Hillside Primary School Prospectus 2026/27



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Welcome from the Head Teacher

Welcome to Hillside Primary School. We are a small and friendly school located in the village of Bradwell and set on large grounds. We have 214 pupils and highly skilled, dedicated and caring staff. We firmly believe in developing the whole child and that every child is entitled to a rich, broad, creative, challenging and fun curriculum, where they can grow into independent and successful individuals. We enrich the curriculum with visits and visitors and a selection of clubs and activities, encouraging pupils to develop their creative and sporting potential, as well as their academic abilities.

We also have a Nursery, a Local Authority Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for Cognition & Learning and two Enhanced Specialist Provisions (ESPs) called "The Nest" and "The Den".

In our most recent Ofsted Inspection (October 2024), we remained a 'Good' school and the Inspection team reported that we were an "inclusive", "welcoming" and "aspirational" school, with a "broad and ambitious" curriculum. Parents also say the following things about us…

> **"What a fabulous school! Hillside feels like a family that does everything and more to provide tailored care, learning and support"**
>
> **"Couldn't ask for a better learning environment"**
>
> **"I continue to be blown away by the efforts of my child's teachers, PTA and the headteacher. It really is a brilliant school and everyone works together to create the best possible learning environment for the children"**
>
> (Parent Questionnaires)

I hope you enjoy our prospectus and find all the information that you are looking for. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you wish to find out more about the school or would like to arrange a visit and witness for yourself the high quality education and care that we provide for all of our pupils.



Mr Simon Minter - Headteacher

Our Vision & Values

Hillside Primary School – Vision & Values

Children first, last and always!

Our Vision:

Hillside Primary School is a happy and inclusive learning community, where everyone is challenged and inspired to reach their highest potential.

Our Values:



Achieving Owl: *I set myself ambitious short and long-term goals, so that I can achieve my highest potential as both a learner and as a member of the community.*

Resilient Owl: *I work really hard to reach my goals and don't like giving up. I can cope with adversity, I embrace challenge and I enjoy solving problems.*

Caring Owl: *I am kind, considerate and caring. I care for my family, my friends, my teachers the community and the environment.*

Respectful Owl: *I am a respectful member of my school community. I respect opinions, difference and rules. I take responsibility for my actions and understand that they may have consequences.*

Learning



Early Years Foundation Stage

On admission to Nursery/Reception, teachers will talk to parents/carers about their children's needs, interests and stages of development. An enjoyable but challenging curriculum is planned based on the following;

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

The children will be assessed in these areas using the Foundation Stage Profile and a variety of techniques, such as Tapestry (online learning journal used by both staff and parents). Teaching and learning is tailored to the needs of individual children with a strong emphasis on phonics, reading and early maths skills. Strong home-school links and clear lines of communication support children, teachers and parents.

Key Stage 1

This stage covers Years 1 and 2. We ensure that the pupils' experiences of the National Curriculum at KS1 are rich, broad, creative, challenging and fun. Parents will receive information on what their child will be covering on a termly basis.

Daily English and Maths lessons ensure children are able to learn and consolidate skills. A blend of support and increased independence promotes children's sense of responsibility as learners. Opportunities are provided for children to work as practically as possible and to use a wide range of resources to further their learning in an enjoyable and exciting way. Teachers use ongoing assessments to inform their planning and the children have a Phonics Check at the end of Year 1.

Key Stage 2

This stage covers Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We ensure that the pupils' experiences of the National Curriculum at KS2 are rich, broad, creative, challenging and fun. Parents will receive information on what their child will be covering on a termly basis.

Daily English and Maths lessons ensure children are able to learn, consolidate and master skills. Children are encouraged to embrace challenge, take risks and have greater resilience in their learning. KS2 children also have the opportunity to learn musical instruments, sing in the choir, swim and take part in residential trips. Teachers use ongoing assessments to inform their planning and children are expected to take greater ownership of their learning, particularly in setting themselves and working towards more challenging targets. Children in Year 4 undertake a statutory Multiplication Tables Check. In Year 6, children take their KS2 SATs (May) and teachers work closely with the Secondary Schools to plan children's smooth transition into the secondary phase of their education.

Religious Education

We are a non-denominational school but are required by government to provide Religious Education for all children. We deliver this through regular RE focus days. We also have daily assemblies for all pupils which reflect Christian values/morals.



Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education form part of our Personal Development or PSHE Curriculum. Our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) focuses on developing the skills that children need to establish and maintain positive relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being, keeping them happy and safe.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, although encouraged by the DfE to teach some aspects to meet the needs of our pupils. Details of this can be found in our RSE Policy and parents will also be consulted before these lessons occur with our unit newsletters. In our RSE lessons, we deliver the 'Growing and Changing' unit as part of our PSHE scheme (SCARF). Most of this focuses on relationships, feelings and puberty. However, in year 6 there is a 'Making babies' lesson which parents can withdraw their children from if they do not wish for them to learn.

For more information please refer to our PSHE (including RSE) policy, curriculum maps and skills progression for each unit on the school website.

Homework

Children spend more time at home than at school and research shows that the most successful learners are those whose parents support them. Homework also helps children to learn how to organise themselves and is an excellent preparation for Secondary School. Please help your child with work sent home and ensure that they are reading regularly.

Extended Curriculum & Breakfast Club

We provide a range of opportunities for children to extend their learning. We have peripatetic teachers offering music lessons for a variety of instruments (these incur an extra charge in line with government guidelines), afterschool clubs and activities at lunchtimes.

We also have a Breakfast Club which runs from 7.45am. Forms for these clubs are available from the school reception and must be paid for in advance.



Educational Visits

These form a valuable part of the children's learning and development. In addition to being fun, the trips are closely linked to the curriculum. All children are expected to attend day visits; they provide an opportunity for the children to extend their learning beyond the classroom, making full use of the local resources available. Charges for such trips are made according to the cost incurred by the school and we try to source the best prices.

Parental contributions for these are voluntary but please be aware that classes may not be able to go ahead with trips if contributions do not cover most or all of the cost. At Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to participate in residential trips.

We may be able to contribute towards the cost of these for parents receiving benefits, or whose children have social educational needs.



School Council

Our School Council plays an important role in discussing issues relating to whole school improvement and in the decision-making process within the school. It is made up of children from each year group (including children from the SRB) who are elected by their class to serve on the council and represent their views.

Special Educational Needs

We are fortunate at Hillside to have staff with particular expertise in supporting children with special needs.

All children are monitored by their class teacher and any child showing difficulties may be offered a differentiated curriculum. If they continue to show difficulties, they will be referred to the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and given a SEN Support Plan in consultation with parents. This may also include support from outside agencies such as Speech and Language Therapy which following consultation with parents, the school will arrange. On occasions, where pupils are identified with a significant or longer-term special education need or disability, they may move onto an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Hillside Primary is a very inclusive school and we believe that all children have the right to be educated in their locality. Therefore, as many of our pupils with SEND have significant and very specific needs, that often require alternative approaches, we have enhanced our provision by creating **3 alternative pathways for our children with SEND; Formal, Semi-formal and Pre-formal.**

Each Pathway offers a different approach and level of support, creating a more personalised provision for the pupils. The Pathways also help us to articulate our provision, raise the profile of SEND across (and beyond) our school, in addition to giving the staff a clear framework and expectations to work within.

We are flexible with our approach and children may move from one pathway to another over the duration of their school career, depending on their development.

Specialist Provision

We have a Local Authority Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for Cognition and Learning which delivers short-term targeted support for up to 20 children referred from local schools, as well as our own. Children attend the SRB for two terms and are provided with a broad, practical and personalised

curriculum designed to enable them to make accelerated progress. The children are also involved in the mainstream school, attending assemblies, participating in themed events and sharing playtimes. The school operates as a community, caring for each other.

We have also set up two Enhanced Specialist Provisions, The Nest and The Den, for children on our Pre-formal and Semi-formal Pathways.



Mental Health and Well-being

We recognise and highly value the need to support the mental health and well-being of our children. In addition to having a Mental Health Lead, we also have a trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)/Mental Health Champion, who can provide children with a 6-week programme of support and advice to Parents'. Our Headteacher is a trained SLT Mental Health Champion and all staff are provided with additional resources and training in this area.

Accessibility

Our school is accessible to all children, staff and visitors. We ensure that all children have equal access to all aspects of school life.

Parents in Partnership

Communication

We highly value and are always looking for ways to improve communication with parents. In addition to sending home letters, our website holds valuable information and we also have a Facebook page.

Our texting/email service is especially helpful as they are immediate. Please ensure we have your current details and telephone/mobile numbers. It is especially important we have a contact number in case your child is ill or has an accident. We need to know if your child has allergies or medical conditions that could affect their school life. Please visit our website for further information (www.hillside.norfolk.sch.uk).

Parent/Teacher Consultation

We hold parents' evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms when you are invited to meet with your child's class teacher. These evenings are organised on an appointment system. However, staff are always willing to make appointments to meet with parents throughout the year should the need arise.

A report of your child's progress is sent to you at the end of the summer term. This will include results of any statutory assessments taken, such as the KS2 SATs. You are welcome to make an individual appointment with your child's teacher if you wish to discuss the end of the year report.



Friends of Hillside Association (FOHA)

Friends of Hillside is a group of parents and friends committed to raising funds used to benefit the children of Hillside Primary.

Extra help is always needed for their fundraising events and activities which include discos, seasonal fairs and competitions. They meet regularly and new members are welcome. Contact details can be found on our Website or Facebook page.



Making a Complaint

If you are unhappy about any aspect of your child's education or experience at school you should firstly see your child's class teacher. Hopefully the issue will be resolved quickly but if further help is needed you should contact the Head Teacher.

If after this time you are still unhappy that the matter is unresolved you should inform the Head Teacher that you wish to make a formal complaint. You will be given a copy of the Complaints procedure and if necessary the name and address of the Chair of Governors and who you can write to. A copy of our complaints procedure is on our website.

Safeguarding



Child Protection Team

Safeguarding covers instances where it is thought that children are victims of possible harm. We take this issue very seriously and it is important to us that our children are safe and happy at all times both at home and at school. Therefore, at Hillside we have a Child Protection Team which includes 4 Staff who are all trained Designated Safeguarding Leads and our Safeguarding Link Governor. Our safeguarding policy is on our website but paper copies may be obtained from the office.

Security

During the school day all entrances to the school are locked. Entry through the main door is by security system. All visitors must follow specific procedures which are displayed in the main reception, which includes signing the visitors' book on arrival/departure and wearing a visitor badge. All school staff also wear security badges.

Traffic Problems

The roads around the school get very congested, so to ensure the safety of all, please do not park on the yellow lines/zig-zags, block our neighbours' drives or park in the staff car park.

Parents must not use the car park to drop off their child, unless they or their child has a disability. Children are allowed to cycle/scoot to school with the supervision of their parents, but they must wear a helmet. We have a bike shed on the main playground, where the children can leave their

cycles/scooters. Cycles should be locked during the school day. Please make sure your children use the crossing patrols where provided.



Medical Matters

Please do not send your child to school if they are obviously unwell. If your child has had vomiting or diarrhoea they must stay off school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea, to avoid passing this on to other children.

If your child needs to take medicines whilst at school this is the responsibility of the parents. Medicines can only be administered within school at the discretion of the Head Teacher. A form can be obtained from the school office for prescribed medication only. Medicine can only be used if it is in its original container bearing the child's name, dosage and instructions.

Children must never be given medicines to take themselves in school.

Parents should note that the school will not accept responsibility for the administration of medicines to children if;

- The timing of the administration is crucial.
- The medication is not prescribed.
- Some technical or medical knowledge or expertise is required.

If your child suffers with asthma and needs an inhaler you should advise the school office who will give you a form to complete for the Asthma Co-

ordinator. Inhalers are kept securely in classrooms for ready availability when needed.

Attendance

Research has shown that pupils' school attendance from the outset has a direct impact on their GCSE results. We are required to track each child's attendance regularly and we work with families where attendance drops to 95% and below.

For this reason, please make sure that your child comes to school, even with minor coughs and colds. Similarly, **you are not permitted to take your child on holiday during term time**.

If you take your child out of school for a holiday (unless for exceptional circumstances) and/or their attendance drops below an acceptable level, you will receive a fine from the Local Authority.

If your child needs to be off school for any reason, please phone the school and leave a message on our absence line at the beginning of the day. If your child becomes unwell while at school we will ring you to collect them. Therefore, it is vital that you make sure we have up to date contact numbers. We also provide a texting service to keep you up to date with events.

If we have no explanation why a pupil is absent we will use our texting service to ask you to contact us. If your child has been absent please ensure that you phone or send in a note, explaining the reason for the absence or it will be recorded as unauthorised. We also need written or verbal confirmation if a child cannot take part in PE, swimming or will be collected in school hours for a medical appointment (see Attendance Policy for further details).

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself, such as another parent or family member, it is vital for the safety of your children that we are notified of this by you personally.

School Uniform



General

- Bottle green cardigan/v-neck sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey skirt/pinafore/trousers (or shorts in summer)
- White blouse/shirt/polo shirt
- Green (clip-on) tie (Year 6)
- Black shoes, no trainers

PE

All children are expected to change for PE and the following kit needs to be in school every day;

- White polo shirt with (optional) Team colours
- Black shorts
- Black hoodie with (optional) school logo and black tracksuit bottoms (outdoor activities)
- Trainers

When swimming, girls should have a one-piece costume, boys should have trunks/swim shorts and everyone should have a swimming hat and towel. **Bikinis and long leg (Bermuda-style) swim shorts are not allowed**.



All items of Hillside uniform may be purchased from Harrisons, who also operate a 'savings' scheme. They can be located at 73 Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth, telephone number 01493 662214.

Jewellery

For the safety of the children the only jewellery allowed in school, other than for religious reasons, are small flat ear studs and watches.

Watches and earrings must be removed for PE and swimming lessons. The children are responsible for removing their own earrings.

If you are having your child's ears pierced please do it over the summer holidays so they are able to remove them on the days they have PE and swimming. They will not be able to take part in swimming whilst wearing earrings as this is the policy of the swimming pool.

No nail varnish or make-up is to be worn. It is advisable to have long hair tied back at school for ease of working and to prevent the spread of head-lice.

School Meals

We provide well-balanced healthy cooked meals and pick'n'mix packed lunches. School meals are currently free to all children in Key Stage 1 or cost £2.90 for children in Key Stage 2. We collect and manage payment for meals, trips and clubs via an online payment system, ParentPay.

Children can bring their own packed lunches, but we do ask that parents provide a healthy adequate lunch with **no fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate bars or nuts.**



Children in KS1 are provided with fruit/veg at break time and KS2 children can either bring in their own fruit/veg or buy some from the tuck shop at morning break. **No other snacks are allowed** unless your child has specific dietary requirements or issues.

Free meals are provided to those families that are entitled. You can apply online (https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk) or alternatively the link is available on our website. It would help us greatly if all eligible families complete an online form, even if their child is in Key Stage 1 or they feel they may not need them, as this means that **the school gets more money to support your child's education.**

Children are required to bring a bottle of water, which will be available within the classroom, to be sipped throughout the day. Please do not add fruit juice, as this can affect your child's dental health and we find that children get used to water very quickly.



We hope you have enjoyed reading our prospectus and have found all the information that you were looking for. Should you wish to find out more about the school then please visit our website (www.hillside.norfolk.sch.uk) or contact our school office (01493 661399).

Hillside Primary School and Nursery
Lords Lane
Bradwell
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR31 8PA

Tel: 01493 661399
Email: office@hillside.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.hillside.norfolk.sch.uk
hillsideprimaryschoolbradwell

Head Teacher: Simon Minter
Chair of Governors: Trevor Wainwright

School Hours: 8.40am-3.10pm

Children first, last and always!