



Shilbottle First School

Information Booklet



**Shilbottle Grange,
Alnwick,
Northumberland.
NE66 2XQ**

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admin@shilbottle.northumberland.sch.uk

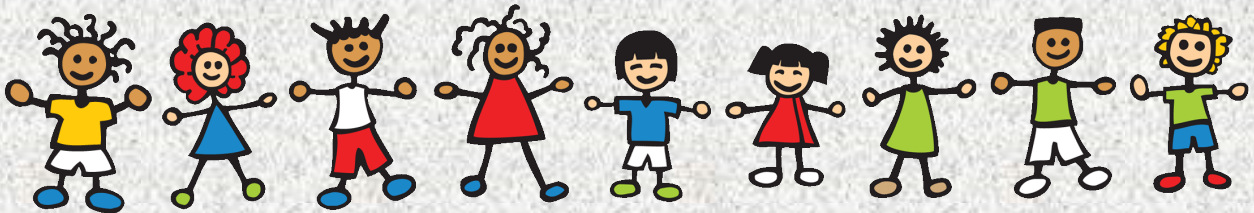
<https://www.shilbottle.northumberland.sch.uk>

Welcome

The Staff, Governors and Pupils of Shilbottle First School would like to welcome you and your child to our school. We hope that your child's time at our school will be an enjoyable and valuable experience. We look forward to meeting you and believe that together we can prepare your child for a positive start to school.

We have a busy, happy and cheerful school with an experienced, hard working staff and a supportive dedicated Governing Body. We have been identified as an outstanding school by OFSTED three times.

We are a National Support School and a strategic partner in a Teaching School.



Our vision

Every child matters to us.

We aim to enthuse and challenge our children.

We have high expectations for every child.

We ensure that the skills of Literacy and Numeracy are rigorously taught.

We embrace equal opportunities. We take account of individual ability and differentiate learning so that every child progresses in every lesson and achieves their potential.

We reward effort as well as achievement.

We develop children's awareness of moral, spiritual, social and cultural values, physical wellbeing and a sensitivity towards the needs of others.

Admission Arrangements

Admissions Policy

Please refer to Northumberland County Council's Education booklet for detailed information on admissions.

Our practice is to admit children to the Early Years Foundation Stage in Class 1 the term after their **4th Birthday**.

Children who are 4 years old before December 31st can be admitted 5 sessions a week to school as Pre-Reception children from January.

Those children who are 4 years old before March 31st can be admitted 5 sessions a week from April.

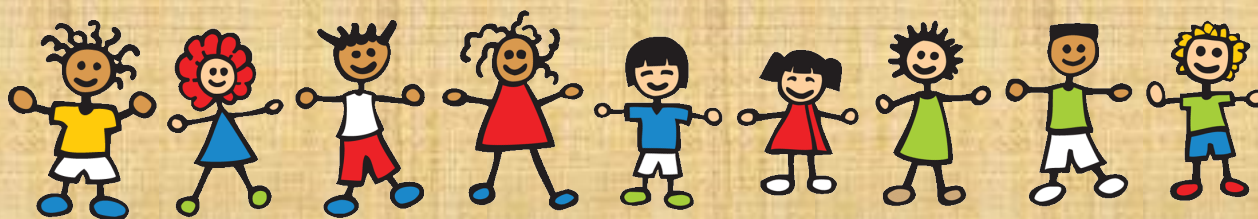
Children whose birthdays fall before September 1st will be admitted full time into the Foundation Class in September.

If you have any questions please phone the school.

Pre-school Visits

We have meetings for parents of new starters.

Our Early Years teacher Mrs Williams will be only too happy to answer any questions you may have.



Transfer from other schools

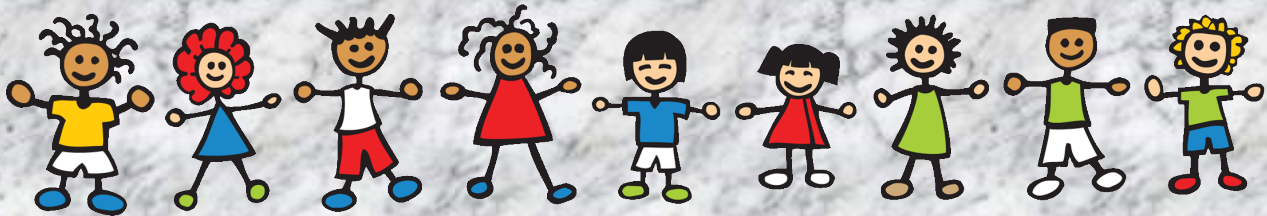
As long as there are places available, we welcome new children into school over the course of the year.

Parents resident outside the school's catchment area who wish their children to attend the school may submit an application by completing a School Request Form (copies available from the school or County Education office) and returning it to the Director of Education at County Hall, Morpeth. NE61 2EF.

Parents will be informed by County if a place is available for their children.

Staff and Class Organisation

Mrs Angela Jefferies Headteacher	Year 4	Class 4
Mrs Ailsa Hickman	Year 4	Class 5
Mr Rob Phillips	Year 3	Class 4
Mrs Karen Kelly	Year 2	Class 3
Miss Eleanora Harrison	Year 1	Class 2
Miss Imogen Bowden	Early Years	Class 1



Dance Teacher	Miss Cheryl Stewart
Office Manager	Mrs Heather Lowes
Classroom Assistants	Mrs Tracy Slack (HLTA) Mrs Diane Dodd Mrs June Thorne Miss Lorna Hedley
Resource Manager	Miss Yvonne Hood
Lunchtime Supervisors	Miss Lorna Hedley Mrs June Thorne Mrs Tracy Slack Mrs Diane Dodd
Caretaker	Mr Peter Dodd
Playgroup Leader	Mrs Christine Cocker

Curriculum Areas

A full range of National Curriculum subjects is taught to all pupils. The children are taught in a variety of ways according to the nature of the task being undertaken. This will range from whole class, to small groups or as individuals providing the most appropriate mode for both the child and the task. Careful planning and preparation is undertaken to ensure a balance is maintained between subject areas and that the content and approaches are relevant to all children.

Core Subjects

Literacy

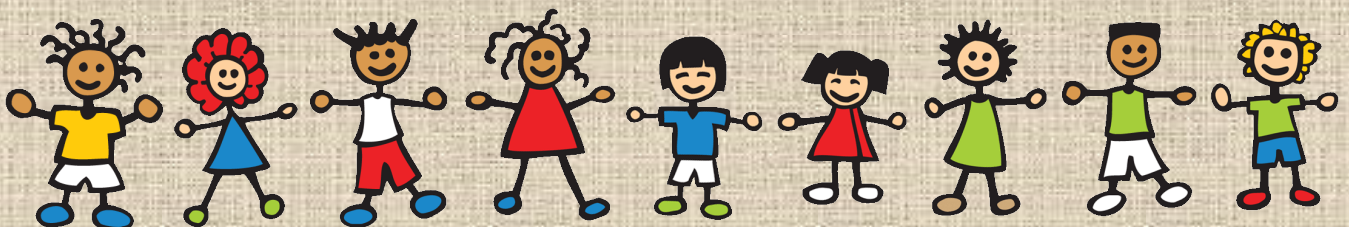
We use 'Read Write Inc' to teach phonics, reading and writing. The predominant reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree. We encourage children to read every night and we have a home/school reading record for parents to write in. We have a structured spelling scheme and children in both key stages bring home spelling tasks. We encourage children to become independent writers and use the principles of 'Big Writing'

Numeracy

We aim to provide children with a wide experience of Numeracy using the New National Curriculum through practical real life situations. We encourage children to develop their computational skills to enable them to work accurately and have a quick recall of facts. We work with children using whole class, groups and individual tasks to develop children's knowledge and understanding. Homework is set on a regular basis and is linked to the work in the classroom

Science

Opportunities are provided to develop children's scientific skills and knowledge needed to understand the world around them. Classroom tasks require children to use scientific methods to observe, question and hypothesise through planned activities. We are fortunate to have extensive grounds offering a wealth of opportunities to explore the natural world.



Foundation Subjects

Design and Technology

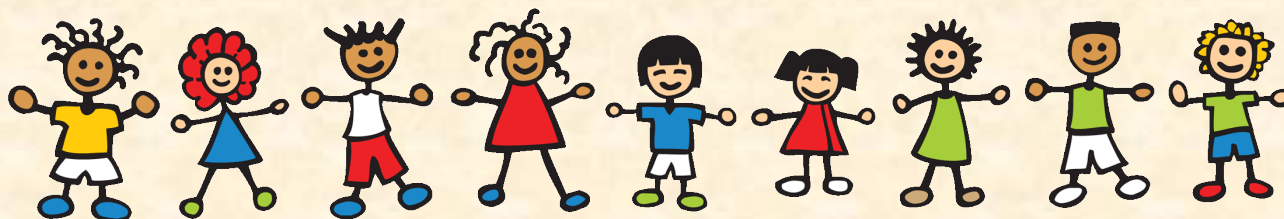
We aim to raise children's awareness of technological needs and opportunities within their environment. Children are given tasks and problems, which require them to design and make artefacts, systems or environments using appropriate resources and materials

Information Technology

We have a great many computers both in the ICT suite and in each class. Children use the school's and County's learning platforms to access resources and develop skills both in school and at home. ICT is integrated into all subjects as well as taught in its own right.

History

Children are offered opportunities to develop an awareness of the past and an understanding of the passage of time, gaining knowledge and understanding of events and people in the past, both locally and nationally and how it has influenced us to day.



Geography

We encourage children to make sense of their own locality through geography, gradually extending this to different regions. Other parts of the world will also be studied. A range of skills and knowledge learnt in geography will help children to make sense of the environment in which they live. Environmental issues are considered and a caring attitude towards our surroundings developed.

Art

The children are given the opportunity to experiment and acquire skills in the use and handling of different materials. Children are given a wide range of experiences. The ability to observe, analyse and record visual information is developed. An understanding of artists and designers is developed by reference to their work.

Music

Through music pupils will develop their own skills in performing, composing and appraising. The use of voice, a range of musical instruments and pre-recorded music will help to develop these skills. Year 3 children have the opportunity to perform dance and music at Alnwick Playhouse. We invite visiting musicians to work with the children on activities such as African drumming and accordions. We also offer tuition from peripatetic teachers. There is a lunchtime music club run by our Music co-ordinator.

Religious Education

Our aims in RE are to support children and young people in reflecting upon developing and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes, through an exploration of shared human experiences. It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE lessons in its entirety or in part. If parents choose to withdraw their child from RE then special arrangements will be made.

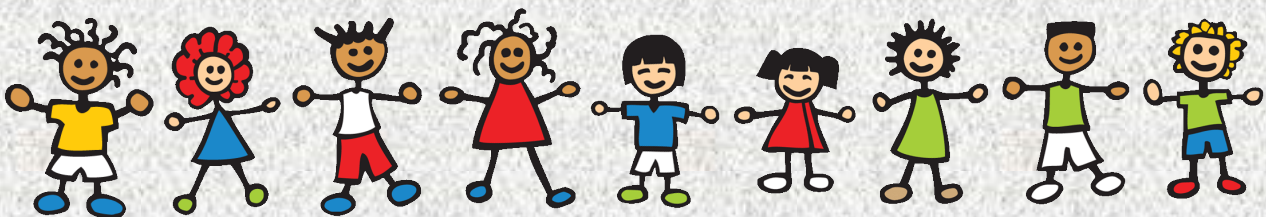
We have collective worship everyday. We invite people from different religious groups to come and talk to children from time to time. Our worship is broad and balanced. If parents choose to withdraw their child from collective worship then special arrangements will be made.

Physical Education

PE involves the process of planning, performing and evaluating with the emphasis on physical activity. We offer a variety of activities including games, gymnastics, athletics, dance/movement and swimming. Jewellery should not be worn for PE as it is a safety risk. Year 3 children have the opportunity to perform dance on the stage at Alnwick Playhouse. Year 2/3/4 go swimming every week. We have a soccer club and a karate club every week.

Sporting Aims

Our children are encouraged to take part in competitive games at Sports day and Key Stage 2 children take part in Football and Kwik cricket tournaments. Children also experience dance, gymnastics, game skills and swimming.



Sex Education

Sex education forms parts of our health education and is taught at an age-appropriate level through PSHE and SEAL.

Special Educational Needs

We closely follow Northumberland County and Government guidelines on Special Educational Needs. Mrs. Jefferies and Mrs Hickman share the SEN-CO role and Intervention Plans are developed for pupils with Additional Needs. Parents are closely involved in this process .

Assessment

Our assessment procedures encompass all areas of learning and pupil development. Through careful, systematic assessment and recording we are able to build a picture of pupil achievement and plan future learning. Development Matters month bands are used to assess children in the Early Years and National Curriculum Levels of attainment are recorded for individual Y1-Y4pupils.

Target Setting

As a school we are very committed to improving the basic skills of the children we teach. We have a target setting policy in our school. We use the new 2012 Foundation Profile, SATs and APP tests to monitor children's progress. Where we feel children are underachieving we support them by working with them to improve their skills. This could take the form of extra tuition or extra homework. Parents will be asked to be involved in this process.

We have two Parents' evenings, one in the Autumn term and one in the Spring to discuss your child's progress and we send out a written report in the Summer Term .

Teacher Assessment in percentages 2012-13

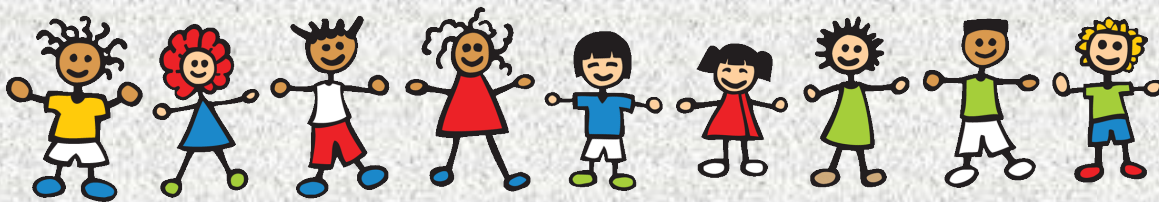
subject		levels				
		1+	2c+	2b+	2a+	3+
reading	S	100%	95%	95%	64%	41%
	N	98%	87%	76%	53%	27%
writing	S	100%	95%	77%	59%	27%
	N	97%	83%	64%	35%	14%
numeracy	S	100%	95%	91%	73%	50%
	N	98%	91%	76%	49%	22%

S=school results **N=national results**

Uniform

It is important that children come to school in clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for the time of year and for the activities the children are doing. In particular, fastenings on clothes can be very difficult for younger children, so try to make sure they can manage the clothes and shoes they may be wearing. We ask that children come to school in either shoes or trainers with a low heel, Open sandals are not allowed. Boots must be changed when children are in school.

We believe that the wearing of similar clothing can foster a sense of school identity and belonging



Girls

Red sweatshirts or cardigans with school badge

Polo shirts under sweatshirt

Dark trousers, skirt or dress

Boys

Red sweatshirts with school badge

Polo shirts under sweatshirt

Dark trousers or shorts

PE Kit

Indoor – shorts, t-shirt and black sandshoes

Outdoor-Jogging bottoms/shorts, t-shirt and black sandshoes

Swimming - costume and towel.

**Earrings must be stud earrings and be removed for PE. If a child has just had her/his ears pierced please provide plasters.
(This is a Government Directive).**

PE Bags, Book Bags, Sweatshirts, Cardigans, Polo shirts and caps are available from school.

All school clothing and personal property must be clearly marked with your child's name.

General Information

Times of the school day are as follows:

Morning	8.40 - 10.05	10.20 - 11.50
Afternoon	1.00 – 2.00	2.15 - 3.15

There is a short break during each morning and afternoon session. For safety reasons we ask that children do not arrive at school before 8.40 in the morning, especially in cold or wet weather,

Hours worked in School

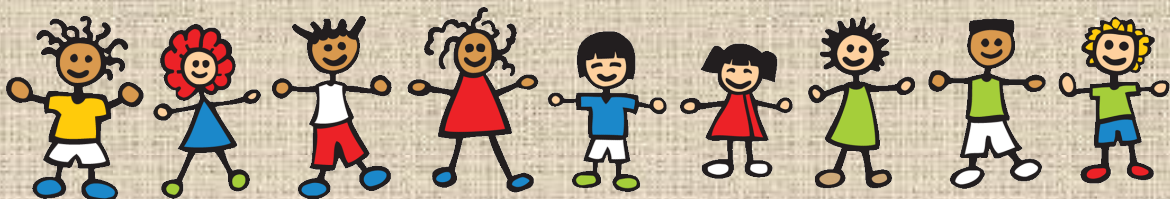
Key stage 1 – 22.30 hours per week.

Key stage 2 – 23.30 hours per week

The teachers collect their class from the school yard in the morning. We hope that you will always feel welcome in our school. If you have a particular query the teachers are always available either first thing in the morning or at the end of a day, or you can telephone during the lunch time period.

This is also the same for Mrs. Jefferies as she is a teaching Headteacher, so if you especially need to see her it is usually best to ring and make an appointment unless the matter is urgent.

We have a morning and after school club operating Independently on our site – a leaflet is available in the office.



General Information

School Visits and Swimming

There are no charges made for books, materials or equipment. However, parents are invited to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of educational visits and swimming lessons.

Educational visits are made to different places or other schools and are seen as a valuable way of enriching the curriculum. These often give your child opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of an aspect of their schoolwork through first hand experience that would not be possible in a classroom environment.

Sometimes the children visit places e.g. Cragside, Woodhorn Colliery. Holy Island, in connection with their programmes of work.

Alternatively a drama or music production will be brought into school and perhaps shared by a range of children from other schools.

We try to keep the cost to a minimum. We have to point out that if parents did not contribute to the cost of these activities we would not be able to afford them.

Parent involvement

Parents are invited into school to help any time they can. There are many areas of school life that parents could help with literacy, numeracy, hearing reading, sewing and art activities, computers.

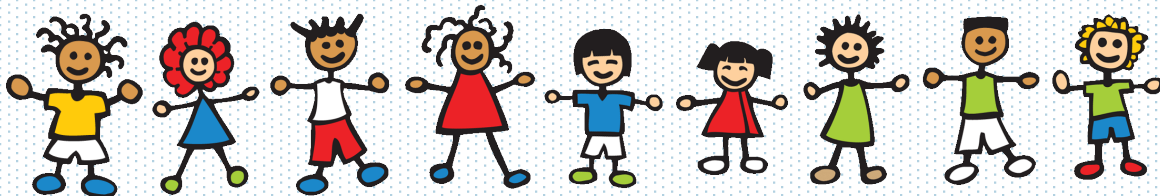
There are other ways of supporting your children and developing stronger links with school:

- Assemblies, Christmas concerts etc.

- Attending parents evenings;

- Accompanying educational visits;

- Helping in school



Welcoming visitors

It is assumed that visitors with a professional role i.e. the School Nurse or members of the police already have relevant clearance but the office will endeavour to check this before admittance is granted and a note made of anyone entering without clearance.

Health and Wellbeing

School Meals

Our school meals are cooked on the premises and children are encouraged to stay for lunch or alternatively bring a packed lunch. Please make sure that your child's dinner money is in a marked envelope or plastic bag.

A number of children have free school meals (forms are available from school office.)

Milk

Milk is also available at morning break. There is a cost for this, Children under the age of 5 will be able to get free milk.

Fruit

Children in class 1 and 2 have a piece of fruit free of charge because of a Government fruit scheme. Year 3/4 children can bring fruit to eat.

Medicines

If your child is receiving medication prescribed by a Doctor, we would usually expect the child not to be in school. However, if you wish any medicine (including inhalers) to be given in school time by a teacher, you must let us have the request in writing giving the correct instructions and see your child's teacher in order to fill in a consent form.

We also need to know about important allergies in case of emergencies.

No other medicine will be administered in school and parents may be requested to come into school to administer medicine. Forms for any child who has Asthma are available in the office.

Equality and diversity

The school welcomes diversity in its pupils valuing differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief, class or age. We actively aim to remove all conditions that put people at a disadvantage, strive to improve access and to provide support to learners to help them succeed with us. We are committed to providing a caring and supportive environment inclusive of all learners. The school operates proactively to prevent inappropriate behaviour, discrimination or victimisation in any form. A copy of this policy is available.



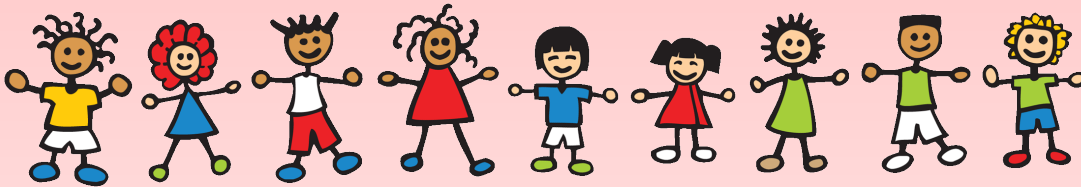
Illness and Absence

Attendance

Research clearly shows that pupils' progress at school is hindered if they do not attend school regularly. We are pleased to report that in this academic year we have no unauthorised absences recorded.

Last Year we achieved 96.3% attendance (higher than the national average)

- It is very important that your son or daughter attends everyday unless they are ill.
- Every class has absence slips to fill in on the child's return or you can or send a letter in.
- If a pupil is absent from school for any reason which is not justified, this will be marked down as an unauthorised absence from school. (Shopping trips, non-urgent appointments are examples of unauthorised absences.)
- We will contact parents if any child is not at school to ensure their safety.



Illness

During their first year in school many children seem to catch all sorts of 'bugs' and viruses. To some extent this helps to build up their immune system, but please be thoughtful of other children to whom exposure to such infections might have more serious consequences.

If your child is ill please phone school on the first day of absence and write a note on the child's return to school. This will ensure that your child does not receive an unauthorised absence mark.

Below is a list of illnesses and recommended absence periods

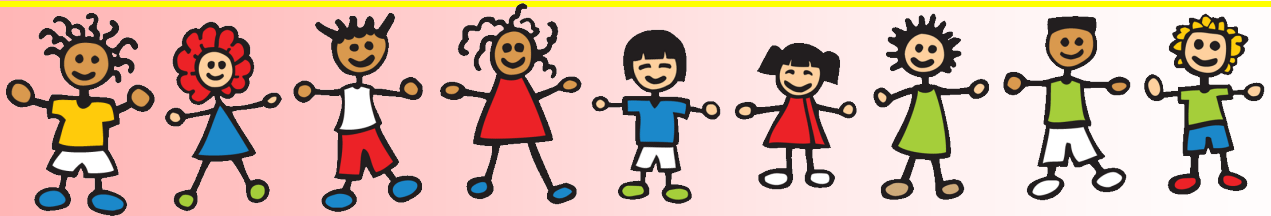
Chicken Pox	Until rash has crusted (6 -7 days)
Cold / Cough	Until recovered
Conjunctivitis	Until recovered
Diarrhoea /Vomiting	Until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped (2 full days)
Glandular fever	During acute stage of illness
Head Lice/ringworm	Until treatment has started
Influenza	Until symptoms have stopped
Impetigo/cold sore	Until lesions have healed
Scabies	Until symptoms have gone
Sore Throat (bacterial)	Until 5 days after antibiotics started

Safety

Child Protection Policy

The designated adults for Child Protection are Mrs Jefferies, and Miss Harrison and the designated governor is Mrs Carr. It is the Governing Body's duty to ensure the Child Protection policy is reviewed annually and any deficiencies within the policy addressed immediately. Certain governors and all staff have had appropriate child protection training, which is updated at least every three years.

This school follows DfES guidelines 10/98 which asserts that physical restraint may be used if there is the possibility that a child may be about to cause harm to him/ herself or to another. All staff have received Positive Handling training. All allegations of abuse by or complaints of a teacher will be dealt with following the Local Safeguarding Board procedures. Policy available .



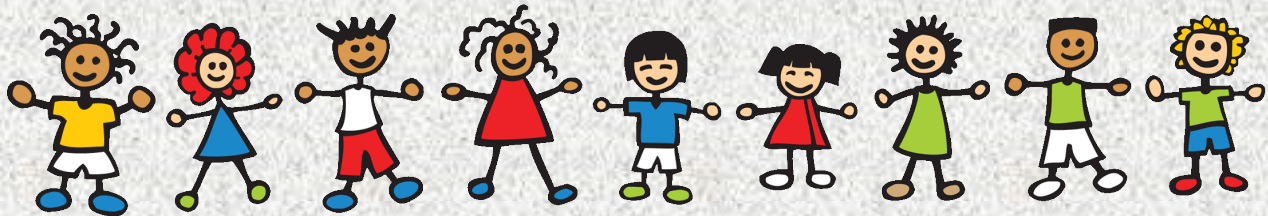
Safeguarding

At Shilbottle First School the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish. We therefore have to ensure that this expectation becomes reality. In order to do this a wide range of measures are put in place:

All staff that are appointed to work in school have a criminal records search called a CRB check. This search highlights people who have a criminal record or if previous allegations have been made against them.

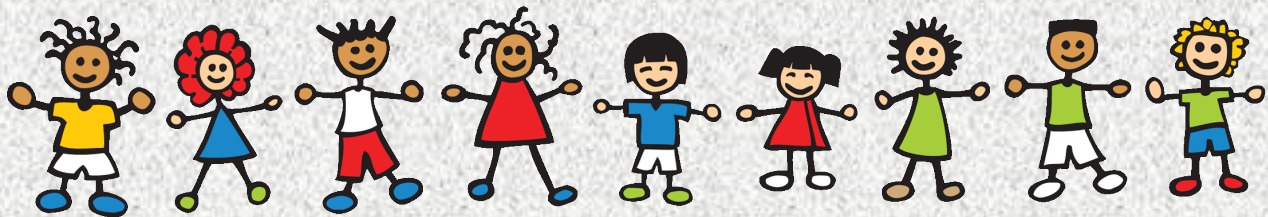
If staff are found to have a criminal record the appointment is reconsidered by the Headteacher and the Governing Body. The LA is informed directly by the Criminal Records Bureau. The Headteacher sits on all appointment panels where the candidates are applicants. The Headteacher has undertaken the NCSL training on Safer Recruitment. New staff are inducted into safeguarding practices.

Newly appointed staff are assigned a mentor for the induction period. It is the responsibility of the mentors to familiarise new staff with procedures and policy, which affect the health and safety of all at school but especially the children. Policy available.



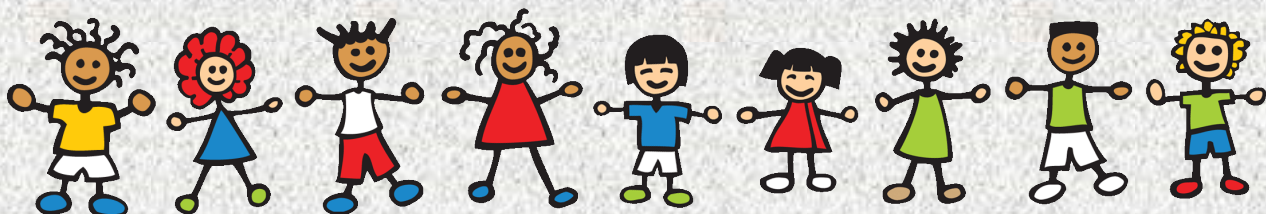
Emergencies

If your child is involved in an accident or taken ill at school arrangements will be made either for treatment at hospital, if that is necessary, or for the child to be taken or sent home. It is vital that emergency information about your child is kept up-to-date and this must include either work or emergency contact number so that you can be informed as soon as possible. Please also ensure that numbers given as emergency contacts really will be available in the event of an emergency. Delays in finding contacts can be very distressing for children if they become ill. Please note that mobile phones that are kept switched off are not suitable as emergency contacts.



Internet Safety

E-safety is very important and all computers are only accessed by passwords. Children are taught how to safely use the internet. Children should be encouraged to use the internet as much as is possible, but at all times in a safe way. Parents are asked if they agree to their child using the internet. Pupils must never be left unattended whilst online and teachers should ensure that this does not happen. If teachers know of misuse, either by a teacher or child the issue should be reported to the Headteacher without delay. As Child Protection Officers Mrs Jefferies and Miss Harrison has overall responsibility for internet safety. Policy available.



Behaviour

Our Golden Rules

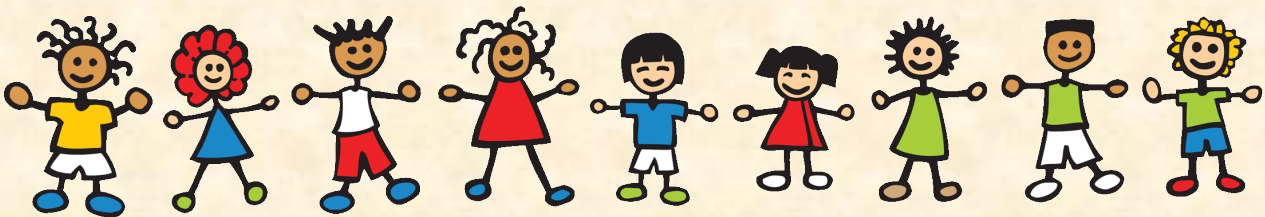
Follow instructions.

Be polite, kind and helpful.

Move safely around the school.

Listen carefully.

Always do your best.



Behaviour

What happens if a child misbehaves?

The school always expects high standards of behaviour both in and out of school. We use positive behaviour management strategies and reward good behaviour. Parents will be informed of any persistent disruptive behaviour.

What does the school do about bullying?

The school has a firm Anti-bullying Policy and set procedures are followed. Please be assured that everyone in school takes incidents of bullying very seriously. Incidents of bullying in school are extremely rare. Parents are encouraged to discuss any incidents with staff so bullying can be stopped quickly.

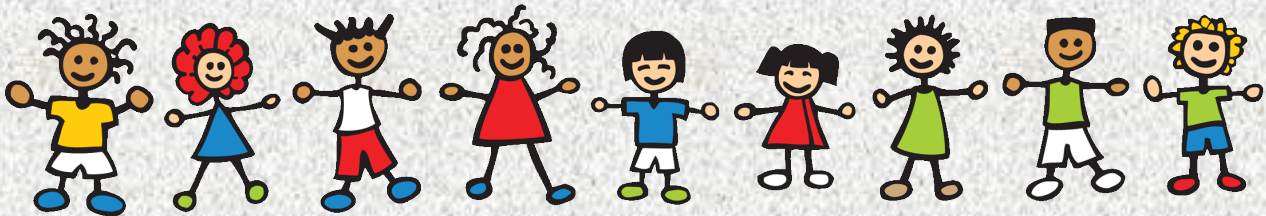
Information & Communication

Policies

We have a wide range of policies in school, if parents would like a copy of any of these policies please contact the school. If parents have visual difficulties these can be printed in larger texts. Some policies are on our website

Newsletters

We try to keep you well informed of what is going on at school through regular news letters via 'Parent Mail'. A copy of the Newsletter will be put on the Parents' notice board. Please see Mrs Lowes to set up Parent Mail.



Complaints

Dealing with complaints

If a parent wishes to complain about the provision or a policy, they should, in the first instance, raise it with the class teacher, who will try to resolve the situation.

If the issue cannot be resolved within 10 working days, the parent can submit a formal complaint to the Headteacher in writing or any other accessible format.

The Headteacher will reply within 10 working days.

Any issues that remain unresolved at this stage will be managed according to the school's Complaints Policy.

This is available, on request, from the school.

