



Higher Failsworth Primary School

'Working together for an Education for Life.'

Prospectus

2020-21

Welcome to Higher Failsworth Primary School

Primary Education is an extremely important stage in your child's development. We believe that all children should be able to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. We are committed to our school being a safe and inclusive place where learning is nurtured and encouraged in a happy, caring and fun environment. We all work for our school to be a happy place where good behaviour is expected and all children enjoy their learning journey. Our school is a place where everyone is treated equally, encouraged and respected.

Our mission at Higher Failsworth is 'working together for an education for life'.

I hope that you find the information in this prospectus both interesting and helpful. It contains details of how our school works and routine information which will enable you to help you child enjoy and benefit from life in school.

We hope that your child will be very happy and thrive both academically and socially with us.

Mrs S Forster, Headteacher



OFSTED 2017 – "Provision for pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is a strength of your school...The pupils said that they are happy and safe at the school... They know that, if they have worries or concerns, the staff will help them."

History

Higher Failsworth School is over 100 years old. It was originally two separate schools; Stansfield Road Infants and Stansfield Road Juniors' before the two schools were amalgamated in 2004 to form Higher Failsworth Primary. The building is much bigger than people think from the outside!

We are a growing school with over 450 pupils and more than 50 staff. We now have 13 languages spoken and this widening diversity is adding richness to our school.

We are very proud of our school and the education we provide. We value highly the social, emotional, spiritual and cultural aspects of education as well as those aspects considered to be more academic. We are committed to offering opportunities such as music lessons, sports activities, adventurous activities and residential visits. Each year group performs a play or musical on our wonderful stage each year for parents. We enter the Oldham Choral Speaking Festival each year and have termly visits or visitors to school to supplement and enrich the curriculum offer.

Children take an active part in the life of the school. We have a Head Boy and Head Girl, an active School Council and other children involved as playground leaders. We involve children in the recruitment of staff also.

We value very much the strong partnership we have with our parents and carers and hope that they feel welcomed to our school.

Respect and care

Our whole school rules encourage respect and care for one another. They encourage our pupils to behave considerately towards each other and to others in our community and beyond, so that they can become responsible, active citizens with a strong understanding of British values.

At Higher Failsworth primary school all children are encouraged to follow the school rules. These are:

- Be polite
- Be safe
- Be kind
- Be a learner

Safeguarding & Welfare

It is important to us that all children in the school are 'safe'. We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with choices to help them develop this important life skill. We encourage children to take risks and highlight the importance of keeping themselves safe by teaching them how to recognise and avoid hazards. We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children.

At Higher Failsworth we:

- Provide a setting that is welcoming, safe and stimulating where children can grow in confidence;
- Promote good health;
- Manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs
- To ensure that all adults who look after the children, or who have unsupervised access to them, are suitable to do so;
- Ensure that the setting, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for the purpose it was intended for;
- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

Our commitment to Child Protection

We are committed to 'Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare' of all our pupils. Each pupil's welfare is of paramount importance. Parents should be aware that the school is required to take reasonable action to ensure the safety of all our pupils. In cases where school has reason to be concerned about a child possibly being ill-treated or neglected then the Headteacher is obliged to follow Oldham's Child Protection procedures and contact Social Services. Please note that the Child Protection Policy is available on the school website.

Organisation of our School

We are a two form entry school at Higher Failsworth which means that we have two classes in each year group.

The wide age range and spread of ability in each class means that children often work in small groups, or individually, as appropriate. Each class also benefits from the support of experienced teaching assistant/s.

Literacy and Numeracy are usually taught in the mornings and the Foundation subjects are taught mainly in the afternoons through a cross-curricular, thematic approach.

We are dedicated to providing excellent pastoral care and education to those children in our care.

Staff are fully qualified, have a wide range of experience and expertise in working with and educating children. The staff are committed to professional development and when appropriate attend up to date training courses and have excellent knowledge of the curriculum and child development.

Learning at Higher Failsworth

Learning takes place through a broad-based curriculum in an environment which provides stimulating and varied resources. The children enjoy the richness of their learning which develops them and excites their imagination. We aim to provide excellent teaching with enjoyment of learning.

We have a fantastic range of facilities at school including large outdoor areas, a forest school a sensory room, dedicated ICT suite and a stage. All children will have access to all of these facilities during the time at school.

Our aims in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage classrooms are organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are specific areas where the children can be active, be quiet, creative etc.

Children have access to both inside and outside areas across their day.

This has a positive effect on the children's development. There are outdoor classroom areas and an accessible woodland area.

Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and in different scales than when indoors. The children can explore, use their senses and be physically active and creative.



All areas of the curriculum can be explored outside.

Our aims in Foundation stage are:

- To give each child a happy, positive and fun start to their school life in which they can establish solid foundations on which to expand and foster a deep love of learning;
- To offer each child a wide range of new and exciting experiences and give them the opportunity to consolidate, explore and test them out along with their own, individual experiences;
- To enable each child, through encouragement and high expectations, to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally;
- To encourage children to develop independence within a loving, secure and friendly atmosphere;
- To support children in building relationships through the development of social skills such as co-operation and sharing;
- To help each child to recognise their own strengths and achievements through experiencing success and developing the confidence to work towards personal goals.

The Nursery and Reception follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document.

“The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development, all of which are seen as important and interconnected but three areas are seen as particularly important for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.” (DfE Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, March 2017)

They support children's learning in all other areas, and they are known as the prime areas.

The **Prime Areas** are;

- **Communication and Language:**

Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking



- **Physical Development:**

Moving and Handling and Self care



- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

Making relationships, Managing feelings and behaviour and Self-confidence and Self-awareness

The **specific areas** of learning develop essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society. The specific areas are;

Literacy:

Reading and Writing

Understanding the World:

People and communities, The World and Technology

Mathematics:

Numbers and Space, Shape and Measures

Expressive Arts and Design:

Exploring and using media and materials and Being Imaginative

Our aims in KS1 and KS2

At KS1 and KS2, the three core subjects, English, Mathematics and Science, will take up a large proportion of school time. Learning takes place through a broad-based curriculum in an environment which provides stimulating and varied experiences. The children enjoy a rich curriculum which excites their imagination and encourages progress across all areas of learning. We aim to provide excellent teaching with enjoyment of learning.

In KS1 and KS2, the three core subjects, English, Mathematics and Science, are taught through a creative curriculum which encompasses the requirements of the National Curriculum.

In English, we provide a structured approach to speaking, listening, reading and writing to enable your child to:

- communicate clearly and confidently in speech and writing in ways appropriate for a variety of occasions and purposes;
- listen attentively and with understanding;
- read fluently and accurately with understanding, feeling, enjoyment and discrimination;
- develop a legible style of handwriting and good standards of spelling, syntax, punctuation;
- learn how to acquire information from various sources and record information and findings in a variety of ways.



In Mathematics, our teaching will promote a positive attitude and investigative approach to learning in mathematics to enable your child to:

- Learn and apply calculation skills with speed and accuracy;
- Understand the applications of mathematical ideas in various situations: the classroom, the home, the school and the local area.



Science is fascinating, informative, creative, enlightening, frustrating and fun. Our curriculum will encourage the development of processes, skills and attitudes to enable your child to:

- master basic scientific ideas;
- observe and investigate living and inanimate things and to recognise their characteristics;
- investigate and interpret evidence;
- analyse and solve scientific problems.



Extra Support for Learners

Our aim is to help all children realise their potential and to enjoy their learning.

The children's progress is assessed and monitored on a regular basis throughout each Key Stage. If a child is identified as needing extra support, we will discuss the appropriate action to take with parents.

We have a dedicated and experienced SENCO at our school who is responsible for supporting those children identified as having additional needs. She is supported in her team by a Behaviour specialist Teaching Assistant, English as an Additional Language specialist Teaching Assistant and a Speech and Language Teaching Assistant.

Every child will be given all the help and support possible within the school. For children with specific needs we are able to call on specialist support from the Education Psychology Service and the Quality and Effectiveness Support Teams who have specialist teachers.

All children also have access to a dedicated counselling service which the school purchases from Place2Be. Our counsellor, works in school for two full days every week to ensure that children are supported with any emotional needs that they may have and works closely with our Safeguarding and Pastoral manager.

Parents and Carers as Partners

We greatly value the involvement of parents in school. Parental involvement with school begins even before children start Nursery or Reception with an invitation to visit the school and meet their child's teacher and during Nursery home visits staff meet the child in their own home environment and allows the child to feel more comfortable knowing that when they come to school where they can immediately see familiar faces.

During the summer term before children enter Nursery and Reception parents are also invited to an Open Evening where information is provided on starting school in September and another opportunity is provided to ask any questions.

Parents' evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Term at which parents are invited to discuss their child's progress. A report is sent out at the end of the Summer term and parents are invited into school to discuss this report if they wish. It is important to stress that if parents are concerned in any way about their child they should telephone or call into the school to make an appointment to discuss their concerns with the class teacher, Foundation Stage unit leader or the Head teacher.

Parents are kept informed of all school events by regular newsletters, Facebook and Twitter updates and Class Dojo messages.

Foundation Stage parents are also informed via a weekly 'Learning Log' which is published on the class webpages. A hard copy of this is also placed in the classroom windows and on a designated parents' board.

Parents are also invited to various assemblies, performances and workshops throughout the year.

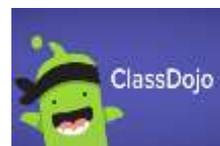
Behaviour and Reward Systems

Occasionally children forget what acceptable behaviour is, but this is all part of learning and preparing for life. We have a 'traffic light' system in school whereby the children start on a 'green' card. If they show unacceptable behaviour they are given a 'yellow' card and may have some 'time out'. If the unacceptable behaviour persists they are given a 'red' card and parents are informed. In KS2, children are also expected to 'pay back' any lost learning time resulting from unacceptable behaviour in their own time at lunch.

For more information about this, you can find our 'Behaviour Policy' on the school website.

Positive praise is equally important in our school and we use Class Dojo to reward children.

Children are awarded 'dojo' points for a variety of positive behaviours via the Class Dojo app. Parents then get a special code for their child so that no one else can see the information.



We actively encourage all parents to join their child's Class Dojo network and participate in the communication network. From feedback from parents, we have found this to be a fast and effective mode of communication to keep parents informed when their child is rewarded for a particular reason.

In KS2, we also operate a House Points reward system. Every child from Y3 to Y6 belongs to a 'house' in the school – Earth, Air, Fire and Water. There are nominated Year 6 captains for each House. Children can earn points for their house. House Points are awarded for good behaviour and good work. House points are collected weekly and announced in Key Stage Two Merit Assembly. House Captains accept the House Cup on behalf of their house. At the end of term, the children in the house with the most points are given a non-uniform day as a reward.

Learning at Home

Learning at home is also important and all children will be sent home with a new reading book each week. The book bags are changed once a week and you will receive further information about when they are being introduced in class in due course.

Reading is very important and we have spent a lot of money on new reading books for you to read at home with your child. If you lose your child's reading book, or it becomes damaged, we will ask you to contribute £1 towards the cost of replacing the book.

We may also send 'homework' activities home for you to complete with your child to help consolidate their learning from the week at school.

How can I support my child at Higher Failsworth School

We are committed to building strong links between home and school. All children benefit from the active interest of their parents/carers in what they are learning. Your child may be asked to carry out tasks at home to support their learning.

The most important way of supporting your child from the beginning of their school life, is to share books with them and to foster a love of reading. Daily reading practice at home should become part of every child's day and a bed-time story something to treasure for parents and children.

Education is a three way process between children, parents and the school. In order to achieve the maximum success for your child, the full co-operation and support of the parents and the school is needed. We value comments and suggestions and look forward to happy and mutually beneficial relationships between your child, yourself and the staff.

A Home-School Agreement is issued to each child on entry and will be kept on file until your child leaves school.

Important Information for Parents

School Timings

Doors open in the morning at 8.50am and registration is at 9.00am.

If your child arrives after 9.00am They will be given a 'late' mark.

If your child arrives after 9.30am they will receive an 'unauthorised' absence mark, unless you have advised us of a medical or other appointment.

Lunchtime for Reception children is from 11.45am. The afternoon registration session is at 12.45pm.

Lunchtime for KS1 Children is from 12.00pm. The afternoon registration session is at 1.00pm.

Lunchtime for KS2 Children is from 12.30pm. The afternoon registration session is at 1.30pm.

The school day finishes and children are dismissed from class at 3.20pm.

Regular attendance at school is very important, and it is important that your child comes to school every day to ensure that they have the best possible start at school.

School Uniform

Our school uniform was designed and chosen by the children and we are very proud of it. We expect children to wear the correct uniform at all times.

Our uniform is comprised of:

- Navy Blue Sweatshirt or Cardigan (preferably with school logo)
- Pale blue Polo Shirt
- Grey Trousers, Skirt or Pinafore
- Blue and White Summer dresses, skirts and blouses can be worn in the summer term
- All black sensible shoes or trainers (please note that coloured trainers, fashion shoes or high heeled shoes are not suitable for day to day wear in school and are therefore not allowed). In Reception, it is best if children are able to wear velcro fastening shoes until they are able to tie their own laces.

Children will also need a PE Kit in school each day in a PE Kit bag

- Red t-shirt
- Black shorts or jogging bottoms in winter
- Black pumps
- Plain Red hoodie

We sell a variety of uniform items through the school office including sweatshirts, polo shirts, PE T-Shirts, Hoodies and baseball caps. Drawstring PE Kit bags and Book Bags are also available to buy at the office and we can order special items such as school fleece jackets.

School meals and Breakfast Club

School lunches are freshly prepared each day in our own school kitchen and children are given three options to choose from each day.

Children in Reception and KS1 are currently eligible for a free school meal under the government Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. You do not need to do anything to ensure that your child gets a meal. If you do not wish to take up the free meal offer, then you may provide a packed lunch for your child.

In KS2 children must choose whether to have school meals or packed lunches. They cannot change from day to day or week to week. Changes to meal options can only be made at the start of a half term. Schools meals cost £12.00 per week which must be paid in advance.

Fruit is also provided for our KS1 pupils every break-time in the mornings. KS2 children may bring their own fruit to school to enjoy at break time if they wish, or children can buy fruit from our healthy Tuck Shop.

We run a Breakfast Club open to all children in school from 8.30am until 8.50am every day at a cost of 50p a session. Children are able to access a range of foods including, cereals, toast, yoghurt, cold meats and cheeses, fruit juice and milk. A healthy breakfast means that children are set up and ready to start the day.

ParentPay

School requires the use of the nominated school e-payment method to pay for dinner money, school trips, before and after school clubs. etc. This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay. The School Governing body policy is that all payments must be made ahead of the relevant event.



If you already have a child at our school, then you will already have a ParentPay account. If you are new to school, the school office will provide you with a user name and password, which you will need to change on account activation.

The system will allow you to make payments by credit card or debit card without any additional charges. ParentPay provides you with a receipt and the utmost clarity as to your balances for all of your school payments.

ParentPay holds an electronic record of your payments to view at a later date. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away.

School Holidays and Holidays during Term Time

The school holiday pattern for 2020-21 is as follows:

School Opens at 8.50am	School Closes at 3.20pm
Thursday 3 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November 2020	
Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Christmas Holidays: Saturday 19 December to Monday 4 January 2021	
Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 13 February to Sunday 21 February 2021	
Monday 22 February 2021	Wednesday 31 March 2021
Easter Holidays: Thursday 1 April 2021 to Sunday 18 April 2021	
Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 29 May 2021 to Sunday 6 June 2021	
Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 July 2021
Summer Holidays: Saturday 24 July to Sunday 5 September 2021	

School will be closed on the following additional days:

- Monday 3 May 2021 - Bank Holiday

Under new Government Legislation holidays taken in school time will only be authorised under exceptional circumstances. If a holiday is taken without permission a fixed penalty fine could be issued by the School Attendance Improvement Service.

Term time leave of absence in exceptional circumstances (once in a life time event) may be granted by the Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager. Exceptional Circumstances Holiday request forms are available from the office.

Parents/carers must apply to the Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager to request leave of absence. Each application will be judged on its own merit.

Exceptional circumstances should be considered as one-off situations. If an event can reasonably be scheduled outside of term time then it is unlikely that the absence will be authorized.

The following will not be considered exceptional circumstances:

- Relatives coming to visit
- Cheaper holidays in England and abroad
- Family day trips
- Visiting family/friends who have different half terms or holidays.

For more information about attendance, please see our separate policy on the school website.

Visiting the School

We are always willing to meet parents to discuss matters that concern your children. You are welcome to speak to the class teacher or a senior leader, at a mutually convenient time.

There will be opportunities for more formal meetings during the year to enable parents to meet the teachers to discuss their child's work and progress and at the end of the year there will be a written report detailing each child's progress and attainment.

Admission to our school

You will find all the information you need to apply for a school place at www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

All applications for school places must be made online, whether they are for Reception places or for in-year transfers. Our School Admissions Policy can be found on our school website.

Parents are given the option of entry to school for their children at the beginning of the school year in which their fifth birthday falls. For children in other year groups, admission is normally at the start of a term although under special circumstances we may be able to admit your child at other times in the year.

September start Reception parents and carers are invited to attend a welcome meeting in the summer before they start. In-year transfers will also be given the opportunity to view the school and meet our staff before they start. In both cases, we will also give you an Admission Pack with helpful information and forms to complete for our records.

We hope that you have found the information in our Prospectus useful. You will find more information and pictures of life in school on our school website and on our social media feeds.

Website: www.higher-failsworth.oldham.sch.uk

Twitter: @Higherfpschool

Facebook: /Higherfpschool