



Townhill Junior School

The school opened in 1972 and was Hampshire's first purpose-built Middle School. In September 1994 it was reorganised to become a Junior School. The school caters for children from a variety of social backgrounds.

The school stands in its own grounds with a large playground, multi-use games area and playing fields.

The building provides excellent accommodation for learning and teaching. It has individual classrooms, shared areas, small group rooms and facilities for activities such as art, music and physical education. The school is well resourced and has an extensive library and a computer suite.

Presently, there are well over 300 children in the school. Children and staff are organised into four Year Groups. We are a three form entry giving us 12 classes. The leadership team comprises of one Deputy Headteacher, one SENCO and learning leaders who take responsibility for aspects of the school curriculum and learning. This enables us to ensure that learning remains the central and core function of what we do, whilst developing training and support for all staff to ensure that everyone is able to perform to their best.

The School's motto 'Learning is the key to success' underpins all aspects of the school and helps us to move forward together. Both staff and pupils are committed to ensuring our school is inclusive and offers quality opportunities and experiences for all. Our aims encompass the best possible development of each child and the achievement of the highest possible standards.

Every effort is made to enhance the professional and career development of the staff at the school, to ensure they remain motivated and reflective. Training and information is then passed on to others through staff meetings, to allow all staff to benefit from the courses attended.

Our Vision

At Townhill Junior School our central ethos is to develop a love of learning amongst all members of our community. By the time our children leave us, we want them to be confident learners, with high aspirations and motivated to succeed.

Through an engaging and exciting curriculum they will develop their ability to explore and be creative. Within the safe and secure environment of the school, and through rich and varied experiences in and beyond the school grounds, we will support them to become resilient, emotionally secure and caring citizens.

Together our learners will discover that there is no limit to what they can achieve.

Learning Values

Our Learning Values are:

Resourceful
Resilient
Reflective
Curious
Sociable
Positive

School Rules

Our new Behaviour Policy has 3 simple school rules to follow:

1. Be responsible
2. Be respectful
3. Be the best me I can be

Teaching and Learning at Townhill

At Townhill we believe that every child is extraordinary and that education has the capacity and the possibility to change lives for the better. Here teaching and learning is built upon a foundation that is inclusive, supportive, challenging and empowering. We promote high expectations, aspirations and an intense engagement in learning.

This supports learners in establishing the values, dispositions, skills and knowledge through which they will be able to achieve success, gain fulfilment in the future and become lifelong learners in order that they may flourish.

Aims and Objectives of Teaching and Learning

We seek to establish an environment that encourages individual and collective flourishing. This is based around five core elements:

- Positive emotion – developing positive emotions towards learning and the social context of learning
- Engagement – developing learning episodes that are self-motivating and personally enhancing
- Relationships – building understanding, genuine regard and respect between all individuals
- Meaning – building learning that is the product of a collective enterprise within a context of understanding
- Achievement – ensuring individual and collective achievement which challenges and celebrates accomplishment for its own sake

We believe that effective learning is underpinned by the development of our central Learning Values that are supported and enacted within this learning environment, where individual needs are met and talents and interests are encouraged.

Through establishing this foundation, rigorously monitoring progress and supporting individual needs, we can empower, motivate and engage children as well as establish the knowledge, skills and values they will need for future success.

The TJS Curriculum

The school follows the National Curriculum, usually led by subjects. Speaking and Listening forms a core part of the teaching strategies of all subjects. Team work and co-operation skills are considered to be a very important part of the 'hidden' curriculum.

ICT is embedded into all subjects and supports all areas of the curriculum with some lessons dedicated to developing knowledge and skills of specific programs.

Maths

At Townhill Junior School we aim to make children numerate, and to develop in them the confidence to apply their knowledge and skills to the mathematical needs of everyday life, to tackling real-life problems and to investigating mathematical ideas. The children are encouraged to work collaboratively and be creative in their responses to challenges.

English

We aim to enthuse each child with the love of reading and writing and to communicate effectively. 'The Power of Reading' and 'Talk for Writing' projects are used to enrich the experiences of the children. A 'Speech Competition', a whole school 'Read at Home Scheme' and a 'Book Week' bring the school together as a community with a particular focus, at different times throughout the year. Visiting authors also contribute to the children's enjoyment and experience.

Science

We feel hands on experience is vital to develop a good scientific mind. We aim to teach subject knowledge wherever possible through exploring, making observations, identifying and classifying, running fair tests and seeking patterns. We feel the development of good scientific skills is essential to equip children to understand the science in the world around them. We aim to enthuse and encourage a life long love of scientific discovery at an appropriate level for each child.

PE

At Townhill Junior School, we feel Physical Education contributes to the overall education of the child by helping them lead full and valuable lives through engaging them in purposeful physical activities, which in turn promotes a healthy and active lifestyle.

Physical Education and school sport is highly thought of and given significant focus in the school, both within and outside the curriculum. We provide opportunities in a range of sports and physical activities to enable the children to find the right activity for them through involvement in a rich and varied extra-curricular programme, where we celebrate success and recognise the importance of a winning mentality. To this end, the school is highly regarded both within the City and the County in respect of its sporting talents and achievements.

Assemblies

Assemblies form a focal point of the school's personal, social and religious education, and are non-denominational, but mainly Christian in character. They are structured around the SEAL programme, but are based more specifically around core values.

Additional Activities

The school has been a Gamesmark Gold School for many now and the children are very lucky to have a wide range of activities to pursue after school. School teams meet and play matches regularly in a range of sports in conjunction with the Southampton School Games Partnership.

The school offers various clubs including: Ninja Warrior, Street Dance, Tag Rugby, Saints Soccer, Kids Rock, Gardening, Squash, Cross Country / Athletics, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Cricket, Dodgeball, Benchball and Drama Club. Rock Challenge provides children with

opportunities to get involved with all aspects of a performance. It gives them access to a wider audience, and the chance to bring home a number of awards.

The 'Sound Bites' music initiative in Year 3, provides an opportunity for all children to play a musical instrument, many of whom choose to continue playing throughout their time at Townhill Junior School. Within the school, a huge variety of instruments are available and children are offered chances to begin to play instruments regularly. Orchestra and choir meet bi-weekly with a grand concert in the summer term to show case their achievements.

School trips and drama days occur at least once a term in each year group to support and enrich the learning experience. Residential trips are organised in both Lower School (Year 4) and Upper School (Year 6). The School Council has been active in the life of the school and has helped raise money, brighten the school surroundings and helped include all children in play on the playground. Themed weeks, such as 'Book Week', ensure variety is maintained and the importance of learning emphasised.

SEND

Inclusion and access to the curriculum for all children is the focus for SEND provision across the school. This starts with transition links with our Infants and other feeder schools and continues right through to transition to secondary school. Children receive the support they need, be it learning, behavioural or emotional, organised by the Inclusion Leader with referral to outside agencies where required. SEND children make increasingly good progress across the school.

Behaviour

Comments from visitors and feedback from school trips have always included praise for our pupils' outstanding or exemplary behaviour. We believe pupils and staff should have a healthy respect for each other and strive to develop positive relationships throughout the school. Children are encouraged to understand the effects of their actions on others and are helped to develop the social skills needed to ensure they have a positive effect on others. We believe this is a whole school responsibility with those who succeed, acting as role models and supporting others.

Bullying

At Townhill Junior School, we believe bullying can be reduced by giving children the necessary strategies. Each year in 'Anti-bullying Week', a particular skill is covered, such as, how to help a person who is being bullied. We believe it is important that a child understands the difference between bullying and a one off incident and has the skills and the confidence to stop it happening to them or others.

Organisation of Teaching and Learning

Children work in mixed ability groups in all areas of the curriculum. Small groups are given the opportunity to work on specific tasks to allow extension of more able children or the support of less able pupils, with teachers or with teaching assistants. All teachers share the responsibility of the teaching and learning of the children in their care with emphasis on good team work, flexibility and quality of opportunity. The staff maintain calm and engaging teaching environments with a keen sense of purpose and drive towards individual and shared targets. Learning Support Tutors do undertake some administration tasks but are usually working with individual children or small groups of children on specific tasks.

Assessment

Assessment is high on the agenda for both teachers and children and is used to inform planning and teaching. This is currently a particular focus within the school. Assessment identifies the children who are on track with their learning and highlights those whose progress is not in line with their expected targets. We aim for intervention at the

earliest opportunity to ensure consistent progress is made throughout their four years at TJS.

Systems and strategies have been introduced to help children to self and peer assess. We believe this has resulted in greater responsibility for the outcomes of an individual's own work, raising the standards across the school. We believe that learning is a collective endeavour and feel strongly about the role of pupil voice in learning.

Links with other communities and organisations

Townhill Junior School has very strong links with Southampton University, providing places for student teachers, accommodating opportunities for research programmes, visiting the university for outreach programmes, having science students visit and excite the children with investigations, and organising opportunities for some children to take part in the science weeks.

Visitors for cultural, educational, social, religious and charitable reasons often meet with groups of children.

Links with the local secondary school and infant schools are well established and continue to improve with a particular focus on transition between the key stages.

Townhill Junior School is part of a community trust called the REACH Trust which involves 7 schools in the local area:

Townhill Junior School
Bitterne Park Secondary School
Bitterne Manor Primary School
Moorlands Primary School
St Deny's Primary School
Redbridge Community School
Woodlands Secondary School

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced CRB check is required for the successful applicant.