

We Are A Caring, Sharing Community  
Where Every Child Matters

'One Team; One Goal - To Do Our Best Always!'



Willow Tree  
Primary School



# Welcome to Willow Tree Primary School

Dear Parents/carers

We are very pleased that you are thinking about sending your child to our wonderful school. Our dedicated staff team work tirelessly to provide the very best education and experiences for your children.

At Willow Tree Primary, we are very proud of our school and our children. As the head teacher, I believe it is my responsibility to provide the children with every opportunity to achieve, to be creative, to build strong relationships and to create fantastic memories that they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

We are a forward thinking school and pride ourselves on the learning experiences we offer our pupils. At Willow Tree, our learning environment, both inside and outside, provides a wide range of stimulating and exciting challenges to enhance learning and help our children reach their full potential.

You are more than welcome to come and visit – we would love to show you around our school.

Mrs.K.Hall  
Headteacher



## ***The Willow Way!***

*Willow Tree Primary School is a safe, caring, sharing community  
where every child matters.*

*One team, one goal – to do our best always!*

*It feels homely and  
like you are always in  
a big happy family!*



## **Our Vision**

1. For all at Willow Tree to be successful learners, equipped with the essential literacy, numeracy and life skills to enable them to achieve their full potential.
2. For all at Willow Tree to be confident communicators, able to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings appropriately.
3. For all at Willow Tree to be caring individuals, who are thoughtful, considerate and respectful of others.
4. For all at Willow Tree to be responsible citizens, who are able to make a positive contribution to their own and the wider community.
5. For us all to be the best we can be.



Willow Tree is a brilliant school, I learn lots of things every day.

$$87\text{cm} = 0.87\text{m}$$



*'A key strength of the school is the range and quality of intervention strategies which are used to support pupils' social needs as well as their academic achievement.'* OFSTED



## Successful Learners

Here at Willow Tree Primary, we are passionate about ensuring our children become learners for life, equipping them with the essential skills to enable everyone to achieve their full potential. Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy are essential and we are proud of how well our children achieve in these areas. We also believe in nurturing and celebrating all talents, whether they are academic, sporting or creative.

Our Learning Challenge curriculum is based on developing children's natural curiosity, and providing opportunities for them to question, investigate and discover in a safe and supportive environment. Learning is enriched by a variety of educational trips, as well as a range of visitors such as artists, musicians and performers, who come into school to share their experiences and expertise.


Our inclusive nature is reflected in all our policies and procedures. Children's learning is carefully planned and tailored to ensure that it meets the needs of all our children. We use regular assessment and progress reviews to set attainment targets and to monitor progression. All of our children, including those with special educational needs and those who have been identified as more able or gifted and talented, have opportunities within their daily lessons and through extra-curricular activities to use and develop their skills.

At Willow Tree we maintain high expectations and standards in behaviour. All children are assured equality of opportunity. They will not experience any form of discrimination regardless of ability, gender, ethnicity, culture or religion.

The school provides a wide range of intervention programmes and staff work closely to support all children with a specific need or learning difficulty. We operate our 'Acorn Suite' daily, where children receive more intensive intervention from our Special Educational Needs Team and where appropriate, additional support through liaison with other agencies.







Our School is good because we do cool science experiments, the displays are good and I have amazing friends.

## Confident Communicators

Effective communication is an essential life skill and it is at the heart of our curriculum. Our oracy projects include regular drama sessions, class assemblies and whole school productions, where children are able to develop their confidence in speaking to a variety of audiences. Speaking and listening skills are developed through cross curricular activities including, discussions, circle times and debates. Our children represent our school in the ST Helens Democracy Week on an annual basis.

In the 21st Century children need to be able to communicate using the latest technology and as a school we are proud to say that our children are able to develop their skills by having access to a variety of ICT equipment, including an Apple Mac suite, I Pads, laptops and our own Willow Tree radio station.





## Responsible Citizens

The children at Willow Tree Primary Schools are encouraged to take on responsibilities which enable them to develop leadership and communication skills. We have a Head Girl and a Head Boy who welcome visitors, lead assemblies and act as ambassadors for our school. The Year 6 children are Prefects and act as role models for our younger pupils. Our School Councillors meet regularly and represent the voice of our children, ensuring that they are listened to and involved when decisions about our school are being made.

The local and wider community is very important to us and we encourage children to take on responsibility for their community by raising funds for a variety of charities e.g. Children in Need, St Helens Food Bank and Armed Forces Day. We are proud of the work that our school community does to support our fundraising efforts and we hold a variety of fundraising events throughout the year.

Our Eco Warriors are very pro-active in looking after our environment and in protecting our planet. We have several Junior Road Safety Officers and a team of Junior Play Leaders who support the younger children of Willow Tree.

We have strong links with the local Elderly Residential Home, where our children sing and perform regularly and we are very proud of our links with the Sutton Smile Community Group.



*'Pupils are very proud of their school and they make an outstanding contribution to its success.' Ofsted*



## Caring Individuals

At Willow Tree we strive to create strong effective partnerships with our parents and carers. The school has a very strong Pastoral Care Team who are keen to build positive relationships with all of our families. Our 'Starlight Group' provides a warm, safe environment where children with specific social or emotional needs can receive further nurturing and support.

We have a committed group of Peer Mentors who are trained to listen to and provide support and encouragement for other children.

Our school farm encourages children to care for and respect all living things and it also gives children the opportunity to develop their understanding of roles and responsibilities to become good citizens.

We hold parents meetings twice a year, where you can meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's progress. We also host Nursery and Reception open evenings to welcome our new parents. Every week we produce a school newsletter to keep you up to date and to share important information. This is also published on our website. Parents are invited to regular celebration assemblies and performances throughout the year.





The staff always listen to what you have to say.



Warm and welcoming classrooms fully support pupils' learning and foster positive relationships. Lessons are imaginative and relevant because teachers make links to everyday life and use stimulating resources to capture pupils' interest. Pupils' work is carefully marked and their efforts are celebrated. Ofsted



The Space we  
have outside is brilliant  
we have a farm,  
rabbits and guinea pigs.  
I enjoy my lessons.



*'This is a really good school; you always feel welcome', is a typical comment from the overwhelming majority of pupils who enjoy their school experience. Pupils are very proud of their school and they make an outstanding contribution to its success. Their considerate and respectful behaviour to each other and to adults makes a positive contribution to their learning. Pupils at Willow Tree fully live up to their motto of 'one team, one goal, to do our best always'. Ofsted*



## Outdoor Education

Children learn best when they are excited and engaged and we are proud to be the first school in St Helens to have their own farm on site. The children are encouraged to care for our three pygmy goats and two miniature donkeys, developing a caring ethos; a love and respect towards all living things; and an understanding of life cycles at first hand.

The extensive grounds of our school include a woodland area, where children can work together and develop team work and leadership skills. Our growing boxes inspire our children not only to eat healthily, but to grow and harvest their own food.

Developing self confidence is the key to success and we provide lots of extra curricular visits for our children, including: outdoor activity centres, residential trips to France and cultural experiences for our children, such as theatre visits.



Loose Leaf Pocket will go here







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