



Working together for a successful future



Welcome from the Headteacher



Mrs Samantha Sillito
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to welcome you to Queensgate Foundation Primary School. We hope this will be the start of a highly rewarding partnership between our school and your family.

Queensgate Foundation Primary School is a relatively new school, which opened in September 2010, following a competition to establish a new school in the East Cowes area. It is now a thriving two form entry school set in spacious grounds. Queensgate Foundation Primary School was rated "Good" by Ofsted in July 2012.

Queensgate is different to other primary schools and unique on the Isle of Wight. It is a Foundation School. This means we work in partnership with many providers to enhance opportunities and provision for the children.

The staff of Queensgate are dynamic and experienced with much to offer. We set high teaching standards and have high learning expectations of the children. We are totally committed to giving the children the best educational start we can. We believe that close collaboration between the school and the community and between home and school is essential. With your help we will ensure that your child's years at Queensgate are both happy and successful. This is why our mission statement is "working together for a successful future."

We believe in encouraging each child and helping them to make the most of their time with us. We will cater for all abilities and each child will be treated as an individual. We will develop your child so they are able to reach their full potential in all areas of life.

We will provide a friendly and approachable environment where the children and parents feel valued, have fun and are successful in their learning.

If you do not know the school already we will be pleased to show you around. We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Samantha Sillito
Headteacher

The Queensgate Ethos, Vision and Code

The Queensgate Ethos

We recognise that academic achievement is very important, but at Queensgate we appreciate that the education of the children needs to be broad and to prepare them with life skills. The ethos of the school is built upon the Queensgate Vision, which was written by staff, Governors, parents and the children.

The Queensgate Vision

At Queensgate Foundation Primary we:

- **develop a love of learning through a wide variety of experiences and opportunities in a safe, stimulating atmosphere**
- **create independent learners who reach their full potential**
- **have happy, confident and resilient people**
- **have high standards of achievement and behaviour**
- **are at the heart of the community**

One of the ways that the Vision is fulfilled is through consistently high standards of behaviour. The Queensgate Code clearly outlines these expectations. There is a behaviour system that runs throughout the school, which is based on positive reinforcement and sanctions. There are class and individual reward systems to help motivate the children with their learning.

The Queensgate Code

At Queensgate Foundation Primary School we:

- **use our good manners at all times**
- **respect ourselves, other people, the school and the environment**
- **are kind, caring, helpful and gentle**
- **listen well and work hard**
- **are smart!**





The Queensgate Home/School Agreement

When your child starts at Queensgate you and your child will be asked to sign a home/school agreement. This provides a foundation for our work together.

Bullying

We define bullying as making someone feel unhappy or miserable through planned and deliberate actions happening over a period of time. Sometimes there are small incidents at school which are easy to sort out and would not be classed as bullying. We take bullying very seriously and will not tolerate it within our school.

“Behaviour and safety are good, as are pupils’ attitudes to learning. Pupils say they feel safe and enjoy their learning. One pupil echoed others’ opinions when saying that “Lessons are Fun.”

Ofsted, July 2012

Attendance & Punctuality

Children who attend well, and are punctual, do better at school and make more progress. We believe good attendance is of paramount importance. Please do not book family holidays during term time, you may get a fine. If your child is too unwell to attend school then you need to telephone the school office first thing in the morning. This needs to be followed up with a written note on the day your child returns to school. We ask that you make medical appointments for outside of school time. If you cannot avoid an appointment in school time then we ask that you bring evidence of your child’s appointment in to us. Punctuality is also very important. Lateness will disrupt your child’s learning and well being, but it can also unsettle other children in the class. Our doors open at 8.40 am with lessons starting at 8.55 am. We expect children to arrive before 8.50 am.

A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Queensgate Foundation Primary School provides a broad and balanced curriculum which is always evolving to take on new ideas and strategies and to accommodate new technologies to support the children's learning and equip them for their life at secondary school and beyond.

Each day there is a half an hour Guided Reading session, one hour of English and one hour of Mathematics. In addition, each half term, the children study a theme. This work usually includes some science, history, geography, art, design and technology, Information Technology, French and Personal, Social and Emotional Education.

Collective Worship and Religious Education

We have a daily assembly. These Assemblies take a variety of forms, but broadly we aim to develop attitudes of tolerance and understanding of the beliefs, customs and attitudes of others with an understanding of citizenship, multicultural awareness and equal opportunities. We have many visitors to lead our assemblies giving the children rich and varied opportunities for learning.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school using the Isle of Wight Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

“He has been enjoying extra-curricular activities such as football and dance, which he finds enriching and has helped improve his confidence.”

Parent, 2013

Homework

Homework is set in increasing amounts from Reception to Year 6. This is designed to support and consolidate the children's learning at school. We expect you to listen to your child/ children read at home every day until they are able to read independently. The children will also need support in learning their spelling lists. We also ask that you support your child to learn their times tables. The expectation is that all children should know all of their times tables by the end of year 4.

Music

Many opportunities are offered for the children to develop their musical skills. There are music lessons within curriculum time, but, in addition, there are opportunities to learn musical instruments with peripatetic teachers for which there is a charge.

Physical Education

We aim to teach PE for two hours a week. This is through two PE lessons and a daily wake up, shake up session. There are a wide variety of sports on offer at Queensgate, both within the lessons and in terms of extracurricular opportunities including: girls' and boys' football, netball, basketball, cricket, Kwik cricket, Quicksticks, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton and swimming. Queensgate Foundation Primary School have achieved the Silver Kite Mark for PE and sport.

Cookery

We have excellent kitchen facilities at Queensgate. The children access cookery across each academic year.

The Out and About Curriculum

We also offer an Out and About Curriculum. Many school trips are organised to support and enrich the children's learning. These trips generally relate to the theme that the children are studying. There are residential trips on offer in years 4 and 6.

Across the academic year each class gets the opportunity to go “Out and About” for a few weeks running. These visits often utilise the school mini bus and the stunning Isle of Wight environment is explored to enhance the children's learning.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Queensgate Foundation Primary School has two ICT suites and lap tops that can be used in the classrooms. The children are taught ICT skills, but also have access to a wide variety of web based learning to enrich the curriculum.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Queensgate Foundation Primary School has invested in the development of a Virtual Learning Environment or VLE. The VLE is a teaching and learning tool that is designed to enhance a pupil's learning by including computers and the internet in the learning process. Queensgate's VLE has been designed to be accessed by all pupils with the curriculum broken down into easily identifiable and accessible sections. All the pupils will be issued with a unique user ID and password and will be able to access the VLE from their home. Parents will therefore be able to share and support the learning of their children.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Many teachers and support staff run clubs after school.

There is a huge range covering ICT, art, sport and music. The offer varies according to year group.

School Council

Queensgate Foundation Primary School has a School Council. The children elect two peers from their year group onto the School Council to represent them. The School Council gets involved in all sorts of projects for example, fundraising, design projects, environmental projects as well as always listening to the views of the children in terms of how things at Queensgate can be further improved.

Progress of the Children

Queensgate aims for high standards of attainment. We like all children to be making good progress and monitor this rigorously. Assessments are ongoing and inform the teacher's planning. However, three times a year the assessment data comes to the headteacher and progress meetings with each class teacher take place. This ensures that issues are picked up and addressed and the children are always working to the best of their ability and getting support/challenge where they need it. This information is shared with you as parents and carers three times a year. We hold a Parents' Evening in the autumn term, another in the spring and there is a written report provided in the summer term.

“The Queensgate Vision, promoting such qualities as resilience, independent learning and mutual respect, is applied throughout the school.”

Ofsted, July 2012

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school, where all pupils have an equal opportunity to succeed. Our rigorous monitoring of progress means we can identify children who need extra support or extension work. Children may have a variety of special needs based around physical, learning or behavioural and emotional needs. These are catered for in school through one to one or small group work or in partnership with outside agencies. We have two dedicated rooms to support children with additional needs: The Den and The Early Birds Room.

School Meals

Fruit is provided free to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Our school meals are provided by Chartwells.

We offer a three week menu. A main meal and a vegetarian choice is available daily with fresh vegetables and dessert. There are also jacket potatoes and a salad bar available daily. Some children are entitled to Free School Meals. Please check at the school office to see if this applies to you. If you are entitled to Free School Meals we urge you to register, so your child can benefit from a nutritious meal at lunch time.

School Nurse

We have a school nurse who you can contact through the school if you have any health worries. If you would like the school to administer medicine we have some paperwork that needs to be filled in. We ask that all medicine is labelled with your child's name and in the correct packaging with the dosage clearly outlined.



We Welcome Parental Involvement

We like parents to be involved with our school.

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

1. Focus Learners

Each child will get the opportunity to be a Focus Learner at least once during the academic year. This is an opportunity for your child to take on special roles and responsibilities. It is also a time where you can negotiate a time to come in and work with your child in a lesson and have lunch with them if you wish to.

2. Helping in the classroom

If you have some spare time or a special skill and would like to come into school to hear readers or carry out an activity we would be pleased to have you. Please note all parent helpers need an enhanced CRB check.

3. Join the Parent, Teacher, Friends Association (PTFA)

This is a group of people who hold several functions a year including Christmas, Easter and Summer Fairs, discos and sponsored events. Their aim is twofold, firstly to raise funds for the school and secondly to provide fun events that help to bring the community together.

4. Become a School Governor

The Governors take an active and positive role in ensuring that the school operates in a happy, efficient and effective way. They also ensure that legislation is followed correctly. Each Governor has a specific area of interest and collectively provides the school with diverse strengths and experience to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

5. Most importantly

Support your own child's learning.



Communication

Working in partnership involves good communication. Please let us know if there are any changes at home which may impact on your child's learning or enjoyment of school. We aim to communicate with you through a weekly newsletter, termly class newsletter, which includes what the children will be learning and studying that term, parents evenings and an annual written report. We also have a text messaging service. Please make sure your details at the office are always kept up to date.

Transitions

We have good relationships with our feeder Pre-schools. There is a new to Reception Parents' talk each year in June where you can learn more about the children starting school. We are very happy to give you a tour around our school and answer any question you may have.

Each year a progress and continuity meeting is held between the child's current teacher and the teacher they are moving to. All records are transferred ensuring that the children seamlessly progress as they start each new academic year. Children transfer to secondary school

in the September after they reach their eleventh birthday. All parents of Year 6 children receive a Secondary Transfer Information Booklet informing them of the schools available and the dates of meetings arranged to visit the relevant schools. This process is fully supported through Queensgate staff meeting with secondary school staff. The curriculum in the summer term of Year 6 also supports this process. The Year 6 school journey and activities week is carried out in conjunction with other Cowes Cluster schools, which has proved very successful in aiding the transition for the children.

Uniform

School uniform is very important at Queensgate. We expect the children to all have logoed sweatshirts or cardigans, pale blue polo shirts, grey skirts or trousers and black shoes. We also expect the children to have a full Queensgate PE kit comprising of navy shorts and logoed blue T-shirts. Navy check summer dresses can be worn by the girls during the warmer weather. The boys may wear tailored grey shorts. Each child also needs a book bag. There are a variety of other items available. Please see the attached list, in the pocket at the back, for more details.

The only jewellery we allow is one pair of plain stud earrings and one wrist watch. Long hair must be tied back. Nail varnish is not permitted. We expect the children to have neat hair styles with no hair dye.

Wrap around Care

Queensgate Foundation Primary School provides breakfast club onsite from 8 am. The children enjoy breakfast together and some fun activity time before going to their classrooms at 8.40 am. The club costs £2.00 a day.

After school care is provided by Seashells Early Years Centre. They can be contacted on **290575** for more details.

“Communication from the school is excellent and the SMT are all very approachable.”

Please call us today 292872 to organise a tour of the school. We think you will be impressed by Queensgate Foundation Primary School.



Working together for a successful future

We hope you have found this prospectus interesting and informative. If you have any further questions or would like to come and visit Queensgate, please make an appointment at the school office. If you would like to read any of our school policies or newsletters, they are available on our website:

www.queensgateprimary.co.uk



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