

# Welcome to Shillington Lower School



**Shillington Lower School**

*Value everyone, Value every chance, Value every day*

**Part of the Shillington and Stondon Federation**

**Greenfields**

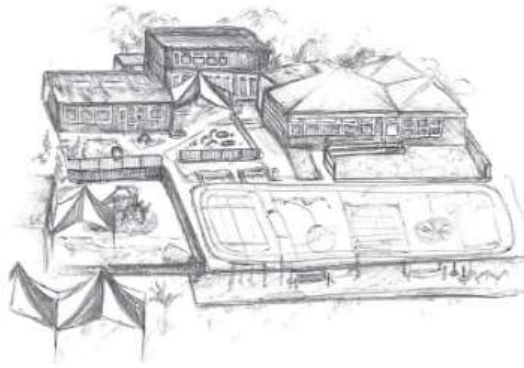
**Shillington**

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**Prospectus 2021-2022**



## Welcome to our School

Dear Parent/Carer

I welcome you to Shillington Lower School on behalf of the staff, the children, the parents and the governors.

It is our belief that **everyone** deserves the best life chances and that our school, in partnership with parents and carers, plays a vital role in that. We aim to promote a child's curiosity about the world around them, foster an irresistible love of learning, develop their independence and social awareness and promote lifelong positive learning behaviours. Our school motto "Value every one, Value every chance, Value every day" captures this belief and sits alongside our Vision and Aims for the school.

From the moment the children first arrive, we aim to help them to settle quickly, build excellent relationships with other children and with adults, feel happy, safe and secure and quickly take those first steps on the next phase of their learning journey.

Shillington Lower school is federated with Stondon Lower school in a Hard Federation. This means that they have 1 Head teacher and 1 Governing Body.

Shillington Lower School has a developing, committed and passionate staff team and Governing Body who work closely together to provide a positive environment and experience that meets the needs of all pupils. We are actively supported by a dedicated parent and teacher and friends association (PTFA).

We work closely with community members including All Saints Church and the Congregational Church. Shillington Lower is a Values school of which we are all very proud.



Looking forward to welcoming you very soon,

**Miss Sarah Woodham**

**Headteacher**



**Mrs Kerry Young**

**Head of School**

### Our School

Shillington Lower School is a Central Bedfordshire Local Authority School. Responsibility for its management is delegated to governors, all of whom have a direct interest in education and links with the local community.

Our school is situated in this historically fascinating village, with beautiful countryside all around and with its various hamlets and a parish church that may date back 1000 years. Our school educates children from the age of two to nine years old, drawing children from surrounding villages.

A large number of our children transfer from our own on site Pre School. They progress to Robert Bloomfield Academy or Henlow Church of England Academy school and, from there, Samuel Whitbread Upper School.

We are a VALUES school which means we teach and model the values we believe we all need in life. Please support our values programme by always modelling the values to your child.

You will be made aware which value of the month the children are learning about, through the newsletter and displays in school.



### Our Vision

We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum rich in key skills and experiences which develops each child as an independent learner

We will create a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment where the children feel safe, nurtured and are inspired to achieve their potential

We will be an outward facing school drawing from the valuable knowledge, experience and life skills from our stakeholders, local community and from our environment

We will teach children the importance of using and showing values and applying these in all aspects of their life

We are welcoming without exception, we take pride in similarities and differences, whatever they are

We will empower our children to be curious, adventurous, innovative, independent learners who are ambitious for themselves and each other. We want them to maximise every opportunity, overcome challenges and fulfill their potential as responsible citizens.

We will provide a balanced framework of academic and holistic support to create and nurture the physical and emotional wellbeing of everyone.

# CURRICULUM

We aim to provide an inclusive curriculum where children receive quality in their education regardless of race, gender or religion. Our teaching follows the National Curriculum and the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Our teaching methods are designed to encourage the development of confidence, independence and responsibility. A variety of strategies are used to enable children to learn effectively. These include individual, group and whole class teaching. We provide a broad and balanced education. Pixies pre-school and Rainbows Foundation follow their Foundation Stage Curriculum.

## The National Curriculum

This comprises of eleven subjects, together with Religious Education and also Personal, Social, Health Citizenship Education (PSHCE).

**Core subjects:** English, Mathematics, Science and Computing.

**Foundation subjects:** Art & Design, Design Technology, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Language (e.g. French), Music, Physical Education, PSHCE.



English and Mathematics are taught as discrete subjects and lessons. Science is also generally taught discretely. Other subjects may be taught within an overarching topic – as a major theme which looks to investigate and learn about the different subjects in a bigger context.

## ENGLISH

This is very evidently fundamental to all learning and given high priority. The majority of our skills taught include speaking and listening, reading, writing, punctuation, spelling and grammar and handwriting. Parents are provided with information sessions to help understand support their children's Phonics work. We also ensure that parents are enabled to understand the carefully stepped programmes for developing reading skills followed at Shillington. All

children are given a Reading Record book and should read with their parents regularly.

Writing is also taught in a carefully programmed way – from the correct way to hold a pencil through to well-presented cursive writing. Children will develop their skills in storytelling and other forms of writing.



## MATHEMATICS

As with English, engaging parents in how skills, techniques and understanding Mathematics are taught is very important. There are a range of ways in which pupils learn their Maths which have moved on significantly in recent years. At the same time the intent to linking this study to practical applications and to developing a sense of the fun and interest that can be had in this subject is very important.

## ORGANISATION OF CLASSES

Our overriding aim is to maintain provision of single age-group classes. These are mixed ability. The teaching organisation of each class will vary according to the activity. Children are often taught as a class, sometimes in a group and sometimes individually. Sometimes they will be grouped within the class by ability and at other times the organisation will be to mix abilities.

In our school we have the following classes, all single year age groups:

	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
<b>Pre-School</b>	<b>Pixies</b>		<b>2 - 4</b>	<b>Mrs Minta</b>
<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Rainbows</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Age 4-5</b>	<b>Miss Fletcher</b>
<b>Key Stage 1</b>	<b>Unicorns</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Age 5-6</b>	<b>Mrs Ross and Mrs Hitchcock</b>
	<b>Dragons</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Age 6-7</b>	<b>Miss Gradwell</b>
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	<b>Centaurs</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Age 7-8</b>	<b>Miss Sharpe</b>
	<b>Phoenix</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Age 8-9</b>	<b>Mrs Mossop and Mrs Moore</b>

### Staying in touch

A successful school like ours is built on a great working partnership with our children's families and carers. We have a range of ways to keep in touch regularly with you.

We greet the children at the school gate every morning and in the afternoon either the class teacher or teaching assistant will see the children to the school gate and hand over in person to parent/family. Every child has a home school diary in which both parents and teachers can write positive comments and messages. This diary is the most important way we have of communication between school and home.

We use ParentMail regularly to communicate with our families. Every fortnight we email our newsletter to report what has been happening in school and advise of events and issues for the coming weeks.

Twice a year parent consultation evenings are offered with a range of times across the days in order to maximise the options for parents.

## SEND

At Shillington Lower School we believe in giving everyone, every chance, every day to achieve his or her full potential in all aspects of school life, through a varied curriculum that is rich and challenging. We aim to raise the aspirations, and expectations for all pupils regardless of gender, race or ability

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy follows the National Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. We work closely with parents to ensure that every child makes good progress. Children with identified Special needs will have a provision plan which will be reviewed every term.

A copy of our SEND policy is available on request or on the school website.

The School SENDCo is Mrs Kerry Young.

# SCHOOL DAY

## Years 1, 2, 3, 4

8.45 am	The school gate is open and children go directly to class
9.00 am	Morning session begins
10:30-11:00 am	Morning break, key stage split, 15 minutes each
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunchtime
1:00/1.15 pm	Afternoon session begins
2:15 – 2:30pm	Afternoon break (Years 1 and 2)
3:30 pm	School day ends

## Rainbows

8:45-9.00 am	Parents bring their children to the area outside the Rainbows classroom and are greeted by staff.
11:45 – 1:00 pm	Lunch.
3:20 pm	Parents collect their children from the classroom door.

In Rainbow class, morning and afternoon break-times vary and children have access to the outside play area at most times of the day.

All children should be ***in school by 9:00 am***, when the gate into school is locked. We do like children to be on time - but it is better to come late than not at all.

Children will be dismissed at 3.30 pm from the main playground to a named responsible adult (over 16).



Please note: for all children, we understand that ***occasionally parents are unexpectedly delayed*** at the end of the school day. If you are delayed, please contact the school on 01462-711637 as soon as possible so a message can be given to your child's teacher and inform us of alternative collection arrangements.

If you have made ***alternative arrangements for your child's collection*** (e.g. going home with another parent, going to a friend's house etc.) the school must be informed via the home/school communication book, phone or letter on that day as to who will be responsible for their safe collection. In line with our

safeguarding policy, we cannot release a child unless this permission has been given.

# Welcome to Pixie Class

We opened our own [pre-school – Pixie Class](#) on the site in September 2017. This provides a direct link between the main-school staff and our great team of teacher and pre-school specialists working with our Pixies. The mutual gains are already in evidence and will certainly grow and develop over the coming years.

Pixies is open in school term times and runs from 9.00am to 3.15pm each day.





## OFSTED 2017

We were very pleased with the numerous tributes given to the school, pupils and staff in the course of the inspection of our school in May 2017:

- ✓ You ensure that teaching standards are high across the school
- ✓ Pupils make consistently strong progress
- ✓ Your thoughtful promotion of pupils' social and emotional well-being continues to be a strength of the school
- ✓ You also ensure that pupils behave well in lessons and around the school
- ✓ Pupils said how much they enjoy coming to school
- ✓ Pupils are respectful towards adults and co-operate well together
- ✓ Pupils are kind to each other and treat each other with respect
- ✓ There is a clear emphasis placed by all staff on developing pupils' positive attitudes to learning
- ✓ Parents are equally positive about their children being happy and well looked after at school



# THE GOVERNING BOARD

Governors are appointed, elected or co-opted for a fixed term. The Governing Board is made up of representatives from the staff, parents, community and members nominated by the local authority. The Headteacher is also a Governor.

The Governing Board supports, guides and works in partnership with the Headteacher to focus on the school's strategy for excellence and continuous improvement. Our Governing Board is comprised of a diverse group of local people with a range of experiences and expertise. The full Governing Board meets at least four times a year with much of the work being carried out in termly sub-committee meetings. These include:

- Resources and Planning Committee which oversees finance, staffing issues and the overall development and forward planning of the school
- Standards, Teaching and learning Committee which meets to discuss aspects of what is taught in school and results

We have an active governing board who work closely with the Headteacher and staff and their responsibilities include:

- the general conduct of the school;
- the appointment of staff;
- the school environment;
- the welfare of the children and staff;
- the curriculum;
- setting and monitoring the school's budget;
- contributing to the School Development Plan; and
- monitoring the overall effectiveness of the school.

Our Chair of Governors is Dr Jeanette Mills, who can be contacted via the school office.



## **Complaints Procedure**

The school aims to work closely with parents and we hope that parents who have any concerns or anxieties will, in the first instance, raise these with the class teacher.

The governors of the school do have arrangements and a complaints policy for considering complaints formally. For general complaints and matters concerning special needs they have adopted a procedure which follows guidelines recommend by Central Bedfordshire Council.

# ADMISSIONS

Central Bedfordshire Council operates a catchment area policy although parents have the right to express a preference for another school. At Shillington Lower School we welcome applications from outside our catchment area.

The maximum capacity of our main school is 150 pupils and we are able to admit up to 30 pupils in any one year group. If the number of places in a particular year group at a school is not sufficient to meet the requests of all parents, then the local authority will apply the following criteria (in the rank order shown) to determine how the places will be allocated:

- All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
- Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
- Children living in the catchment area
- Other children with siblings at the school
- Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address

Children enter the main school in the school year in which they turn five.

They enter the Foundation Stage class in one intake in September.

The preschool is open for children from the age of two years, not all children will be ready at this point, a decision will be made with parents at the time of application.

We welcome visits to the school from prospective parents. The Headteacher is always willing to discuss any aspects of school with you. Parents are asked to telephone the school office to make an appointment for a meeting at a mutually convenient date and time. Once you have decided that you wish your child to attend Shillington Lower School, please inform the school office who will guide you through the admissions process.

Further information on how to apply for a school place is available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website at;

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/admissions/landing.aspx>

The School Admissions Service can be contacted on 0300 300 8037 or [admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Further details of our admissions policy are available from the school office.

## Transfer to Middle School

In the September following their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, children transfer to Middle School (usually Robert Bloomfield in Shefford). The Local Authority School Admissions Service sends out details early in the year of transfer.

There is a close liaison with Robert Bloomfield Academy throughout Year 4 to ensure transition is an enjoyable and exciting experience.



# UNIFORM

Children should be sent to school clean, tidy and appropriately dressed.

Long hair must be tied back.

It is of great help if children have been taught to manage buttons, laces and zips before starting school.

Gender neutral uniform:

- Grey trousers/shorts or grey skirt/pinafore dress

- White plain or school logo polo shirt

- Red plain or school logo jumper or cardigan

- Plain black/grey/white socks or plain grey/red/black tights.

- Red checked summer dresses in the summer term

## Footwear

Sensible dark coloured shoes are preferred for all. Trainers and open-toed sandals are not suitable.

Children in **Rainbows** are also required to have a pair of **Wellington boots** in school. These should be clearly named and clipped together with a clothes peg.

## PE, Games and Swimming

All year groups:

- Black shorts, red short sleeved plain or school logo T-Shirt,

- Trainers.

- In the winter a dark coloured tracksuit or long sleeved top to be worn over shorts/t-shirt when outside. No football kits.

All children **swim** during the summer term and will need a costume and towel. No goggles are permitted.

*\*The office sells school red PE bag, book bag, water bottle and school logo red sun hat.*

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS ARE NAMED.**

# SCHOOL POLICIES

## **Individual Needs (Special Educational Needs) Policy**

Our Special Educational Needs Policy follows the assessment stages in the National Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We work closely with parents from the early identification stage of any child experiencing learning difficulties and respond sensitively and professionally to differences in learning abilities.

Lessons are planned to provide work of the appropriate level for our children. All children are given work that ensures they are properly stretched and challenged.



## **Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy**

Our children are considerate, polite, excellently behaved and enjoy school greatly. Children are expected to behave well and treat everyone with the same respect. We promote good behaviour and attitudes to learning by recognising, drawing attention to and rewarding this high standard of behaviour.

In cases where a child's behaviour causes concern, parents are contacted and together we discuss and work towards resolving the issues. All staff and children follow the school's policy on discipline/behaviour which also encompasses the issue of bullying. Visual reminders are displayed in each of the classrooms and at other prominent places around the school.

## **Home-School-Pupil Agreement**

We have a home-school-pupil agreement which we expect all parents and pupils to sign annually.

## **Safeguarding**

We are committed to the safety of all our pupils and make positive steps to ensure we actively promote and adhere to safeguarding principles and policies.

We expect parents, families and visitors to also actively support this commitment and respond to guidance and direction regarding key routines we have for safeguarding the children in our care.

Copies of school policies are available from the school office and on the school website.

# School Meals

Schools meals are prepared, cooked and served on the premises. Children have choices and variety each day. Facilities are available for children who bring a packed lunch.

Shillington Lower School is a '**Nut Free Zone**'.

Please do not include nuts of any kind in your child's lunch box or any snacks.

**Universal free school meals** are offered to all children in Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2. Some families throughout the school may also be eligible **free school meals** and this brings in additional funding to the school (known as Pupil Premium) – you may be eligible if you are in receipt of government benefits. The school office can advise on this.

**NO NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS**



As a school, we legally have to make milk available to children during the school day. We do this through a company called "Cool Milk." Parents contact the company directly. Please ask the office for further details

## Healthy Schools



We are proud of our Healthy Schools accreditation. The whole school worked together to achieve this award. All children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and keep a personal water bottle in their classroom. These can be purchased from the school office.

If your child is in **Rainbow Class or years 1 or 2** he/she will be given a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day. This is usually provided before the morning break. Children in other classes are allowed to bring fruit or vegetables for mid-morning break.

**NO NUTS, CANS OR FIZZY DRINKS  
ARE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL**

# School Council

The School Council is a representative group of children who have been elected by their peers to represent their views and raise issues with the Staff and Governors.

Our School Council consists of eight children. They have many roles within the school. They:

- Help to raise awareness of charities and raise money for them in a variety of ways
- Read and address suggestions made by other children or staff
- Help with staff interviews when new staff are employed
- Prepare and lead assemblies



We also offer other leadership opportunities in year 4 with various roles.

## Helping in School

There are many areas of life in school which would be almost impossible without the help of parents/carers and other volunteers. We are most grateful for all the help we receive, whether it is on a regular or occasional basis. Regular help covers such things as helping with art and craft, sewing, technology, cooking and hearing reading. In order to become a helper in school, volunteers will have to undergo an enhanced disclosure clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service, specifically for helping at Shillington Lower School. If you would like to volunteer to help in school, then please contact the school office.

## Community Links

We are extremely fortunate to have a large number of volunteers who come into school to help with such things as reading and school trips.

We have good links with the local community, with the Congregational and Church of England ministers regularly leading assemblies. One of our aims is to develop further links with the local community.

## Collective Worship

Whilst not a church school, Shillington has a Christian ethos. The majority of assemblies are broadly Christian in character, with some drawing on other faiths and traditions.

# Parent Teacher and Friends Association

Every parent at Shillington Lower is a member of the PTFA – the Parent Teacher and Friends Association. We have a dedicated group of parents that work relentlessly to organise a range of activities to raise money for the school. Events have included school discos, Christmas Fayre, summer balls, bingo, camping and fun run.

Every year the PTFA funds the running and maintenance of the school swimming pool. It also donates money to each class for additional resources and enrichment activities.

If you would like to volunteer to join the committee or would like further information on the PTFA please contact the Chair via the school office.



Pupil Premium

What is the Pupil Premium? The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil on roll where their parent(s) are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment & Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income does not exceed £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll out of this benefit)

The money must be spent on that pupil to support their education, but it is for the school to determine how it is spent.

If you think that you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call please have the following information available:

- National Insurance Number
- Date of birth for your child/ren

If you need any further assistance or have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.