



Prospectus



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Pupils and staff recognise the kind and nurturing nature of this school. Pupils feel included and welcome. Staff expertly identify pupils who need support. Behaviour is positive. Developing pupil leadership is given a high priority. Thakeham continues to be a Good school.

”

Welcome to Thakeham Primary School

I am delighted to welcome you to Thakeham, the area's best performing Primary School, which I feel extraordinarily privileged to lead.

Thakeham is unique in the area. Why? We offer a small school approach but with a big school setting.

Our outcomes are above the national average in all areas; our pupils feel safe; and they flourish, often achieving more than they ever thought possible.

Our values of CARE (courage, ambition, respect, enjoyment) run through the heart of our school. We say that, 'At Thakeham we CARE,'

In short, our pupils are the best and achieve the best!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'W McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher
Will McDonald

Welcome

“My favourite thing about Thakeham is that it is a Community. I know every adult will help me, I have so many friends and I know everyone cares.”

Current Year 6 pupil



Courage

Our pupils are extremely resilient. Time and time again, we witness them pushing themselves to be better. Every day, we tell them: have the courage to try new learning; have the courage to be yourself; and have the courage to speak your truth. Our young people matter and what they say, think and feel is important.

Our stunning end of year outcomes are an example of how our pupils work hard and never give up. From perfecting playing a new musical instrument to complex algebra to honing their scientific enquiry skills, our pupils exude excellence.

Our Early Years outcomes are 23% above the national average; our phonics outcomes are

14% above the national average; and our combined reading, writing, grammar and maths results for Year 6 place us as one of the best performing schools in West Sussex.

We take our role in preparing young people for adult life seriously. As part of this, we have an extensive array of leadership roles. From Prefects (Year 6 only) to the School Council, we tell our pupils to, “Stand tall and be proud of who you are.”

“The things the School Council say matter. We know we will be listened to. It helps us be heard.”

Quote from a Year 6 pupil

“The school staff really do care about our children. The staff know each child so well & cater fantastically to their individual needs.”

Current parent



Shakespeare
of F...

SCHOOL
AIR RAID
MELT

Ambition

“The curriculum begins in the early years and is designed to be ambitious for all pupils in the mixed-age classes. The school is aspirational for all pupils to achieve and be prepared well for secondary school.” Ofsted 2024

As well as an expertly led core curriculum, we take pride in knowing that we can confidently say that the wider curriculum is both broad and challenging.

We aim to be forward-thinking in our approaches and work to tailor opportunities to the individual talents of pupils.

In Computing, our pupils use basic robotics to create and code models they have made.

In Music, our pupils are taught by a professional musician to perform and play a range of musical instruments correctly.

Our pupils take part in cross-locality sports competitions. They have access to expert sports coaching and facilities, meaning they gain a level of technical expertise other pupils do not.

We offer a range of experiences and clubs designed to elevate pupils’ understanding. From pottery classes; to forest school; to on-site swimming lessons, we work hard to make sure that when a child comes to Thakeham Primary School, they get more than they would in other local schools. Educational visits are many and varied, designed to broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

“I like the teachers’ attitudes and the forward-thinking nature of the school.”

Quote from a current parent

“Trips and visits are planned to broaden pupils’ horizons and promote pupils’ understanding of diversity. There are many clubs for pupils to be involved in. These range from pottery to choir to football. Music is valued and all pupils have the chance to learn to play a musical instrument. Developing pupil leadership is given a high priority.”

Ofsted 2024



Respect

Respect for oneself, others and the world around is a cornerstone of British society. As per our mission statement, we aim to create a supportive learning environment where every single pupil (no matter their background or needs) feels valued. We foster a culture of curiosity and inquiry, and we encourage our pupils to step forward and ask questions, think critically and solve problems.

We know our school is already well known for being inclusive and nurturing. But, we steadfastly believe the excellence our Community exhibits is made up of much more than knowing the vital importance and power of kindness. Our pupils are outward-looking. They understand that they are part

of something much bigger than themselves. We work with them to see the beautiful tapestry of our society and work hard to give them the skills to ask questions and make up their own minds about things.

Our pupils are:

- Excited to experience new things
- Willing to learn about those in society who live lives differently to their own
- Happy to show great kindness, not only to others but themselves too
- Proud of the fact that they attend Thakeham Primary School
- Caring. They care about others, the world around them and their Community.

“We say Thakeham pupils are unique and unlike others in local schools because we are so caring.”

Quote from a current Prefect

*“I am constantly impressed by the
progressive attitude, particularly in
regards to mental health.”*

Current parent



Enjoyment

We are proud of our school. Our pupils are too and rightly so! We instil in all of our pupils a love of learning and an understanding of the importance of an education.

We want our pupils to be able to follow their dreams and be educated to the point where they know that if they work hard, anything is possible. We want our pupils to succeed in life.

We encourage our pupils to embrace critical thinking and self-improvement for this is the key to success. Our pupils are confident in themselves, learn from mistakes and consistently strive to be their very best.

Thakeham Primary School is a warm, nurturing and welcoming Community. This is no accident – we take great pride in our culture and ethos.

“Pupils feel included and welcome.”

Ofsted 2024

“The school ethos helps pupils understand.”

Ofsted 2024

“The school is friendly. My son is thriving here.”

Current parent

“We feel heard. This school is amazing!”

School Council member

“The school ethos of CARE helps pupils to understand courage, ambition, respect and enjoyment. These values underpin the school’s behaviour policy.”

Ofsted 2024



Excellence. Always.

We hope that you see in our school what we see: a place of excellence that creates kind, hard-working and content pupils who strive to do their best and be their best.

Our promise to you is simple. We will always aim to provide:

- **Excellent** *teaching*
- **Excellent** *behaviour*
- **Excellent** *facilities*
- **Excellent** *outcomes*
- **Excellent** *opportunities*

Our standards remain steadfastly high at all times. Whether that is through how we communicate with you; how we teach and support the children; or how we support with any additional needs, you have our word that we will always do our best.

We welcome you to our school and want you to know that, if your child becomes a pupil at Thakeham Primary School, they will:

- Be happy
- Feel safe
- Be recognised and heard
- Be surrounded by kindness
- Be successful

We enjoy life and learning because:

At Thakeham we **CARE.**

Excellence. Always.

*“There is great enthusiasm for reading,
reinforced by a structured approach that
all staff understand.”*

Ofsted 2024



“Pupils talk positively about the help that adults provide.”

Ofsted 2024

Thakeham Primary School
Rock Road
Pulborough
RH20 3AA

01903 740176
office@thakehamps.co.uk