.23.

Payments

All payments in cash should be in a sealed envelope with the child's name, class and purpose of the payment together with the date.

BACS payments can be made directly into our bank account:

Sort Code: 40 22 16 Account No.: 11244132

Please ensure you include an appropriate reference in all electronic payments e.g. child's name and purpose of payment.

Charges

The Governors at Gosforth reserve the right to charge parents for optional extras and some materials. Also, for board and lodgings during residential visits and for instrumental tuition. Voluntary contributions are also sought to help fund extra-curricular activities.

School Transport

Free transport may be available for those pupils living outside the village of Gosforth but within our catchment areas. Further details are available from the Cumberland Council website.

Nursery

Nursery can be contacted directly either by telephone 019467 25244, option 2 or by email nursery@gosforth.cumbria.sch.uk

After School Clubs

These are some of the after-school club activities we may offer during an academic year:

Tag Rugby / Rounders / Tennis / Multi-skills for both KS1 and KS2

Judo for KS2

Delivered by Judo Janice. This is an accredited club so belts can be earned.

Tech Club for KS1

Providing building challenges for the children to create using K'Nex and other building materials, amongst other exciting technical challenges.

Art Club for KS1

Club offering the younger children the opportunity to create their very own masterpieces!

Film Club for KS1 and KS2

Refreshments provided.

Music Club

Delivered by Debbie, a music teacher, with a charge of £2.00. Open to all ages.

Calm Colouring

Spend some quality time colouring to music and reflecting with friends.

Baking Club

Bake some creations and take them home to enjoy with family.

Staff List

Head Teacher:	Mrs L Long
Assistant Head:	Mrs S Layzell (Wastwater Y6)
EYFS Assistant Head:	Mrs K Whitham (Derwent Rec)
Teaching Staff:	Miss A Byers (Windermere Pre-school) Miss H Lawley (Loweswater Yr 1/2) Mr J Raymond (Crummock Y3) Miss E Gilmore (Ennerdale Y4/5)
School Support Staff:	Mrs S Buckland Miss R Pugh Miss K Himsworth Mrs J Harrison Mrs J Stubbings Mrs M Sherwen Miss A McTaggart
Nursery Staff:	Mrs M Pratt (Deputy manager) Mrs S Buchanan (Senior nursery practitioner) Miss B Bewsher Miss M Buchanan Miss N Glaister Mrs L Lamb Mrs D McNally Miss M Naylor Miss G Sisson Ms T Temple Miss J Thompson
Nursery cook:	Mrs J Slater
Administrators	Mrs R Partington Miss A Johnstone
Midday Supervisors:	Miss K Himsworth Mrs C Fisher Mr R Tyler
Cleaners:	Ms H Nicholson Ms S Lees