



Simonside Primary School



Simonside Primary School
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Head Teacher's Welcome

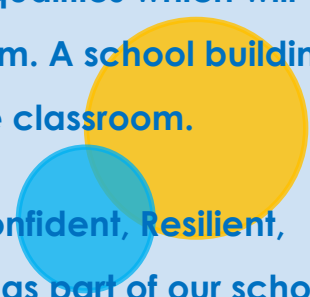


A very warm welcome to
Simonside Primary!

I am extremely proud to be Head Teacher of this school - it is a warm, friendly environment, where we encourage the children to 'Believe to Achieve'.

So, what will you find here as you become a part of our school community?


Hard-working and caring staff who have the children's happiness, well-being and education at the heart of everything they do. A curriculum which offers the children a range of opportunities to equip them with the skills and knowledge they will build on as they grow up, and a wider curriculum to support the qualities which will enable them to access what is out there in the world for them. A school building which provides learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.



We encourage our children to be Respectful, Motivated, Confident, Resilient, Independent and a Team Player and these are embedded as part of our school ethos.

I could write about all the wonderful things that happen at Simonside, but it will take such a long time, so I will leave it up to you to find out more as we all get to know each other.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children as they take their first steps through our school gates. The following pages will provide you with important information about Simonside. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.



Donna Scott

Our School

Simonside Primary School was built in 1950 and officially opened in 1953. Our school has undergone extensive refurbishment over recent years, although we continue to carry out works to modernise the building and improve facilities to ensure we provide the best possible learning environment for our children.

We are a growing school and currently have over 250 children on roll from Reception to Year 6.

We are fortunate to have extensive grounds both inside and out, and our school is well resourced, comprising of:

- two large halls;
- our 'Creative Corner' (Art area);
- spare classrooms;
- a large school library;
- additional spaces where children and adults can work on a 1:1 or small group basis.

Our outdoor areas are extensive too, and we are able to offer children a wide range of outdoor experiences, including Forest School or story reading in 'The Story Shack'.

Our children enjoy participating in outdoor activities during lessons and break times, where a range of playtime equipment is available for their use. We have 3 main yard areas for the children to use during their breaks.





Our Vision

We aim to **nurture** our children to grow into **resourceful, confident and caring individuals.**

Our School Day

Our school day begins at 8.55am with doors opening at 8.45 a.m. We encourage punctuality, although we ask that children are not on the school premises before 8.40am for health and safety reasons, unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

School finishes at 3.25pm for Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2) children, and 3.30pm for children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6).

Each class has a 15 minute break in the morning and a 1 hour break for lunch.

Wrap Around

We offer wrap around care from 3.30-5.30pm (Monday to Thursday), and 3.30-5pm on a Friday, at a cost of £3 per hour. Children are given a light meal and a range of exciting, creative activities are planned for their stay.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open from 8am daily and is FREE of charge to **everyone**. If you would like your child to attend, please contact the school office so that their name can be added to the register.

Children who attend our breakfast club have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy breakfast, socialise with their peers and even have the chance to play games and complete homework.

It really is a great way to start the day and ensure that your child is ready to learn.

Assemblies

Children attend short assemblies on a daily basis and these take many different forms.

On a Friday, a whole school celebration assembly is held. We operate a star pupil system which is very popular with the children.



School Lunches

Lunches are prepared and cooked on site in our kitchens and offer children a well-balanced, healthy meal with a range of options to choose from, catering for all dietary needs.

The kitchen staff also regularly organise themed meal days, which complement the creative curriculum in school.

All Reception and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal and we hope that parents will take advantage of this offer. For Key Stage 2 children, the cost is £2.20 per day and can be ordered on a day-to-day basis; meals are paid for on a Monday for the coming week via ParentPay - our online payment system.

School lunch menus are available to download and view on our school website.

Packed Lunches

Children are welcome to stay for packed lunches should you wish. We encourage all children to bring a healthy packed lunch (we ask that these do not contain fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets). We are a nut-free school so foods containing nuts should not be brought into school.

Milk and Fruit

Milk is available for children each day for a small charge. Fruit is provided free of charge for all children in Reception & Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2 children are welcome to bring fruit from home as a snack.



Uniform

School uniform is available to order via the following websites:

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/ssps196/>

<http://www.initialimages.co.uk/>

Items of clothing in our school colours can be purchased from many high street stores and supermarkets.

Our uniform consists of:

- Royal blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan
- Pale blue/white polo shirt or pale blue/white plain cotton shirt
- Plain grey or black skirt/trousers/leggings/shorts (no tracksuit bottoms)
- Plain black, navy or grey tights
- Plain black shoes (no heels or open-toes)
- Blue checked summer dresses may also be worn

Nail varnish and make up is not permitted. Children are permitted to wear stud earrings, although these must be removed for PE.

PE Kit

- Royal blue/black shorts (no logo)
- Royal blue, black or grey tracksuit bottoms (no logo)
- White or pale blue polo shirt (no logo)
- Royal blue sweatshirt (no logo) or school hoodie
- Plain black trainers, plain white trainers or plimsolls

School Bags

Please ensure that your child brings a bag to school every day, as reading books and other items are given out and it is very difficult for children to carry all of this without a bag.

We sell school bags and P.E bags can be purchased from the office or online with school uniform orders.



Welcome to the Early Years...

Here at Simonside Primary School we recognise that the Early Years is the first step into school life and know how significant it is to promote a love of lifelong learning from the very start. We also understand the importance of a curriculum where every child can achieve.

At Simonside we aim to provide a curriculum that promotes children to be independent, confident, and resilient and allows all children to flourish and progress from their starting points regardless of background, circumstances or needs.

Our curriculum is designed to be engaging, creative, fun and child-led. Within the learning environment, activities are provided to challenge pupils, reinforce new skills, and offer the opportunity to practice and consolidate existing skills to become independent learners.

Children cover seven areas of learning during their time in Reception. These are:

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

These areas are covered through focused teaching through first-hand experiences and structured play, which enables children to achieve their Early Learning Goals.

Children have opportunities to learn and explore both in our indoor and outdoor areas.



Our Curriculum

We are **passionate** about creating a curriculum which excites and engages our children, and where **every child** can **achieve**.



Our curriculum is designed to be engaging, creative, ambitious and fun. It is focused on securing progress for all children and is adapted to suit the needs of the children in our school and our context. We consistently seek ways to ensure all children are actively involved in their learning and provide a range of fun learning opportunities that inspire life-long, inquisitive learners.

Homework

Supporting your child with their learning at home is very important and there are lots of fun and informal ways to do this.

We recommend that you hear your child read for a short time every day and that you adopt a positive approach at all times as reading should be a pleasure and never a chore.

At Simonside, we believe that homework should be relevant, manageable and support progress in learning. With this in mind, we place an emphasis on developing accuracy in spelling, times tables and reading, and homework for these areas is sent home weekly from Year 1 to 6. Children in Reception often have short activities to reflect topics covered in class, and children in Year 6 have additional homework in the Spring term that is designed to support pupils with SATs and the transition into Comprehensive School.

A group of children in a classroom are engaged in an activity at a table. One boy in the foreground is smiling broadly. There are yellow trays and various materials on the table.

Careers

At Simonside, we want to encourage our children to dream big about their future, including the career path they may choose to pursue. Our aim is to provide children with a range of opportunities to explore the world of work in exciting, meaningful ways.

Our careers curriculum is evolving, and seeks to link subjects to a wide range of potential careers, as well as allowing our children to connect with role models from a number of jobs within the world of work.

From astronauts to zoologists, and everything in between, the possibilities are endless!



Curriculum Subjects

Through our curriculum design, we cover all aspects of the National Curriculum, including:

- English
- Maths
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)
- Computing
- Art & Design
- French
- PE (Physical Education)
- RE (Religious Education)
- PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

There is a focus on the teaching of basic skills (including reading, spelling and times tables) throughout the school, although this is delivered in a fun and memorable way. We consistently monitor our curriculum to ensure it is broad, balanced, progressive and meets the individual needs of our children, as well as the demands of a 21st century education.



PE @ Simonside

In PE, our pupils will develop fundamental skills in Games, Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities and Swimming, which they can transfer and apply to positively impact on their mental attitude. This will ensure they are confident, determined and passionate about their learning so they are physically active for life and reach their maximum potential.

We specialise in all aspects of P.E. and have excellent facilities, with 2 large halls and extensive yards and fields. We have a large covered area for bikes and scooters and regularly host cycling proficiency training for Key Stage 2 children and 'Learn to Ride' for children in Key Stage 1.

We take part in competitions and events throughout the year across a range of sports. Children in KS2 take part in weekly swimming lessons as part of the curriculum.

We have strong links with South Shields football clubs, and offer a range of sports clubs during lunch times and after school run by coaches from SSFC. Professional coaches also deliver some of our PE lessons.



Computing Facilities

At Simonside, we are extremely proud of our computing curriculum. Children in Year 4 to Year 6 are currently part of our 1:1 iPad Learning Programme, and all of our other year groups have regular access to iPads, integrating computing throughout the whole school curriculum. We take great pride in being the first school in South Tyneside to run a 1:1 iPad Learning Programme.

Online Safety is a key feature of our Computing curriculum and we are proud to be a National Online Safety certified school.

We also take part in the First Lego League, an international competition, which is proving to be very popular with the children.

We have a school website, school Facebook page and an established Twitter (X) account, which is popular with parents. We also use 'Seesaw' as an online learning platform for children, with private access for families.



Forest School

At Simonside, all of our year groups take part in sessions at our Forest School, which is led by Forest School teacher, Sam, from 'Sc.Out.Ed'.

The sessions are delivered within the forest school area and expanse of the outdoor area, providing amazing outdoor lessons that are exciting, engaging; and linked to classroom learning topics.

Over recent years, we have noticed that our Forest School lessons have encouraged a genuine love for the outdoors across all year groups at Simonside. Some of the activities include; den building, bush crafts and even outdoor art! Our Forest School sessions run in all weather conditions... **the wetter, the better!**



“The school’s vision, underpinned by mutual respect, is clearly understood by all. Leaders have raised expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils have confidence in their own abilities and have high aspirations for future careers.”

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SEND @ Simonside

At Simonside, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and we are committed to meet the needs of all pupils and their families. Through high quality provision and support, including modifying the curriculum when appropriate, we ensure all children have access to learning new skills and knowledge. We work closely with parents and external agencies, where appropriate, to ensure all pupils achieve their full potential across all areas of learning.

It may be necessary to provide additional support for some pupils during their school career. We may contact you to discuss your child's needs and progress; similarly, if you have any concerns, you are welcome to contact us. It is vital and at the very heart of our vision, that we work together to provide the very best education for all children.

Teachers and subject leads advise and guide staff to deliver quality first teaching to support children; teaching that focuses on high quality and inclusive teaching for every child in a classroom. This approach highlights any need for a personalised learning experience and encourages greater inclusion of pupils with SEND needs. This may include:

- Teaching based upon building upon what your child already knows, understands, and can do
- Differentiated learning and the use of SEND resources
- Using a variety of teaching strategies so that your child is fully involved in learning
- Specific strategies to support your child
- Provision of a positive learning environment with visual support where needed
- Interventions—provided by experienced, trained staff

We endeavour to ensure that all pupils, whatever their ability, take part in all classroom and school activities at the appropriate level, helping children to achieve their potential throughout all areas of school.

All staff are committed to the provision of all pupils, however if you need to contact school specifically for SEND, please contact our SENDCo, Mrs Lowe, on 0191 4898315.



Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of our children is our priority at Simonside; we adopt policies that are recommended by South Tyneside Local Authority and we regularly review our practice. Children from Reception to Year 4 must be collected from school by a parent/carer or a named person over the age of 16. We operate a password system for those rare occasions when another named adult needs to collect your child. We are a very secure site and gates to the school yard areas are locked between 8.55am and 3pm. Visitors should call at the office between these times.

Parking outside of school is challenging and road safety is an ongoing concern. We recommend that use of cars be kept to a minimum whenever possible. Please be prepared to give yourselves plenty of time and to drive slowly and park sensitively. The car park at the front of school is very small and manoeuvring is difficult. Drivers should be aware that the speed limit is set at 5MPH. We discourage as many cars as possible from using this area.

Visitors sign in and out at Reception and are escorted whilst in school. All staff and volunteers are subject to Barring and Disclosure checks and receive regular training in this area.

Every activity and Educational visit is risk assessed and the use of mobile phones is limited in school.

The Fire Safety Officer regularly visits school and advises on procedures. We have a number of trained First Aiders in school.

Children are educated in appropriate aspects of health and safety throughout the curriculum, including: safe use of the internet, first aid, road and bike safety, and anti-bullying initiatives.

We are proud to participate in the Operation Encompass and KidSafe initiatives.

Medicine in school

We have a clear medicines policy in school and have trained First Aiders who are able to administer medicines if necessary. Parents are required to bring any medicines to the school office and will be asked to fill in a detailed form before they can be given during school time.



Attendance Matters @ Simonside

Attendance REALLY matters to everyone at Simonside Primary School. We make the most of every minute to maximise learning, so it is vital that your child does not miss any school unless it is absolutely necessary. Attendance and punctuality is a legal requirement and regular attendance is crucial in terms of securing progress and ensuring all children maximise their potential during their time with us.

We believe that we can all work together to ensure that every child attends school as often as possible.

If your child is ill, please phone school before 9.15am on the first day of illness, to give a reason for the absence. Please indicate when your child is likely to return and keep school informed of any developments.

Any persistent or unauthorised absences or lateness will be recorded and passed on to the Attendance Officer who will contact parents.

The Government does not allow schools to authorise any holidays during term time, apart from in 'exceptional circumstances'.

If holidays are taken without authorisation, the Local Authority may fine parents. Please be aware that new regulations regarding term-time holidays come into force in August 2024. All details, including forms, can be requested from the school office.

Full details of our attendance policy and procedures can be found on our school website.



Getting involved at Simonside

At Simonside, we are keen for parents and carers to be involved in school life. Throughout the year, there are regular, planned opportunities for families to visit school, although you are very welcome to contact us should you wish to arrange additional visits.

Our parents/carers are invited to attend two parents' evenings each year. In addition to this, we welcome parents/carers to Reading Cafes, Stay and Play sessions in Early Years, Phonics workshops and SAT meetings, Christmas Performances, School Fayres, Sports Days and many other events.

Some of our parents also volunteer to support in school by listening to readers and working with children on other activities. Should you wish to volunteer in school, please contact the school office.



A warm welcome from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Sam Harrison and I am Chair of Governors of Simonside Primary. On behalf of the governing body, I would like to welcome you to Simonside and hope you and your child have an exciting and enjoyable journey together.

I have been part of the governing body for the last 8 years. I have had 3 children attend Simonside, starting in 2008, and I have always found it to be a happy environment for my children. I have seen first-hand just how much effort the staff go to, to ensure all children are happy and confident. My children have all enjoyed their time here, have thrived, and all of the staff have always made their time at Simonside an interesting and exciting one, which has promoted their want to learn. It is for this reason, I was pleased to become part of the governing body.

The governing body's role is to support this school to continue to provide a friendly and engaging environment where children actively want to learn independently and confidently. We support the school in several key areas such as pupil welfare, progress and achievement, finance and budgets, staff development and recruitment. Governors come from a wide variety of backgrounds, bringing different skills to the forefront and meet regularly with Mrs Scott and staff to check that the school continues to monitor and evaluate its objectives, both strategically and operationally.

Our school community is always keen to build positive relationships with parents, carers, and grandparents, to make school life a positive experience for everyone.

If you have ever thought about becoming a school governor, but not sure what it entails or how you would go about it, please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to talk it over.

Kind regards

Sam Harrison

Chair of Governors

Our Governing Body

We have a very active and involved Governing body at Simonside who often visit and who meet at least once per term to agree on school policies and to ensure the smooth running of the school.

The Governing Body is made up of staff, parents, local authority representatives, community members and the Headteacher.

Parent Representatives are elected by parents and have a 4 year term of office.



“The school provides pupils with a wide range of opportunities to take on responsibility. Pupils are proud to hold roles on the School Council or the Eco Committee. Every pupil, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), is encouraged to develop their interests and talents in sport, music and the arts.”

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Our Staff

Leadership and Management Team

Mrs D Scott —Headteacher

Mrs L Pegman—Deputy Headteacher

Mrs E Lowe—SENDCo

Miss H Pearce—Phase Leader

Mrs N Sultan—Behaviour & Phase Leader

Mrs G Wright—Phase Leader

Teaching Team

Miss A Tucker *(currently on Maternity Leave)*

Miss H Beck

Mrs A Blair

Miss F Bradford

Mrs Y Embleton

Mr R Howard

Miss T Quinn

Mrs L Souter

Support Staff Team

Mrs L Allsopp

Mrs V Dick

Miss D Dodds

Miss S Dunn

Miss N Ford

Mrs D Fox

Mrs D Little

Mrs J Mason

Miss N Maughan

Mrs H Smith

Mrs M Smith

Mrs H Stamps

Mrs N Turner

Non-Class Based Staff

Mrs R Gibson —Attendance & Inclusion

Mrs V Grainger — Administrator

Mr D Russell—Admin Apprentice

Sam Jackson — Forest School Teacher

Mr I Weymss — Site Supervisor

Mr R Softley—School Business Manager

Ms K Brown—Cleaning Staff

Miss D Chandler — Cleaning Staff

Miss N Ramsey — Cleaning Staff

Lunchtime Staff

Miss C Docherty—School Cook

Ms K Brown—Lunchtime Supervisor

Miss S Carroll—Lunchtime Supervisor

Miss A Hayward—Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs J Pomfrey—Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs D Ridley—Lunchtime Supervisor

Miss L Train—Lunchtime Supervisor

What do people say about our school?

"Simonside is a lovely school and both of my children have really enjoyed it here."

Parent/Carer

"I like that we get responsibilities in the school to help make decisions. You can have class jobs or jobs in school and some people get voted on to the school council."

Child

"Great school, great teachers and staff."

Parent/Carer

"The clubs are good. I go to Breakfast club where I do Arts and Crafts and there are after school clubs. I could go to lunchtime clubs, but I like the playground and playing with my friends."

Child

"Thank you for your hard work and commitment to all the children."

Parent/Carer

"Everything is good. I love Forest School and there are things in the classroom to help me."

Child

"We have fun teachers and do fun things."

Child

"Thank you all for everything you've done. Best decision ever moving over to Simonside."

Parent/Carer



“Pupils are proud to attend Simonside Primary. They arrive at school with smiles on their faces to be greeted warmly by staff. There is an infectious sense of happiness and community.”

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