

Iver Village Junior School



Believe. Achieve. Succeed Together.

School Prospectus

Iver Village Junior School
High Street
Iver
Buckinghamshire
SL0 - 9QA



Tel No: 01753 653059

Email: office@ivervillage-jun.bucks.sch.uk



IVJS: Where learning is exciting!

Our school pledge: I pledge to do all that I can, so that we can all learn and be happy at school.'

Dear Parents,

On behalf of our school community I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome to Iver Village Junior School which caters for pupils from seven to eleven.

It is our ambition at IVJS to provide a warm and welcoming environment where children will settle quickly and happily. We aim to provide outstanding education through a caring partnership with yourselves. We hope the children will develop pride in themselves and in the school. We believe the ethos of our school should be built on the core values of; effort, consideration, perseverance, honesty, commitment and respect.

In order to be effective, education should be a partnership between home, school and the wider community. This, we aim to achieve by the way we work as a school.

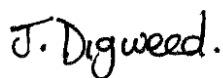
The Iver Village Junior School seeks to develop all individuals by developing the knowledge, skills, qualities, attributes and attitudes needed for pupils to take their place as future citizens. The school achieves this by:

- Providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment
- Teaching a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- Using a rich, up to date and varied range of learning resources
- Having an ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- Providing a suitably differentiated approach to teaching and learning
- Having a positive partnership between school, home and the community
- Promoting high standards of behaviour and attendance

We strive for continuous improvement in all that we do.

I look forward to developing a meaningful relationship with you and your child. We are committed to ensuring that every child fulfils their potential and develops a love of learning during their time at IVJS. We have high expectations of what we can achieve and believe that a strong partnership is vital.

Kind regards,



Miss J. Digweed
Headteacher

"The Iver Village Junior School's friendly, nurturing and supportive meaning pupils thrive"

Ofsted report, January 2020

Iver Village Junior School Governing Body

Our Governing Body, which has fourteen governors, all of whom bring different skills to Iver Village Junior School. This consists of two parent, nine community, one Local Authority and two staff governors. Governors are volunteers who give their time and commitment to what we hope is a very rewarding role and experience. They are subject to an OFSTED inspection at the same time as the school and are rated in the same way that schools are.

The Governors' Aim:

To be an effective governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that Iver village Junior School can be the best it can be for all the Children of Iver.

How do they achieve this?

The full Governing Body meets three times a year, once each term, but there is also two sub committees which both meet each term - the Standards Committee and the Resources Committee.

The Standards Committee deal with monitoring and evaluation of the School Development Plan, pupil's progress and attainment, safeguarding, curriculum related policies and standards, target setting and extended services provision. The Resources Committee deals with finance, health and safety, staffing and the premises.

The Governors have responsibility for the parental questionnaire sent out once a year; they attend parents' evenings to meet and greet parents and are involved with whole school planning.

The Governing Body are always pleased to meet parents and pupils to discuss their work and to receive feedback on how they can be even more effective in their role.

For more information about becoming a school governor please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office or our email governor@ivervillage-jun.bucks.sch.uk

"The staff team has transformed the school"

Ofsted report, June 2016

Our Vision for Teaching and Learning

Nurturing and caring for each child

Before children can learn successfully, they need to feel safe, secure and well-cared for. Nurturing each individual child is crucial to this. Every child who attends Iver Village Junior School is special and unique and as a school, we aim to celebrate the talents that each child has been given. We also offer appropriate support when needed so that our pupils become confident and independent individuals, who can contribute to our school and wider community.

Rights Respecting School

We place the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of everything we do. As a school, we promote children's rights and empower them to become global citizens. The 'Rights Respecting School' award will help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens, both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights as pupils, your children also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others.

A passion for learning

We want our pupils to be excited about coming to school and excited about their learning. We want them to be curious about the world they live in and ask us (and you) lots of questions. Most importantly, we want our pupils to see themselves as learners who put no limit on what they can achieve. This philosophy lies at the heart of how we deliver our curriculum, as we strive for excellence!

We actively plan in opportunities for experiences and 'hooks' (such as trips, visits, experience days, theme days/ weeks and hands on learning) which aim to develop children's curiosity and creativity, alongside their skills, knowledge and understanding. We believe that this approach will foster a lifelong love of learning and ensure that when our pupils move onto secondary school they are well prepared (both in terms of their skills and their attitude) to take on new and exciting challenges that await them.

High expectations of all

Iver Village Junior School strives for excellence in all that we do. We have high expectations for what our pupils can achieve and seek to ensure that every pupil receives the right balance of challenge and support so they achieve the highest possible standards in all areas of the curriculum. We place no limits on what a child can achieve and seek to work in partnership with our parents so that every child experiences success and works to the best of his/ her ability.

We are rigorous in our teaching of the key skills, knowledge and understanding in reading, writing and mathematics because we understand how vital this is in ensuring every child is well prepared for secondary school and beyond.

Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants

Following a project with the Education Endowment Foundation, we have looked at how we can maximise the impact of our teaching assistants. Research has indicated that children who are heavily supported will not do as well as a dependency starts and a feeling from the TA that it is their role to get children to finish and succeed. As part of the project, our aim is to develop independent learners who have a 'growth mind-set' towards their learning. To support this process, we aim to use the scaffolding framework to help create the opportunities for pupils to experience and learn from it. You can see the framework we use below. For further information, please visit our website.

Organisation of the Curriculum

The National Curriculum:

At IVJS, we provide a curriculum which is not only broad and balanced but equips children for the next phase of their education and for life in modern Britain. We want all our pupils to be able to be effective citizens, to care about the community in which they live and to understand their place in our world.

We believe that a 'Can do' attitude is essential and therefore we promote a growth mind-set culture. We want children to leave us with a love of learning and the skills they need for life. Reading is a key part of our curriculum. We use texts to inspire our children and base their learning around core texts. Reading is an essential skill and therefore we have made it a key element to our children's learning.

The children love to use the outdoor area and we have an active gardening club and all classes have the opportunity to plant and cook each half term.

In addition to statutory requirements of the national curriculum, we provide children with opportunities to explore and develop their own beliefs and values, to make use of the outdoors, to develop a caring attitude to others and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

We give our children an insight into what it means to be British in the 21st century so that all children are fully prepared for their lifelong journey of learning and understanding. To help achieve this, our themed topics cover a range of cultures which have impacted on British society such as a study of the local area, The Romans and The Anglo Saxons. We regularly take part in events in our local area to develop the feeling of belonging to our community. Sport is an important part of school life at IVJS. We are very proud to have been awarded the Gold School Games Mark and to have been one of the 3 runners up in the 'Primary School of the Year' for Bucks and Milton Keynes in 2018.

English:

In our English curriculum, pupils learn to understand, express ideas and convey information effectively, in both spoken and written form. Pupils from Year 3 to 6 engage in a daily one hour English lesson, with an extended editing and publishing session once a fortnight. Pupils are encouraged to work collaboratively and cooperatively as well as independently, as they develop their skills in the subject. Our aim is to ensure that quality children's literature is at the heart of all learning and through the CLPE's Power of Reading programme to raise engagement and attainment in reading and writing for all pupils.

Maths:

Pupils enjoy engaging and challenging Maths lessons using a wide range of resources to suit all learning needs. In KS2 it is taught discretely and through cross-curricular links with Science, computing and other curriculum subjects whenever possible. We are using The White Rose Schemes of Learning, PiXL, Testbase and Key Stage exemplars to ensure lessons are pitched correctly and have an element of challenge for all pupils.

There are three main aims in the new curriculum for Maths. They are: Fluency, Reasoning and Problem solving. (More information can be found on our website)

Science:

Science is taught throughout the school. In all year groups we will support pupils in developing their own scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding. Through hands on investigations and experiments, they will understand the nature, processes and methods of science. Pupils will also learn about great scientists of the past, today's new inventions and question what science in the future may look like.

Throughout KS2 pupils will acquire new knowledge and understanding of specific topics and get the chance to take part in experiments and investigations in order to develop their scientific mind. Pupils will learn and adopt scientific skills such as collecting data, sorting, classifying, measuring, researching and testing. Pupils will also be expected to pronounce and use key vocabulary and scientific language at an age-related expectation level.

Art and Design

Pupils have the opportunity to learn a variety of new skills and techniques to create their own pieces of art work through a range of media (e.g. printing, painting, collage and sculpture). Pupils have sketch books to record their observations and use these to review, evaluate and revisit ideas.

Design and Technology

As the pupils progress through each year group, they are continually developing their design skills through a variety of creative and practical activities. The pupils learn to design, make and evaluate, as well as develop the technical knowledge associated with a range of topics such as food, textiles, mechanisms and electrical systems. We encourage the pupils to develop their knowledge of a range of tools and equipment, and learn how to use them safely. We aim to develop pupils' originality and their willingness to take creative risks to produce innovative ideas and prototypes, creating a passion for the subject and nurturing creativity.

Music

We have a wide range of musical provision across the year groups. All KS2 pupils attend a singing assembly once a week. As well as learning a variety of songs, pupils are taught the key musical terms. Pupils are taught music in a cross-curricular manner through their topics and in years 3 – 6.

We also give children to pay for private provision from outside agencies: these pupils are able to choose from weekly drumming, piano, guitar and violin lessons.

Teachers follow the Charanga Musical School programme – which is a complete scheme to teach the national curriculum for music providing a vast library of songs, topics, instrument courses and creative apps with in-depth support for assessment, SEND and personalised teaching and learning.

Our school choir consists of pupils from Years 3 - 6. They meet every Wednesday and are led by music lead. Regular opportunities to perform in assemblies and at key school functions throughout the year boosts self-confidence and celebrates their achievements, these include: YoungVoices, Echoes, Christmas Concerts etc.

Computing

Computing is taught to every pupil at IVJS to prepare them for a technologically rich world. In KS2, computing skills are taught using a scheme called 'Switched On Computing'. There are three key aspects; computer science, information technology and digital literacy. We offer a broad and balanced computing curriculum that covers these three aspects, equipping our pupils to use computational thinking and a range of resources to develop their ideas and understanding of this important subject.

We encourage the use of ICT across the curriculum. Pupils have access to 15 Asus laptops which are stored in a laptop trolley and 15 Apple iPads which are available to all classes. Each classroom has a teaching desktop computer, interactive whiteboard, access to AirServer and access to an iPad.

Geography

Geography at IVJS fully supports the national curriculum giving the pupils the opportunity to learn about natural processes that shape our planet, the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, as well as an opportunity to engage in a range of local, national and global issues. Pupils can engage with staff members and other professionals and be given a combination of exciting and informative lessons using the skills taught to provoke thoughts and questions to develop their learning further.

RE

Schools are required to teach a programme of religious studies. Religious Education (R.E) consists of the study of different religions, religious leaders, and other religious and moral themes. R.E. is taught from the Local authority approved syllabus. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE and/or Collective Worship.

“Pupils are very keen to learn because teachers make learning interesting and fun.”

Ofsted report, January 2020

Modern Foreign Language

French is our chosen Modern Foreign Language, which is taught as part of the National Curriculum for pupils in KS2. They receive a weekly lesson from a multilingual member of staff or Supply who speaks French fluently. Lessons introduce the pupils to the French language and culture. They also take part in cultural activities such as the whole school French Day. **History**

History envelops pupils' curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils learn and understand how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, how these societies organised their politics, and what beliefs and cultures influenced people's actions. The history curriculum allows all pupils to study people and places from different times in society such as prehistoric times, Ancient Greece and the Victorians. As they do this, pupils develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people, in a fun and dynamic way.

Curriculum Enrichment

We offer a wide range of experiences and challenges that enrich our core curriculum. This allows our pupils to learn outside the classroom and develop the skills for the world beyond the primary education.

We achieve this through well-chosen curriculum visits, workshops and topic related days. Examples of these trips include visits to the Science Museum, local farms, and Kew gardens. We also personally invite visitors to the school – for example, authors, parents, and sports people.

Each term we have a 'wow day' where the whole school comes together to work on a project. These have included a superhero day, aliens landing in the school grounds and days focused on a particular piece of art.

Our musicians take part in regular Echoes Music Concerts held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, Young Voices at the O2 and a spectacular carol concert each year at our local church.

Thanks to our Sports Partnership with Alfriston School, our pupils take part in many competitive sporting events. These range from tennis, football, basketball competitions as well as swimming galas. Over 70% of our children competed against other schools last year. Mr Hawkes, as PE lead, has worked tirelessly to organise these events.

SMSC Curriculum

Spiritual

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Moral

Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

Social

Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Cultural

Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity. At IVJS, we are committed to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. We aim to prepare them to take a full role in society as confident individuals and good citizens.

This is modelled at all levels of the school community through mutual respect and an appreciation of diversity. Relevant issues are explored through the curriculum, both in planned ways and through incidental opportunities. The principles of SMSC run through all aspects of school life, including casual interactions, and through many areas of practice, including having a wide-ranging and exciting curriculum which inspires children to find out more about the world in all its variety. Teaching methodologies that give value to peer discussion and collaborative working practices encapsulate in daily planning the skills that pupils will need to be successful and productive in the wider society.

Outdoor Learning

We are very proud of this new initiative (2018-19). We have introduced into our curriculum, for a series of outdoor learning experiences and regular cooking activities which often include cooking things we have grown. We are very grateful for our gazebo which was bought with money raised by our children and through a donation from Tesco. Our wonderful new garden area was created by a team from the company Mars.

“Pupils are prepared well for their secondary education. This is because pupils achieve above national expectations in reading, writing and mathematics.”

Ofsted report, January 2020

What happens if you are worried about your child?

We aim to be an open, approachable and friendly village community school and we are always ready to listen to the views or concerns of parents. If you are at all worried about anything then please come and talk to us. It may be that you feel that things are not going as well as they could be or you are worried about something your child is or isn't doing.

In the first instance please talk to your child's class teacher who will usually be able to help you with your concerns or reassure you. Teachers are usually available at the start or the end of the day for quick questions or queries. If you wish to discuss things more confidentially please make an appointment via the school office.

In addition, we are extremely lucky to have a fantastic Learning Mentor in our school. Mr Hawkes is available to you and your child as an extra pair of ears to share the worries or concern you or your child may have. Again, he works alongside you, your child, the Class Teacher and Senior Leadership Team to ensure yours and your child needs are being met. As mentioned previously, we aim to be an approachable and friendly community school and we are always ready to listen to the views and concerns of parents.

If your concern is more serious or you feel that situations has not been dealt with appropriately then please contact the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher. We take all concerns raised by parents seriously, but if you feel a concern has not been dealt with appropriately then there is an official complaints policy. Copies of this policy are available from the school office on request.

School Policies

We publish key information and policies on our website. All policies are also available from our school office on request. We ask parents to pay particular attention to our Home/School agreement and Behaviour Policy.

Behaviour and Safety

All members of staff have a statutory duty to ensure the safety and care of all our pupils. All of our staff has received safeguarding training and we regularly update our staff on important changes or developments.

Our behaviour system is called 'Simply Behave'. For more details, please see our behaviour leaflet enclosed, copies are available on our school website.

*"The school is now a happy,
caring community"*

Ofsted report, June 2016

Anti-Bullying

The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind and we have agreed a clear policy about how bullying will be dealt with at the school. In all cases the situation will be dealt with seriously and sensitively and all parents will be involved at an early stage. If you think that your child is being bullied please inform us immediately. All situations will be handled sensitively and in confidence.

Special Educational Needs

For many children the curriculum and provision we offer can be tailored to the main range of abilities. However, there may be cases where pupils require additional support to help meet their needs fully and ensure they can access the curriculum. We offer a range of support in school and this is tailored to the needs of the children.

Communication with Parents

Clear communication with parents is essential if the school and parents are going to work successfully in partnership. We believe that if you know what is happening at school, then you are in a better position to support your child and help him/her experience success in all aspects of the curriculum.

At the start of each term, the school sends out key dates for events happening in school (e.g. assemblies, workshops, special events). In addition to this, the Headteacher produces a weekly bulletin to keep parents up to date on what's happening in school. These are published on our website and sent to parents.

All bulletins, letters and key dates are available on our school website and are sent via text to parents.

Please ensure we have your up to date mobile number and email address so we can get important information to you quickly.

“Positive relationships with staff help pupils to develop their confidence and positive attitudes to learning.”

Ofsted report, January 2020

Organisation of the School Day

8:30	School gates open
8:45	Whistle goes, school starts with morning registration
9:00	The first lesson commences
10:15	Break (Lower School)
11:00	Assembly
11:15	Break (Upper School)
12:15	Lunch (Upper School)
12.30	Lunch (Lower School)
1:15	Afternoon registration and lessons (Lower School)
1:30	Afternoon registration and lessons (Upper School)
3:15	The end of the school day

Class Organisation

In all schools in England, and Wales, children are organised into 'year groups' according to their age.

Year 3 – Aged 7 to 8

Year 4 – Aged 8 to 9

Year 5 – Aged 9 to 10

Year 6 – Aged 10 to 11

The teacher is responsible for their class and will teach them for the majority of lessons.

The class teacher is responsible for the welfare of all the children in their class and should be the first contact should you have any concerns or questions.

*“Pupils make good progress
and behaviour is exemplary”*

Ofsted report, June 2016

Attendance

Regular attendance is key to a child's well-being and achievement at school. The government target for every child is 95% over the course of an academic year. If your child is too unwell to come to school you need to contact the school office to provide an explanation. We always phone or text message parents if a child is absent and no explanation has been provided.

By law we have to keep careful records of all attendance and have to record all absences as 'authorised' or 'unauthorised.' Unauthorised absences will be recorded when no explanation has been given or the absence is for a reason that we do not consider as justified (e.g. family holidays).

Together with the Attendance Officer we regularly monitor the attendance of all our pupils. Where pupils are persistently late where a child's attendance is causing concern, we will ask you to attend a meeting to explain this. If the problem persists then further action may be taken, this can include the issue of a written warning or the issue of a Penalty Notice (Fine).

Sports Coach

At Iver Village Junior School we are dedicated to ensure our children receive regular high quality sports provisions. Bearing this in mind, we have a dedicated and well qualified Sports Coach. Mr Hawkes takes each class for 2 hours of PE a week, developing the children's skills, teaching them the importance of keeping fit and healthy.

Before and After School Clubs

For all our pupils we offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs. We also run childcare clubs called Early Birds (before school) and Bluebell Club (after school). This provides seamless 'wraparound' childcare on our school site, run by our staff.

Please see our website for further details regarding the clubs and how to book.

"Pupils' enthusiasm for learning is infectious"

Ofsted report, June 2016

Medical Information

In order to ensure the welfare of your child at all times, you must provide us with up to date and full information on any medical conditions that may affect your child. You must inform us in writing when circumstances change.

In particular, we must know about children who have allergies or conditions that require medication such as asthma or diabetes. If your child needs an inhaler (for asthma) or an epipen (for allergies) we must have one in school. In some cases, we may ask you to attend a meeting to discuss your child's welfare so we can put together a care plan to ensure we meet your child's medical needs at school.

First Aid

We have a number of First-Aid trained staff within school and we invest in their training and development on a regular basis. If your child is involved in an accident (e.g. they fall and graze their knee) we will always administer basic First Aid. We will let you know how the accident happened and what we did. If the accident is more serious we will contact you immediately. On rare occasions we may recommend hospital treatment and we will take prompt action to ensure your child receives the treatment they need.

Illness during the day

If your child becomes ill during the day, we will contact you to make you aware of the situation. If it is agreed that your child is too ill to stay at school, we will ask you to collect your child from our main office and sign them out.

Contact information

Please ensure that the school holds up to date contact information (home number, mobile number, work number). It is really important that you update us when you change numbers so we can always contact you in an emergency.

Our School Uniform

The school colours are maroon, blue and grey.

Items with logos can be purchased from the PMG School wear website (<http://pmgschoolwear.co.uk/>)

Please see our school list for full details.

Safeguarding Statement

At this school, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is for the children to enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

To promote a safe environment for pupils, our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability, including Criminal Records Bureau checks, as recommended by Buckinghamshire County Council in accordance with current legislation.

In accordance with our responsibilities under section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002, we have a Designated Person for Child Protection (Mrs Chapman-Allen) who has received appropriate training for this role. It is their responsibility to ensure that all staff in contact with children receives child protection awareness training on a regular basis.

There are occasions that our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies. Whilst we would always aim to work in partnership with parents, there may be exceptions to this when concerns are raised for the protection of a child.

On very rare occasions Social Care, whilst undertaking an investigation under s47 of the Children Act 1989, may want to speak to a child without a parent's knowledge. This would be a decision made in collaboration with partner agencies and would only be done in situations where a child might be at immediate risk. To gain consent at this point may increase the level of risk to the child or cause evidence of a crime to be lost.

The procedures which we follow, have been laid down by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all. If you want to know more about our procedures, please speak to the Headteacher, Miss Digweed or your child's class teacher. If you would like a copy of our safeguarding policy, please ask the Headteacher.