

Riversdale Primary School

Parent Information

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Aims of the school:

Riversdale Primary School provides a happy, stimulating learning environment where every child is valued. We seek to develop the aptitudes, skills and knowledge which will help pupils achieve their true potential through praise, encouragement and high expectation of work and behaviour.

We aim to:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum with a sound grounding in the basic skills of literacy and Numeracy together with the independence and confidence to apply these skills.
- Foster lively, enquiring minds and enthusiasm for learning by treating children as individuals and building on their success.
- Make children feel valued and respected so they can be confident and secure; willing to seek help in the understanding that overcoming difficulty is part of the learning process.
- Develop, through example and explanation, a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and respect - for one another, the school and community.
- Show the importance of socialising and collaborating with sensitivity, consideration and humour.
- Encourage aesthetic and spiritual awareness.
- Allow children, staff, parents, governors and the community to share in our achievements and take pride in our school.

Our School:

Riversdale Primary School's distinctive building in Merton Road on the edge of the Southfields Grid was opened in 1895, and since then the school has prepared thousands of children of local families for their secondary education and adult life. It has been maintained by Wandsworth Council since 1990.

Riversdale's facilities include a large playground with a newly-laid all-weather playing surface, and a 10-metre indoor swimming tank and an enclosed outdoor play area for younger children. We have two specialised purpose built play areas, affectionately named Adrian's Apparatus, and Lava Land.

The school is only a short distance from King George's Park and also Southfields Academy, whose excellent sports facilities are regularly used by Riversdale children. We also use their well-equipped audio visual suite for animation lessons.

Riversdale is an expanding school having changed from one form entry to two form entry in 2011, a process that will be complete in 2017. A classroom block is currently under construction on the former car park to accommodate the extra classes. Pupils from a wide range of backgrounds mix extremely well forming a highly cohesive and inclusive community.

The school has an extremely positive atmosphere, and we have found that this promotes children's self-confidence and, as a result, motivates them to learn.

The School Day:

Children are welcome to arrive at any time from 8.30am, when the playground is opened, until 8.55am, when the school bell is rung and class teachers collect their pupils. We ask for younger children (Nursery, Reception and Years 1-2) to be brought to school by a responsible adult who will remain in the playground until the children join their class teachers.

At the end of the school day, class teachers bring their pupils down to the playground at 3.30pm and parents/carers are welcome to wait for their children in the playground from 3.20pm onwards. Again, we ask for younger children to be met and taken away promptly by a responsible adult. If we know that you are unavoidably delayed, we will ensure that your child waits for you inside the school building, though we may have to notify Social Services of any children still not collected by 4.00pm.

Parents/guardians whose work or study commitments would make it difficult for them to come to school at these times can sign up their children to the Breakfast Club, which opens at 8.00am and/or the after-school care scheme, which stays open until 5.30pm.

Daily Timetable:

	Morning	Afternoon
<i>Nursery</i>	8.55 - 12.00	12.30 - 15.30
<i>Reception - Year 2</i>	8.55 - 11.45	13.15 - 15.30
<i>Year 3 - 6</i>	8.55 - 12.15	13.15 - 15.30

Attendance:

We believe that punctuality and regular attendance are crucial factors in a child's education. Children who arrive late can disrupt a class that has already started, while those who miss an entire school day may find it difficult to catch up later on the learning they have missed.

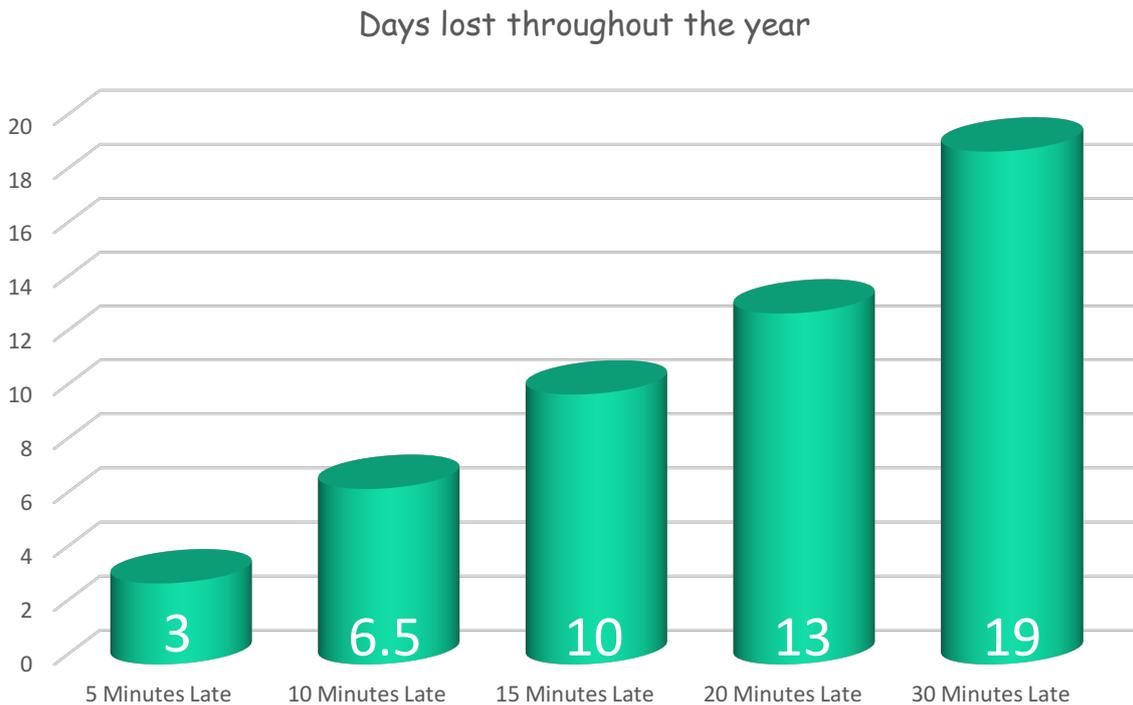
We hope parents/carers will help their children by ensuring that they arrive in good time for registration at 8.55am and ready to learn, and do not miss school unless it is absolutely necessary. We ask them to telephone the office to tell us in advance if a child is going to be absent because of illness, for example, and the Head Teacher will appreciate being told of other exceptional circumstances when a child has to miss school.

We ask for at least one month's notice of family holidays taken during term time. Parents/guardians must bear in mind, though, that prolonged or repeated absence from school without good reason could result in a child losing his/her place at Riversdale.

Records are kept of all children arriving late to school and our Learning Mentor rings home whenever a child is absent from school and we have not been formally notified.

Being late adds up to a BIG loss of learning:

- If you are 5 minutes late every day, it adds up to over 3 days lost over the year.
- 15 minutes late every day, is the same as taking two weeks off school.
- Being late adds up to a lot of lost learning time; help your child be punctual.



British Values:

Teaching British values:

How we promote British Values at Riversdale.

The DfE have recently reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

At Riversdale these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

We are a Rights Respecting school. Each year the children decide upon their class rules and the rights and responsibilities associated with these. Every class member and staff that teaches in the class signs up to these rules.

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a student council and the pupils all complete questionnaires on their lessons, the environment and anything they want to change. All children have the opportunity to talk to senior staff on a regular basis and use these occasions to share their views.

Each week children vote for the pupil with the best class conduct. The nominator then presents this award in assembly. Our annual prize day also features awards that are based upon pupil opinion.

Democracy is explained in assembly and the children are encouraged to follow the news in relation to voting as well as re-enacting the process and the issues that are being voted upon. For instance, Riversdale voted 9-1 for Scotland to remain part of the British Union.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that these involve and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; Ambulance staff etc. help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record, of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices. We also take part in Mosaic each year which is a national scheme that encourages those who have traditionally been held back from further education because of their cultural or economic background to set high educational ambitions.

Two members of our staff are diversity trainers for other schools.

Mutual Respect:

One of the features of our school is that everyone is on a first name basis. The purpose of this is to teach children to respect the person and not the title. It is an extremely successful strategy with all visitors to the school commenting upon the respectful way everyone treats everyone. We have the same policy for how someone should be spoken to whether it be child to child, adult to child, child to adult or adult to adult.

Assemblies regularly cover 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions related to what this means and how it is shown. Posters around the school promote respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. When a child does something well their achievement is displayed on a poster for everyone to learn from their positive attitude.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. We are language and culturally rich with 45 home languages represented. We see this as a very positive feature of our school. We have visits from the local Vicar as well as a local preacher and members of the local Mosques. We all take part in the Nativity plays. We use assemblies to point out the similarities between religions. Theme weeks include Judaism week and Hinduism week. Misconceptions between religions are addressed as well as prejudices that have been expressed by the community. The PTC actively seeks to involve all members of the school community.

Our school song perhaps best captures the heart of our ethos:

"You are my brother,
You are my friend,
You are my sister,
Our love shall never end.
Whatever colour our skin or our hair,
Let us sing together
That is our prayer.
Lift your banners high
Work for justice and for peace.
Lift your banners high
May our friendship never cease.
Lift our banners high
We shall sing in every land
Lift your banners high
For in friendships name we stand."

Charging Policy:

Parents will be invited to make voluntary contributions in order to make possible any school trips and outings in school hours. Activities which take place outside the school session may be charged for as optional extras. In both cases, no child will be left out of a group because parents are unable to pay. However, some activities may be cancelled if financial support is insufficient.

The Nursery and Reception classes ask parents for a donation every week towards snack time.

Equal Opportunities:

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all our children through a positive and sensitive approach to learning and all aspects of curriculum development. We wish to give recognition to all cultures, languages and religions in our multi-ethnic society. These are reflected throughout curriculum documents and our Anti-Racist policy statement.

We provide an environment where children will grow and develop confidence irrespective of their race, handicap, social group or gender.

Extended Day:

Staff, parents and carers organise a wide range of activities for children, both before and after school. For children whose parents/carers have busy working lives there is a Breakfast Club, which runs from 8.00 to 8.55am, and an after-school care scheme from 3.30 to 5.30pm.

The office also has information on a variety of school clubs based on art, sports, music and curriculum subjects, including a once-a-week Homework Club.

Home School Agreement:

At Riversdale we believe that successful partnership between the School, the parents and the pupils helps each pupil to take full advantage of all that the School has to offer. The following Agreement supports this partnership in the interests of our children.

Together we will:

- Promote high standards of work and behaviour.
- Support the values of the School.

As a school we will:

- Provide a balanced and appropriate curriculum.
- Provide a caring and nurturing learning environment where each child is valued and able

to fulfil his/her potential.

- Provide work suitable for pupils' ages and abilities which helps them to progress.
- Expect high standards of behaviour and promote respect for all.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievement of your child.
- Provide effective means of communication between home and school and respond quickly to any enquiries or concerns.
- Monitor pupils' progress and provide advice and guidance over their work.
- Provide and mark homework in accordance with the School Homework Policy.
- Notify parents of any concerns relating to their child's progress or conduct.

As a parent/carer I/we will:

- Ensure that my child attends school regularly, on time and with everything s/he needs.
- Let the School know of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's learning, behaviour or well-being.
- Regularly attend parents' consultation meetings to review my child's progress.
- Support the School's rules and expectations as set out in the Behaviour Policy.
- Ensure that my child's homework is completed and returned on time.
- Support the School's ethos and encourage my child to take part in the full life of the School.
- Inform the school immediately of any absence.
- Not arrange holiday in term-time.
- Ensure that my child wears the correct uniform each day.
- Ensure that my child adheres to the School's mobile phone policy.
- Ensure the school is notified of any change in emergency contact numbers.
- Support the school in the teaching of safe and secure internet use at school and home.

As a pupil I will:

- Treat other people as I would like to be treated.
- Tell a member of staff if I am worried or unhappy.
- Respect other pupils' culture, race, feelings, beliefs and values.
- Come to school on time, with the things I need.
- Wear my school uniform with pride and be tidy in my appearance.
- Always try my best.
- Do class work and homework as well as I can.
- Follow the School's Behaviour Policy.
- Support and attend events at School.

Homework:

We set homework weekly from Year 1. We ask parents/carers to do their best to ensure that their children can complete their homework on time, and we welcome them to discuss any homework issues with their class teacher.

Medical:

Please do not send your child to school if he/she is obviously unwell. Children who become ill during the school day are looked after and if we think it necessary we will contact you to take your child home. Children who have minor falls and bumps also receive first aid. If the bruise or cut needs further attention or if your child has a bump on the head you will be informed.

If urgent hospitalisation is needed for a child, we will always call an ambulance and get in touch with parents straight away.

Infectious Diseases

Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, German Measles, Mumps, Conjunctivitis, Impetigo, Ringworm, Threadworm, - must be reported to school immediately.

If your child has been suffering from diarrhoea, please send them back to school only after the condition has cleared up completely.

Medicines

A number of non-teaching staff have a first aid qualification. If a child must receive medication, please notify Mrs Bernadette Bush in the office. The medicine/s will be kept in the office and Mrs Bush will oversee its administration. You can also download a 'medical permission form' [here](#). Please hand the completed form into the office.

Sickness/Diarrhoea

We follow Wandsworth Council's guidelines that:

- Children attending a school, nursery, playgroup or childminder should stay off until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and are well enough to return.
- Adults working in a school, nursery, playgroup or childminder should stay off until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and feel well enough to return to work.

Playground Rota:

We have lots of different play areas in our playground, with exciting names - Dingly Dell, Sphere Space, Adrian's Apparatus, Lava Land, Fantasy Land etc.

These are designated areas where various games are played, such as King Ball, and Basketball (Sphere Space). Different areas have skipping ropes, cricket, hoops, tennis, throw balls, walking tall buckets and other play equipment. Adrian's Apparatus, in the larger playground, and Lava Land, in Key Stage 1 playground are very popular!

	Dingly Dell	Adrian's Apparatus	Sphere Space	Fantasy Land	Lava Land	Lava Land (Break)
Monday	6	5	4	3 + 2	Rainbow	Ruby
Tuesday	3	6	5	4 + 2	Sunshine	Pearl
Wednesday	4	3	6	5 + 2	Emerald	Emerald
Thursday	5	4	3	6 + 2	Sapphire	Sapphire
Friday	4+3	Stars	5	6 + 2	2	2

Teaching and Learning:

Throughout their time at Riversdale Primary School children will be learning. This learning will not just happen in lessons but also within the day to day routines and events that take place as the pupil progresses through the school. In order to achieve the school aims we need to ensure that each child's learning experiences are positive and supportive. Learning should be challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. Teaching should be relevant, creative and enthusiastic.

Curriculum:

In the Nursery and Reception classes (EYFS) the curriculum is organised into 7 interrelated areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

From Year 1 onwards, children follow the national curriculum, which is delivered in Key Stages as followed:

	Year Group	Pupil Ages
Key Stage 1	1, 2	5 - 7
Key Stage 2	3, 4, 5, 6	7 - 11

Foundation Subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Design Technology
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship
- Sex and Relationship Education and Drug Education

Our teachers ensure that the Riversdale curriculum not only meets the statutory requirements but is well balanced and appropriate to children's learning needs.

Visits and Journeys:

We value trips and visits as an important and stimulating educational experience for our children. Most visits are made by classes in association with their class work. Parents are notified of all educational visits. From time to time during the school year we take the children out into the local environment. We ask parents to sign one consent form to cover all these short visits and walks. We are grateful to parents who offer occasionally to accompany the children on these visits as this provides extra support for our teaching staff.

In Year 6, in addition to educational day visits, a longer school journey takes place to Hindleap Warren. Pupils are able to enjoy a wide variety of activities in a supportive environment away from home.

Staff List:

	<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>
Senior Leadership Team	Head Teacher	Amy Roberts
	Deputy Head Teacher:	Carla Myrie
	Assistant Head Teacher:	Tracey Tattersall
	Assistant Head Teacher:	Steven Sousa
	English Lead:	Siobhan Hitch
	Maths Lead:	Sarah Hunter
Teaching Staff (EYFS)	Nursery Teacher:	Helen
	Rainbow Teacher:	Tracey
	Sunshine Teacher:	Sami
Teaching Staff (Key Stage 1)	Emerald Teacher:	Thomas
	Sapphire Teacher:	Katy
	Pearl Teacher:	Nahid
	Ruby Teacher:	Camilla
Teaching Staff (Key Stage 2)	Diamond Teacher:	Sarah
	Topaz Teacher:	Joanne
	Peridot Teacher:	Kendal
	Amber Teacher:	Jason
	Amethyst Teacher:	Siobhan
	Quartz Teacher:	Matthew
	Garnet Teacher:	Steven

Teaching Staff (Whole School)	SENDCo:	Lucy
	Art Teacher:	Peter
	Drama Teacher:	Lorren
	PE Teacher:	Chris
	SCAT Teacher:	Jenny
	SCAT Teacher:	Arlene
	SCAT Teacher:	Hazel
	SCAT Teacher:	Natalie P
	Cover Teacher:	Karen
Support Staff	Learning Mentor:	Sandra M
	Guidance Councillor:	Sienna
	Learning Support Assistant:	Natalie C
	Learning Support Assistant:	Ruth
	Learning Support Assistant:	Zunaira
	Nursery Nurse:	Lesley
	Teaching Assistant:	Jo
	Teaching Assistant:	Timea
	Teaching Assistant:	Jade
	Teaching Assistant:	Kirsty
	Teaching Assistant:	Ayesha
	Teaching Assistant:	Emily
	Teaching Assistant:	Sameena
	Teaching Assistant:	Nadiya
	Teaching Assistant:	Stacey
	Teaching Assistant:	Kamal
	Teaching Assistant:	Basil
	Teaching Assistant:	Bronwyn
	Teaching Assistant:	Sandra H
Administrative & Premises Staff	SAO:	Bernadette
	Administrative Officer:	Caroline
	Office:	Lorren
	Office:	Sharon
	Office:	Svenja
	Premises Officer:	Fernando