Simonside

Primary School





Simonside Primary School

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Head Teacher's Welcome

A very warm welcome to Simonside Primary School!

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 when 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, a wider curriculum to support the qualities which will enable them to access what is out there in the world for them, and 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. We also follow our school's three rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe

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.

Mrs D 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 200 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);
- a large school library;
- additional spaces where children and adults can work on a 1:1 or small group basis.

Our outdoor areas are vast too, and we are able to offer children a wide range of outdoor experiences, including Forest School.

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, and we do 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 £4 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 7.30 a.m daily and is £1.50 up to 8.15 a.m. Between 8.15 a.m and 8.45 a.m it is free to everyone. To book Breakfast Club please contact the 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 £2.60 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/

At Simonside we have an Active Uniform that children use for day to day school activities, Forest School and PE.

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

Our uniform consists of:

- Black leggings or black jogger bottoms (black cycling shorts when it is warm but only those just above knee length - nothing shorter than that)
- White or blue polo shirts
- Royal blue (no other shade please) cardigan, jumper or hoodie (logos are not required but can be purchased if you wish)
- Black trainers

Nail varnish, stud earrings and make up is not permitted. Watches may be worn but only those that tell time only, no other jewellery is allowed.

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, first—hand experiences and structured play, which enables children to achieve their Early Learning Goals.

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

Our Curriculum

At the heart of our school is a passion for learning that excites, engages and inspires. We believe that every child should have access to a curriculum that not only secures academic progress, but also opens their eyes to the world around them.





Our curriculum is carefully designed to be engaging, creative, ambitious and rooted in real-life experiences. We enrich learning with purposeful opportunities that spark curiosity and make learning meaningful. Throughout our lessons and other experiences, we aim to bring the curriculum to life, ensuring children see the relevance of what they are learning and how it connects to the wider world. We adapt our curriculum to reflect the unique needs of our children. We adapt our curriculum to reflect the unique needs of our children.

Homework

At Simonside, we value the partnership between home and school in helping every child thrive. Supporting your child's learning at home can be fun and informal, and makes a real difference . A short amount of time each day spent reading together, talking about books, and celebrating progress helps to build confident, fluent readers and love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

We believe that homework should be purposeful, manageable and closely linked to what children are learning in school. Our focus is on helping children to master basics, particularly reading, spelling, and times tables, thorough regular, short activities that reinforce learning and building confidence.

From Year 1 to Year 6, weekly homework supports these core skills. In Reception, children may bring home simple tasks linked to current topics, designed to share their learning with their family. As children move to Year 6, additional homework is gradually introduced in the spring term to support their preparation for SATs and a successful transition to secondary school. Together, we can ensure learning continues beyond the classroom in meaningful and supportive ways.





Careers

At Simonside, we are ambitious for our pupils - not just in what they achieve at school, but in who they become and the futures they imagine for themselves.

Through our careers-related learning, we introduce children to a wide variety of professions and pathways. From scientists and engineers to artists, athletes, medics and beyond, we provide rich opportunities for children to explore the world of work in exciting and meaningful ways.

Our aim is to raise aspirations by linking classroom learning to real-world careers, showing children how the skills they develop today can open doors tomorrow. We make these links through lessons, visits, themed events, and inspiring encounters with a diverse range of role models. We are committed to helping our children build confidence, ask questions and see themselves in a wide range of futures

Curriculum Subjects

Our curriculum covers all subjects in the National Curriculum, including:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Computing
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- 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 essential skills such as reading, spelling and times tables. These are taught in a memorable and engaging wat, ensuring that children build a solid foundation for future learning. We review our curriculum regularly to ensure it is broad, balanced and progressive—meeting the needs of our children, reflecting the richness of our community.



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 host cycling proficiency training for Key Stage 2 children.

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

We offer a range of sports clubs during lunch times and after school and have links with outside clubs such as South Shields Football Club.



Computing

At Simonside, we are extremely proud of our computing curriculum. The children have regular access to iPads, integrating computing throughout the whole school curriculum.

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, and Facebook page, 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 reinforcing 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. Children in Year 5 & 6 can walk home alone with parents permission. We operate a password system for those rare occasions when another named adult needs to collect your child. We are a secure site and gates to the school yard areas are locked between 9.05am and 3.15pm.

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 NSPCC and KidSafe initiatives.

Medicine in school

We have a clear medication 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 then will be asked to fill in a detailed form before they can be given during school time.



Attendance Matters @ Simonside

At Simonside Primary School, we know that attendance really matters. Every day and every minute counts, and we make the most of each one to support your child's learning. That's why it is so important that children are in school on time everyday, unless there is a genuine reason for absence.

Good attendance and punctuality are not only legal requirements but also key to ensuring children make strong progress and reach their full potential. We believe that by working together, we can help every child attend school regularly and get the very best from their time with us.

If your child is unwell, contact the school by 9.15am on the first day of absence. Let us know the reason for the absence and, if possible, give us an idea of when your child is likely to return. Please keep us updated if there are any changes or developments.

Persistent or unauthorised absences, or frequent lateness, will be monitored and recorded. These will be shared with the attendance officer, who may contact families to offer support or discuss any ongoing concerns about absence or punctuality.

Schools are not permitted to authorise holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If a holiday is taken without permission, the Local Authority may issue a fine.

You can find our full attendance policy and procedures on our website. If you would like more information or need a leave of absence request form, please contact the school office.



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, SAT meetings, Christmas Performances, School Fayres, Sports Days and many other events.

We are proud to have an active and welcoming Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at our school called The Friends of Simonside. The PTA plays a key role in organising a variety of enjoyable events for our pupils, including discos, themed craft sessions, and cosy film nights. These activities not only provide fun experiences for the children but also help to foster a strong sense of community within our school.

In addition to planning events for pupils, the PTA also supports parents through initiatives such as coffee mornings and school uniform donation schemes. New members are always warmly welcomed, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.





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.

Having been part of the Simonside community since 2008, when my children first began their journey here, I have seen firsthand the nurturing and positive environment the school provides. All three of my children have now left education, but each of them thoroughly enjoyed their time here, growing in confidence and developing a genuine enthusiasm for learning. The dedication and commitment of the staff have always been evident, consistently ensuring that every child feels happy, valued, and inspired.

It is this experience that motivated me to become a member of the Governing Body. Our role is to support the school in maintaining a welcoming, engaging environment where children are encouraged to become confident, independent learners. We work closely with school leaders and staff, contributing to key areas such as pupil welfare, progress and achievement, financial oversight, and staff development and recruitment.

Governors bring a wide range of skills and professional experiences, and we meet regularly with Mrs Scott and the school team to ensure that the school continues to evaluate and achieve its strategic and operational priorities.

We are proud to be part of a school community that values strong partnerships with parents, carers, and families, helping to make school life a positive and enriching experience for everyone.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor and would like to know more about the role, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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."

OFSTED

Our Staff

Leadership and Management Team

Mrs D Scott —Headteacher

Mr N Charlton—Deputy Headteacher

Mrs E Lowe—SENDCo & Phase Lead

Miss H Pearce—Phase Leader

Mrs N Sultan—Behaviour & Phase Leader

Mrs G Wright—Phase Leader & English

Teaching Team

Miss H Beck

Mrs A Blair

Miss Bradford

Mrs Y Embleton

Mr R Howard

Mrs L Souter

Mrs A Nesbitt

Support Staff Team

Miss D Dodds

Miss N Ford

Mrs D Fox

Mrs D Little

Mrs H Smith

Mrs M Smith

Mrs H Stamps

Miss O Cooper

Mrs C Oxley

Non-Class Based Staff

Mrs R Gibson —Attendance & Inclusion

Miss B Walker—Office Manager

Mr D Russell—Administration Assistant

Sam Jackson — Forest School Teacher

Mr I Weymss — Site Supervisor

Miss D Chandler — Cleaning Staff

Miss N Ramsey — Cleaning Staff

Mrs D Fox—Cleaning Staff

Lunchtime Staff

Miss C Docherty—School Cook

Miss S Carroll—Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs J Pomfrey—Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs D Ridley—Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs J Laybourne—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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