



Hamsey Community Primary School Prospectus

*A kind, creative community
where learning is an adventure.*



Introduction

Hello, I am Matt Dean - Head of School - and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Hamsey Community Primary School.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum in our wonderful school environment. Being a small school allows us to build strong relationships; all of the children and staff know each other well.

We are a kind, creative community where learning is an adventure - these principles are woven through everything we do here.

Our school charter gives an overview of our school:

- We are kind, gentle and forgiving
- We celebrate our school community and the world around us
- We value our learning and creativity
- We feel safe to be who we are
- Our pro-social choices create a safe space for everyone
- Our learning behaviours are:
curiosity, determination, independence, pride and respect

We are proud of our dedicated and caring team of staff, governors, families and community members who support our school and the children to thrive. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact the school office to arrange a tour. I would be delighted to meet you, to answer any questions you may have, and to show you around our unique school.



Curriculum

We are particularly proud of our unique Skylark curriculum. We have devised a curriculum that is meaningful, purposeful and relevant to the children who live in this area of East Sussex, nestled at the foot of the South Downs.

The area is rich with local history and geography. We use these subjects as the drivers for our curriculum, allowing our children to truly immerse themselves in a project-based curriculum where subject-specific skills are explicitly taught in a planned, age-appropriate and developmental way.

Through the Skylark curriculum, children are taught the importance of analysis as the key to understanding.

We aim to put our children at the centre of their own learning and place great emphasis on nurturing skills and attitudes such as resourcefulness, resilience and co-operation. Our teachers bring the National Curriculum to life by making links between the individual subjects and applying them to whole-school projects.

Our children benefit from specialist tuition in sport on a weekly basis, and each year group also gets weekly Forest School sessions for at least one term per year.



"I like it here because we respect each other, we get to be creative, and we learn lots."

- Year 4 pupil

"The teachers take care of us. They keep us safe."

- Year 1 pupil

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Ages 4-5
2. Key Stage 1: Ages 5-7
3. Key Stage 2: Ages 7-11



“At Hamsey we have lots of fun and I like making new friends.”

- Year 4 pupil

Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government’s Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children in Early Years are also taught Religious Education and have Forest School. In Early Years we use Tapestry software to communicate with parents.

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- MFL – French
- Design Technology
- Oracy
- PSHE
- Forest School

Enriched Curriculum

Trips

The children are often taken on educational visits to complement their learning in school. Some of the places we have recently visited include:

Lewes Castle, Battle Abbey, Ashdown Forest and Cuckmere Haven.

Residential

Each year our Year 6 children experience a residential trip to Bowles Activity Centre.



Events

We have specialist STEM days and arrange trips to a local school to use their science laboratories.

We enjoy performances throughout the year including for Harvest, at Christmas and in the summer term. The children enjoy celebrating national events like Black History Month, World Book Day, National Poetry Day and LGBT+ History Month.

“Every pupil has a voice at Hamsey. Everyone is welcome.”

- Year 5 pupil

Celebrations

We love to celebrate the children’s successes individually and collectively. Our Friday Celebration Assemblies focus on the children’s creativity, kindness and learning achievements.

“Hamsey is a kind community. If you’re worried, just ask anyone and they will help you.”

- Year 6 pupil

Forest School, Sport, Clubs and Pupil Voice

Forest School

We have a great Forest School and garden area. We have created a full programme with our Forest School staff. Every year group gets at least a six-week block of sessions, with opportunities to learn new skills.



Sport

We believe that physical development is a key component to success across the whole curriculum and we have excellent PE provision. Our children take part in a range of sports within class PE lessons, as well as inter-federation events. Children also benefit from weekly specialist sports coaches.

*"I like all the school trips
we get to do."*

- Year 3 pupil



Clubs

We have a thriving breakfast club and after-school club. Breakfast club runs from 7.45am Monday to Friday. After-school club runs until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday.

We also have a number of specialist clubs that change and can include:

- French
- Dodgeball
- Choir
- Dance
- Art

"We get to play with our friends, we have the best teachers, and we learn so much!"

- Year 4 pupil



Pupil Voice

Our School Councillors and Eco Councillors are elected from every class. They have regular meetings to discuss the school before sharing their recommendations.

We also have librarians, play leaders, Year 6 buddies, digital leaders and prefects. Our Year 6 pupils work towards becoming Super Skylarks in their final year at Hamsey.

Inclusion

Special Education Needs and Disabilities

We believe that all children need to feel safe, happy and valued at school in order to learn, progress and develop their well-being.

We recognise the individuality of all children and the fact that they are at different levels of development physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially.

Staff recognise the need for adaptation in setting tasks for pupils. Teachers regularly hold pupil progress meetings with leadership and our SENCo to discuss any interventions required to support each child.

We are committed to working in partnership with families, and in involving them and their children in decisions about learning and progress.

Arrangements are in place in school to support pupils with medical conditions.

Pupils with SEND are encouraged and supported to participate fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activities.



“My favourite thing is having lunch with my friends.”

- Year 2 pupil

Admissions

East Sussex County Council are our admissions authority, and they request that all applications are submitted online. Our school's Published Admission Number (PAN) is 15.

Governors

We have an active Governing Body who meet regularly and monitor areas of the school. They support and challenge every aspect of school activity, from the highest academic aspiration, to everyday housekeeping.

This ensures there is overall improvement, progress and achievement, and that each child is encouraged to fully realise their potential.



Executive Head Teacher

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our school. My name is Stewart James, and I am the Executive Head Teacher of the Skylark Federation, formed of Barcombe CE, Hamsey CP, Iford & Kingston CE and Plumpton Primary Schools, four wonderful schools on the outskirts of Lewes.

I am passionate about the unique experience children attending small village schools receive, however I am also acutely aware of the challenges that face small schools working in isolation.

I believe the federation provides the structures and capacity of a large school whilst still maintaining the unique ethos of small schools. I am incredibly proud of the success the federation has brought to the children who attend the Skylark Federation schools.



*"I like my Year 6 buddy.
She takes care of me."*

- Reception pupil

“We go on school trips. We went to the castle, and we saw everything!”

- Year 1 pupil



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is an adventure.**

Hamsey Community Primary School

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