



Uffington
Church of England
Primary School

Our Christian Vision

We are a family-orientated school where everyone is welcome, a place where we strive to provide the best possible education in a caring Christian environment; an education that allows everyone to flourish and have the confidence to make a positive contribution. We seek to develop the individual strengths of everyone within our school community, where each unique personality can be recognised and valued.

Our Christian values underpin everything we do: Thankfulness, Kindness, Forgiveness, Fairness, Friendship, Trust, Hope and Inclusion are key priorities for all pupils and adults in our school.

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Uffington School

I know that many of you are very familiar with the organisation of the school but really appreciate this opportunity to share with you the many aspects of Uffington School which make it, in our opinion, a very special place.

We are a small school: Some of you may have experienced this type of school, either because you already have children who attend Uffington or who have attended another small school, or perhaps you yourself attended a small school.

Small schools are different: Many years ago I was deputy head of a school of six hundred pupils. I was very happy there but the reality was that I only knew children because I was their class teacher, I had taught their siblings – or they had a bad reputation! I only met their parents two or three times a year – usually at parents' evenings. When I took on the headship of Uffington School, I had fewer children in my school than I had previously had in a single year group and it didn't take long for me to get to know not only all the children, but their parents and many grandparents too! We are a true family school and we pride ourselves on the sense of family which exists in this special place. Older children mix and

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

play with younger children on a daily basis and we value greatly the relationships which exist between our children, their families and school staff.

At Uffington School, every child is an individual – we know that your children are the most important and precious things in your lives and we make every effort to care for your children as if they were our own. The teachers and I are on the playground at the end of each day to discuss any concerns and we believe strongly in sorting out the little worries before they become major issues.

We are a Church School; this does not mean that you have to be practising Christians for your child to attend the school but everything we do is underpinned by Christian values, particularly those of Friendship, Compassion, Forgiveness, Justice and Thankfulness. We hold a Christian act of worship in school each day and work in close partnership with Uffington Church. There are services in church each term, some of which are led by the children: on 11th November our Year 5 and 6 class will lead an Act of Remembrance and we look forward to being joined parents, grandparents and members of the community. Each Wednesday children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 go over to 'Open the Book' to enjoy dramatised Bible stories performed by members of the local community. We celebrate Harvest Festival and Mothering Sunday with the parish and use the church for many of the highlights of the school year including the Nativity, Carol Concert and Leavers' Service and Prizegiving each July.

There are eighty-eight children in the school at the current time. We have a capacity of one hundred and five but 100 is the largest number of pupils we have had on roll at any one time. There are fifteen places in each year group but we can be flexible depending upon the age and number of children in a class at any one time. All families wishing to place their children at Uffington in recent years have been accommodated. There is no set catchment area but places are allocated to siblings first and then by distance from the school. If you live in Tallington, there is a free transport service provided by the county council.

Our children are taught in four classes by experienced teaching staff. At present, Reception children are taught by Miss Waters in the mobile classroom, Years 1 and 2 are taught by Mrs Clayton and Mrs Ludford, with Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6 taught in two further classes. This does mean that there is a wide age range in one class but the teachers are skilled in planning and delivering a curriculum which meets the needs of both the range of age and ability within a single class. Each class has a trained teaching assistant who supports teaching and learning in the mornings and some afternoons.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum. We follow the national curriculum with the greatest emphasis naturally placed upon developing the skills of English and Maths but our

children also study science, computing, the humanities, the arts, music and sport. We like to take the children out and about and make the most of opportunities for children to take part in visits to enhance their learning, as well as inviting speakers into school to share their experiences with the children. Our range of visits and experiences is broad: whenever there is an opportunity for us to take children out and about to enrich their learning, we take it. Over the past year, our children have had the opportunity to take part in a Year 5/6 residential visit to South Yorkshire, a museum workshop for Reception and Years 1 and 2, with these children also taking part in an Indian Experience Day; we really pride ourselves on our extra-curricular and enrichment offer. In the past, children have visited RAF Cranwell and attended Construction Skills events hosted by Stamford College – our children may be young but we have a role to play in preparing them for the lives that lie ahead of them. We work hard to enable each child to fulfil his or her academic potential and our national results are frequently above national averages with many children achieving at the higher levels.

In the Foundation Stage we follow the Early Years Foundation Curriculum which continues through from nursery. This is largely play-based with staff planning a host of learning opportunities for the children to explore on their own as well as more formal teaching of reading, writing and maths. I observed the Reception class earlier this week and was delighted to see how our youngest children who began school this September already know most of their sounds and are reading simple words, including a number of tricky words which can't be decoded phonetically. We have invested heavily in new reading in recent years and all staff are trained in the teaching of reading through systematic synthetic phonics.

As a parent with many years of teaching experience, I am still amazed by the rate of progress in the first year of school – and you have a part to play in this. Research shows that support for homework makes a significant difference to levels of progress and attainment in school and we do ask that you hear your child read on a regular basis and support them with their home learning throughout the school. Never underestimate the value of the time you spend with your child in this way.

We want our children to really enjoy their time in school and in addition to the school curriculum, there are a number of extra-curricular activities to foster your child's skills and interests. Most of these take place after school – some are free, others are available for a small charge. The range of activities available does depend on the age of the child, but as a rule, the range increases as the children move up the school. We also have an active Parent Teachers Association who arrange a number of social and fundraising activities throughout the year which are greatly enjoyed by school families.

We have a very strong reputation for sport and have regularly been awarded the Gold School Games Award this year. Our children have at least two hours of physical activity each week and children in KS2 have the opportunity to participate in inter-school sport in a wide range of sports. The school has competed at county and regional level in many sports and at national level in swimming. The one thing we don't have at Uffington is a school hall but we make the most of the space we do have for PE and sport and use the facilities at Bluecoat School and Stamford Leisure Pool. Unlike the majority of local schools, our children have swimming lessons from Reception.

Many of you may be interested to know about facilities for childcare before and after school: We have worked closely with the sports charity Inspire+ for many years and they provide high-quality care before and after school. The children are able to have breakfast here before school and are given a drink and snack at the end of the school day. There is an emphasis upon children fulfilling the government's target 30 minutes a day of physical activity, but the care offer also includes a range of other activities to keep the children interested while they are here.

The school offers hot lunches each day prepared by the award-winning Farm Kitchen. Meals are free for children up to and including Year 2 and meals can be purchased on line for older children.

I appreciate that many of you will be looking at a number of schools before making your final choice. The admissions process opens in November and applications must be made online by mid-January with offers made in mid-

April (*Please see the Lincolnshire School Admissions website for more information*). Once we know that your child has been offered a place here with us at Uffington, we will be in touch to make arrangements for induction: Miss Waters will visit you and your child at home and we will arrange four mornings in the summer term for our new children to spend time in school.

We live in a world of slick marketing and empty promises; I would just like to say that at Uffington School we 'walk the walk'. What I have shared with you this evening comes from the heart and the vision is shared by the staff and governors of the school. There's no gloss: we may not have the smartest buildings and facilities, but we are totally committed to the children and families of this school, and above all, we produce happy, well-rounded children who are ready to take their place in society.

Thank you for taking time to visit us this evening; I am delighted to be joined this evening by the teaching staff, governors and some of our ex-pupils who left us last summer. If you want

to know what sort of child Uffington turns out, these young people are the proof and we are really proud of them.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have as you look around and to visit the school with your child while school is in session. Sarah the school administrator is always happy to take bookings and show parents around.