



Midsomer Norton Primary School

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About our School

Midsomer Norton Primary School is a popular, successful, non-denominational school at the heart of its community, a minute's walk from all the town's shops and amenities. The town is in the former Somerset coalfield and is within easy reach of Bath, Bristol, Wells, the Mendip Hills and all points west. The main school building is just over a century old and retains some of its original shape and charm. From the High Street, the school appears to be sandwiched between the Methodist Church (its first owners) and Sainsbury's. As you reach the school, you realise that this is a much bigger site than the first glimpse suggests and includes a large field bordered by around 500 trees, as well as outlying buildings, including a Children's Centre with which we work closely.

The school itself has around 300 pupils, plus 50 or so children in the Nursery. Our admission number is 45 in each year group, so we arrange them as follows, in four Teams:

| Early Years Foundation Stage | | Y1/2 | Y3/4 | Y5/6 |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nursery | Reception | | | |
| Up to 60 in combinations of 5 sessions | 2 x classes | 3 x mixed ability classes | 3 x mixed ability classes | 3 x mixed ability classes |

The Head and Deputy, the School Business Manager and three other members of the Teaching Staff make up the School Leadership Team. As you can see, we combine year groups from Y1/2 upwards. The result of this is strong teams who plan and assess together. We achieve differentiation through careful grouping of children. In addition to a highly motivated and skilled team of teachers, we are fortunate to have a wonderful group of Teaching Assistants, who support the children in a wide variety of ways, from individual support to teaching small groups, and not just along academic lines.

Our School Values are:

- We believe in ambition.
- We believe in opportunity for all
- We build confidence and independence
- We believe in community

We strive to ensure that these values drive our school development and our everyday actions. For us, the school is a place of personal development, not just academic progress. We believe that through learning comes personal growth, not just success in the SATs, and that every child really does matter. Through our pastoral care, curriculum and broad range of opportunities we provide, we foster self-confidence, teamwork and consideration for others. We have few behaviour problems and we attribute this largely to our positive school ethos.

Attainment by the end of KS2 is high because expectations, both of children and of staff, are high. All members of the school community are valued for the part they play and have a say in the school's development: the TAs and lunchtime supervisors meet regularly for training and discussions. The pupils themselves take on roles and responsibilities as monitors, house captains, prefects, sports captains and Champions for Change. We have supportive parents who like to help in the school, and an active Parents' Support Group.

Staff who join our team can expect plenty of support and professional development. In return, we expect colleagues to be ambitious for themselves, for the school and for the children. We pride ourselves on our collaborative and innovative approaches to school development.

This perhaps gives you a taste of what our school is like, and our website will give you a bit more of the flavour of it [www.midsomernortonprimarschool.com], but there is no substitute for seeing a school in the flesh. So, please give us a call and make an appointment to come and have a look round. We look forward to seeing you.

