

September 2023



School Brochure



Sessay CE Primary School

Growing together in Love and Learning

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Welcome..... a message from the Headteacher.

I am the Head Teacher of Sessay Church of England Primary School and I split my time between the two schools in our Federation. I enjoy spending time with the children and am privileged to have a role that allows me to work in two small rural schools with wonderful, hardworking and caring children, staff and communities.

Selecting a school for your child can be a difficult task. There are many aspects to take into consideration, both educational and social, but it is a choice only you can make, because only you can know what best suits your child. By browsing our brochure, we hope that some questions you may have about our school will be answered.

We aim for our children to achieve high and to be caring, enthusiastic, confident and well-balanced individuals, who work together towards common goals. We believe it is vital to fully extend our pupils' capabilities, igniting an enthusiasm and love for learning that will stay with them for life. Each child is welcomed into our school and is nurtured as an individual to enable them to reach their full potential.

Please contact the school to make an appointment or to ask any further questions you might have.

Miss Fiona Bennett
Executive Headteacher

STAFFING 2023/24

Headteacher	Miss F Bennett
Senior Teachers	Mrs K Tyrka & Mrs S Watson
Teachers	Mrs K Tyrka Byland
	Mrs K Bennison Byland
	Mrs T Jackson Fountains
	Mrs E Sowray Bolton
	Miss C Wilkie Bolton
	Ms N Gauder Rievaulx
	Mrs S Watson Rievaulx
Teaching Assistants	Mrs E Day
	Mrs V Woodhead
	Mrs A Gamble
	Mrs A Bastow
	Mr B Pope
	Mrs T Harper
	Mrs P Bentley
	Mr M Houghton
	Mrs V Gale
	Mrs D Price
Learning Mentor	Mrs P Bentley
School Office Administrator	Mrs C Lawson
Caretaker	Building Cleaning Services Country Cleaning Services
Cook	County Catering Services Ms A Smith
Midday Supervisors	Mrs A Bastow, Mrs K Sanderson, Mrs J Gulliver
	Mr B Pope, Mrs C Lawson, Mrs V Gale, Mrs D Price
Admission Number	15
Number on Roll	92

Welcome to Sessay Church of England Primary School (Part of the Hushwaite & Sessay Primary Federation)



Our School

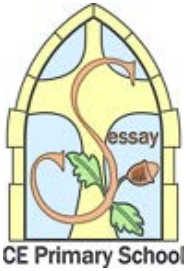
Sessay Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School was built in 1848. The school is situated at the end of the village, next to St Cuthbert's Church, and is around 6 miles from the market town of Thirsk. The school consists of a beautiful old building which contains the school office and hall. There are also four spacious classrooms situated in the grounds. These are all named after local abbey's: Byland, Fountains, Bolton, and Rievaulx. Within the grounds is a playground, school field, forest school provision and outdoor classroom, as well as a special Early Years outdoor area which is accessible all year round. We are a Church of England School and maintain close links to the village church, which is situated next door to the school. We aim to provide an exciting and stimulating place for our children to learn, within a happy, caring Christian community that will give our pupils a fantastic foundation for the rest of their lives.

This brochure will provide you with lots of information about our school, but we would be very pleased to show you around personally, so please don't hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment.



Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation Vision:

“Growing together in Love and Learning’



“Sowing Seeds – Bearing Fruit – Harvesting Potential”

At the Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their full potential, so that they can make their best contribution to society.

The Federation is a family where:

Everybody is welcomed and you are not alone.

We pray together .

We are honest, open and respect and care for everyone and everything in our unique and rural community.

As a Federation we have a growth mindset, set high standards of learning and celebrate the achievements of every child within our exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum, based upon our Christian values, is inclusive. Through inquisitive and creative minds, our children develop their self-confidence as learners and are encouraged to progress socially, emotionally and spiritually.

The Federation is a place where everyone is different and everyone is important.

“Teach a child to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.”
(Proverbs 22:6)

School Values:



The family community of our Church of England School reflects Christian values which permeate throughout our school life. Collective worship is a valued part of our school day.

Good behaviour is encouraged from day one at school and we operate a number of reward schemes, including our Acorn award system. At the end of each week, good work and behaviour is rewarded at Celebration Assembly, a much loved weekly occasion for all.

We encourage our children to feel pride in their school and themselves. During their time with us they will have the opportunity to represent the school on educational outings, in sports teams, at St Cuthbert's Church services and in many other ways. We value the thoughts and opinions of all our children at Sessay School, therefore all children in Year 1 and upwards are in a Pupil Voice group which covers many aspects of school life: Money Makers, Epic Improvers, Healthy Schools or Eco and Gardening Group.



At Sessay, we value working in partnership with our federation school, as well as with parents, St Cuthbert's Church and the wider community. We believe that by working together, we can realise the Federation's vision and enable each and every child to achieve their full potential in all areas.



Curriculum and Learning Support - Years 1-6

At Sessay we want to offer children learning experiences that give them a wealth of knowledge and experiences through a broad, rich, active and balanced curriculum.

Every pupil follows five core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Computing and Religious Education. Other foundation subjects include History, Geography, Design and Technology, Music, Art,

PSHE and Physical Education (including Forest School). In Key Stage Two the children also learn French.

Our curriculum is designed to give first hand experiences. We link school visits or an educational experience to our topics to promote children's interest and knowledge.

All children are able to experience the wonders of outdoor learning and the forest school program. Our school grounds are an ideal environment for children to explore the outdoors, develop new investigative skills and promote their inquisitive instincts.

English

English plays an important part in the intellectual, social and personal development of children. We teach our pupils to read, write, speak and listen. The children are given the opportunities to develop their language skills through poetry, non-fiction and plays, amongst other genres. They are also provided with a large and varied selection of books in class and the school library. We actively encourage parents to support their child's reading at home, making reading pleasurable and free from pressure. It is our aim to instill a love of reading in children.

Mathematics

Our aims in teaching mathematics are, that all children should achieve a high standard in numeracy and develop a range of mathematical skills, which they are able to apply with understanding and certainty. We expect them to enjoy the subject for its own intrinsic worth and to study it with increasing confidence and with a sense of achievement. We strive to promote positive attitudes to mathematics, along with an understanding of its importance in everyday situations and the world of work. We use a wide range of practical techniques and resources to support all learning.

Science

Science is about curiosity and wonder. Children are naturally inquisitive about the world in which they live and we aim, through enjoyable practical activities and first hand experiences, to develop skills and a body of knowledge. We expect the children to predict, question, hypothesize and understand the concepts of a scientific investigation. Children may work individually or collaboratively in a group, where they can develop their personal qualities and investigative skills.

Religious Education

At Sessay, we teach our children about Christianity and as well as other world religions. We aim to foster a spirit of tolerance, co-operation and understanding, both within our own community and in the wider world. We see ourselves as part of a village community in a wider society, that is both multi-faith and multi-cultural. Our R.E. curriculum will be provided in accordance with the agreed Syllabus produced by North Yorkshire County Council.

Computing

The children are taught to use ICT equipment and software confidently and purposefully for communication and investigation. We have a bank of Chrome Books and iPads accessible to the children during lessons. All school hardware is updated on a rolling replacement cycle and interactive 'Ctouch' teaching screens are installed in all classrooms and the school hall.

Learning Support

At Sessay, we aim for our children to be independent learners who are on a quest for knowledge. We try to bring as many first-hand opportunities into the classroom as we can to bring the curriculum to life. Our children also support many charities and these events add an important dimension to our school life.





Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (Byland – Reception Class)

The curriculum is divided into 7 areas of development. There are 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

PRIME AREAS:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development - through this area we aim to develop children's social, moral, cultural, emotional and spiritual skills.
- Communication and Language - this area is concerned with developing speaking, listening and understanding skills.
- Physical Development - through this area children develop their fine and gross motor skills.

SPECIFIC AREAS:

- Maths - mathematical development addresses problem solving, working with numbers, shape, space and measure, money and some simple data handling.
- Literacy - literacy developing focuses on the early development of reading and writing skills.
- Understanding of the World - covers science, history, geography, design and information technology.
- Expressive arts and design - is connected to creative development through art, music, dance, designing and constructing.

We use many different teaching styles from individual, small group or whole class teaching. We also spend a lot of time observing the children's play, so we can then plan activities and provision to suit their needs and interests. There will be time every day for the children to choose from a wide range of activities and to explore and learn through their own interests. Children are encouraged to experience outside activities in all weathers and conditions.



School Routines

Before School Club	8am-8.45am
Gates open	8.35am
School Day	8.45am-3.15pm (32.5 hours a week)
After School Club	3.15-5pm (5.30pm by arrangement)

School Hours

Session 1	08.45am -10.30am
Break	10.30am-10.45am
Session 2	10.45am-12pm
Lunch	12pm-1pm
Session 3	1pm-3.15pm



There is a short break in the afternoon for Key Stage 1 children.

Children who travel to school by bus are met each morning at the gate by a member of staff on meet and greet. At the end of the day, children are escorted by a member of staff onto the bus and checked they are securely seated.

It is important that you inform school of your child's absence and we ask that you contact school by 9.15am at the latest.

As part of our safeguarding routines, the gate into the school grounds and doors are locked. Any child who arrives late must report to the office.

Absences during term time are strongly discouraged. However, exceptional applications for absences can be made and we follow NYCC's policy and guidelines for approval or otherwise.

Home-School Links

We believe strongly in parents as partners in the education of their children and we actively encourage them into school at every opportunity. Parents are provided with an information sheet at the beginning of each half term. This outlines the main curriculum areas to be taught, offering opportunities for support at home.

The school holds two formal parents' evenings during the year in order to discuss the progress of the children. The first of these is held in the Autumn Term and deals mainly with how the child has settled into the year and targets and aims for the year ahead. The second evening is based around progress and is held in the Spring Term. You will receive a formal written report in the Summer term, which gives you the opportunity to discuss your child's achievement over the year and targets for the following year.

Should you require, please feel free to discuss your child's progress at any time during the school year. We operate an 'open-door' policy which welcomes parents or carer's into their child's class and encourage them to share any information that they feel school needs to be aware of which may be impacting on their child's health, wellbeing or learning. The staff are normally available for informal discussion before and after school. Should you require a more formal meeting, please book an appointment through the school office.

Behaviour in School

Our policy is based upon rewarding good behaviour and making sure that this is highlighted when it is seen. We place great emphasis on positive actions and children are rewarded with praise, stickers and acorns to celebrate this. Weekly awards are given out in each class, along with a termly Headteacher's award.



We also feel that inappropriate behaviour should not be ignored, therefore we operate a 'traffic light system' to monitor this. Children sometimes need to be taught what is appropriate within school and what is not.

The school has a minimum set of positive, simple 'Golden Rules' which are our expectation for all children at all times. They are:

- Be gentle
- Be kind and helpful
- Work hard
- Look after property
- Listen to people
- Be honest

With your support, we encourage children to behave appropriately at all times and remember what is expected of them.

If the school has any concerns about a child's behavior, the parents will always be informed.



Clubs and School Activities

At Sessay we run a before school club, operating from 8.00am-8.45am and an after School Club, operating from 3.15pm-5.00pm. (An extended session is available up to 5.30pm by arrangement). Please enquire at the school office for further details.

Extra-curricular clubs run throughout the year and change termly. All children will have the opportunity to participate in these at some point through the academic year. Clubs vary but have included, multi-sports, drama, football, choir, crafts and netball. We sometimes have special 'one off' activities after school, for example, pottery.

Sessay belongs to the Thirsk Cluster of schools and throughout the year, children participate in various sporting events. This is an ideal opportunity for children to mix with their peer groups from neighbouring schools and offers a wider range of sporting experiences.

Many of our children take music lessons at school. These can be accessed through the North Yorkshire Music Service.

Homework

Homework is given to complement children's learning in class. The main aims and benefits of homework are as follows:

To develop further our links with parents, by helping parents and other carers to understand more clearly what (and how) their children are learning in school.

To give children the opportunity to practice and consolidate their learning, particularly in English and Maths.

To encourage self-discipline and perseverance, to help children plan the use of their time and develop their independent learning skills .

To develop 'the homework habit' in preparation for secondary school.

To increase pupils' self-esteem and the realisation that their learning is regarded as important by home and school.

As children progress through the school, there will be a similar progression in terms of the expected levels of homework. All children will have reading books and spellings.

Full details are covered in the school's homework policy.

Uniform

Children look very smart in their uniforms and we believe it promotes a positive attitude towards children's behaviour and learning. Uniform with the school logo can be purchased from 'School Shop' using the link below:

<https://school-shop.co.uk/school/sessay-ce-primary-school/>

Whilst we encourage children to wear uniform, uniform does not have to be logoed. School uniform in the appropriate colours is widely available from most major high street stores and supermarkets.

School uniform:

Navy sweatshirt/cardigan

White/sky blue polo shirt

Grey or black skirt, dress, trousers or shorts

Grey/white socks or tights

Black sensible shoes



PE Kit:

Plain sky blue/white t-shirt

Navy/black shorts or skirts

Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt (for outdoor PE)

Plimsolls/trainers

Jewellery:

For safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. If a watch is worn, it is at your own risk. Plain stud type earrings may be worn with pierced ears but must be removed (independently) during PE and swimming sessions. This is in line with North Yorkshire County Council's policy. Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back.

School Meals/Snacks



We are fortunate to have our own kitchen and a cook who prepares meals for us here on the school site. Each day there is a hot meal with vegetarian option and either a jacket potato with a choice of fillings or a sandwich, followed by a pudding, piece of fruit or yogurt. Currently children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal through the Universal Free School Meal scheme.

Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are also entitled to a piece of fruit each day through the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. However, if preferred, parents can provide their child with their own healthy snack of fruit, vegetable, cheese etc.

All children under the age of 5 are entitled to free school milk, as are children who are in receipt of free school meals. Children can continue to receive milk after the age of 5 but parents will need to register and pay for this service through the Cool Milk scheme (www.coolmilk.co.uk) .

If you think that you qualify for your child to receive free school meals, please ask at the office for the necessary application forms. Children who are entitled to free school meals also attract additional funding for the school. Your assistance in ensuring you are receiving all the entitled funding is much appreciated.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Please note **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.**

Medical/Health

If your child has any medical needs, please inform us of the details and any medication that needs administering. Administration of prescribed medication can be undertaken by staff, but only on completion of the necessary forms, (available in the school office or from their classroom).

Occasionally minor accidents do occur and these are dealt with as you would deal with any similar occurrences at home. There are trained First Aiders on the staff. If a more serious incident happens, and thankfully these do not happen often, then every effort is made to contact you. If emergency treatment is required, then appropriate action will be taken.



Transport

A school bus is provided for children living within the school catchment area. For enquiries about school transport, contact the school or Passenger Transport on 01609 536201.

We encourage parents to use the drop off zone, where a member of staff will be waiting to greet your child. Parking around school is limited and we would ask that parents park as safely as possible and with consideration for others, including the school bus.

Special Educational Needs

At Sessay School, we aim to respond sensitively, quickly and appropriately to any pupils who may need special educational provisions. All children here are valued equally. The school aims to cater for all children within the classroom, including those who may require additional support.

Children are deemed to have special educational needs if they:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of their age and/or
- have a disability which either prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities which are generally provided in schools for children of their age.

Support may take the form of individual or small group teaching and may be provided from within school or from outside agencies. Time is often allocated on the recommendations of the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) Ms Gauder, Class Teacher, Special Education Advisory Service, Educational Psychologist or Speech Therapist.

The school has adopted the most recent Code of Practice in relation to children with special needs, which recognises the special needs of children and young people from 0 - 25 years. We value the importance of good communication between parents/carers and the school. As such, parents/carers are consulted at all times through informal discussions with the class teacher, through our open-door policy and more formal regular review meetings every term.

All pupils who require additional support have an Individual Provision Map (IPM), to record and monitor interventions and provisions in place to provide specific support.



CONTACT DETAILS

The School

Sessay C.E.Primary School

Sessay

Thirsk

North Yorkshire

YO7 3NA

Telephone: 01845 501239

Local Authority

Northallerton Education Office

County Hall

Northallerton

North Yorkshire

DL7 8AE

Telephone: 0845 034 9494

Vice-Chair of Governors

Louisa Carolan

c/o Sessay Primary School

Co-Chair of Governors

Mrs G Shaw

c/o Sessay Primary School

For more information on our school please visit our website at: <http://sessay.n-yorks.sch.uk/>

Finally

All the staff at Sessay School will work hard to ensure that your child's time with us is happy and rewarding. Education is a team effort and we value greatly parents and carers as partners in this process. The active encouragement you give your child is a vital contribution to their overall development. Your interests and encouragement can only make our efforts more successful.

Our commitment is to help every child to achieve their greatest potential, academically and socially. We want to equip children with resilience and life skills, so that they are well equipped for the next steps in their education and for the challenges and opportunities that come their way.



Sessay CE Primary School

Sessay

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North Yorkshire YO7 3NA

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