



**Working Together for a  
Successful Future**



# Welcome Letter from the 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 opened in 2010. It is now a thriving two-form entry primary school, which has achieved three “good” Ofsted inspections in a row since 2012. It is housed in a purpose built, state of the art building completed in March 2020.

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 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 cater for all abilities and each child is treated as an individual. We will develop your child so they are able to reach their full potential in all areas of school life.

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

Please telephone the school on (01983) 292872 to make an appointment for a tour. I would really like to show you around.

Best wishes

*Samantha Sillito*

Samantha Sillito  
Headteacher



**“Able supported by your senior leaders and governors, you lead a talented school team that shares your ambition for all pupils to achieve success.”**

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## The Queensgate Ethos

### Vision and Code

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.

Our ethos is built on some key principles which help the children to build characteristics of effective learners by: being brave; challenging themselves; trying new things; believing in themselves; having an "I can" attitude; making mistakes; testing ideas; making their own decisions and being true to themselves.





## 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. It has been written by the children and illustrated by the children too. Here it is...



## Queensgate Foundation Primary School

### Our School Code

- To use good manners all day, every day.

- Listening to teachers, adults and other children

- Being polite

- Being gentle

- Being helpful

- Looking after ourselves, other people and our school, inside and outside

- To make sensible choices

- Remember to say sorry if necessary

- Always tell the truth

- Be proud of ourselves, our uniform and our school

Working Together for a Successful Future

Our behaviour policy is based on an understanding of attachment and trauma research. Our policies can be viewed online at [queensgateprimary.co.uk/policies](http://queensgateprimary.co.uk/policies)

## 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.

## Attendance and 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 into us.

Punctuality is also very important. Lateness will not only disrupt your child's learning and well being, but it can also unsettle other children in the class. Our doors open at 8.40am and children start their learning straight away.

## 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 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. This is called Living Difference 3.

## 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. 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.

## Physical Education

We aim to teach PE for two hours a week. This is through two PE lessons and daily activities, for example golden mile. There are a wide variety of sports on offer at Queensgate, both within the lessons and in terms of extra-curricular opportunities including: girls' and boys' football, netball, basketball, cricket, Kwik cricket, Quicksticks, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton and swimming.



## 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 is a focus on school priorities through these sessions too, for example, the teaching and acquisition of new vocabulary and writing opportunities within a real life context.

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. There are residential trips on offer in Year 4 and Year 6.

## The Patch

Within our extensive school grounds we have an environmental area called The Patch. This area was named by the children. It provides a safe space for a Forest School curriculum including tree climbing, fire making, pond studies and learning about the environment. This part of the Curriculum supports the development of the characteristics of effective learners previously outlined. We have a Forest School trained leader on our staff who manages and develops this area within the school.

## Cookery

Unusually, for a primary school, we have a purpose built cookery suite and an experienced cookery teacher. Each child learns to cook from Reception all the way through to Year 6. Our aim is that our children can cook independently by the time they go to secondary school.

## Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Queensgate has thirty laptops for each Year group. They are used regularly to enhance all areas of the Curriculum as well as the Computing Curriculum.

## 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 is 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 term and a written report is provided in the summer term.

## 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 or mental health needs. These are catered for in school through one to one support, small group work or in partnership with outside agencies. We have two dedicated rooms to support children with additional needs: The Den and The Speech, Language and Intervention Room.

**“We observed some exciting learning taking place in the Reception classes. Children talked animatedly to each other while engaging in their outdoor learning activities. The adults questioned children carefully, encouraging them to express their thinking clearly.”**

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## We Welcome Parental Involvement at Queensgate

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 see you. Please note all parent helpers need an enhanced DBS 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. Vacancies are advertised on the school website [www.queensgateprimary.co.uk](http://www.queensgateprimary.co.uk)
- 5. Most importantly** – support your own child's learning

“Caring relationships with the adults in the school support pupils throughout the day.”

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Benji  
Our School Dog

## 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. Newsletters are uploaded to the school website on Friday afternoons. We also have a text messaging service. Please make sure your details at the office are always kept up to date.

## Wrap around Care

Queensgate Foundation Primary School provides a Breakfast Club onsite from 8.00am. The children enjoy breakfast together and some fun activity time before going to their classrooms at 8.40am. At the time of printing the breakfast club costs £2.00 per day.

After school care is provided by Seashells Early Years Centre. They can be contacted on **(01983) 290575** for more details.

## 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 questions 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 meetings between Queensgate staff and secondary school staff. The curriculum in the summer term of Year 6 also supports this process.

**“Pupils told me that their teachers expect them to work hard, and I confirmed this to be true when we visited lessons. Their workbooks show that they are currently striving to achieve high standards.”**

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## 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 checked 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. All items of school uniform are available from The Big Wight T-Shirt Company. They can be contacted on **www.bigwight.com (01983) 532333**. Please see the attached list, in the pocket at the back for more detail.

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.

I 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**



## Contact Details

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