



# Higher Failsworth Primary School

**'Working together for an Education for Life.'**

Prospectus

2023-24

# 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 your 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



## History

Higher Failsworth School is over 105 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 large school with approximately 420 pupils and 50 staff. We now have 14 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.

Children take an active part in the life of the school. We have Head students, Deputy head students, prefects, 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.

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, a sensory room, dedicated ICT suite and a stage. All children will have access to all of these facilities during their 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 on 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 EYFS curriculum is taught through themes and the children's interests. This includes, adult led activities, independent challenges and child initiated learning.

The 'Development Matters' document is used as a guide and children work towards the Early Learning Goals.

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, attention and understanding

Speaking



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Building Relationships

Managing Self

Self-Regulation



### Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

Fine Motor Skills



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

### Literacy:

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

### Understanding the World:

- Past and Present
- People, cultures and communities
- The Natural World

### Mathematics:

- Numbers
- Numerical Patterns

### Expressive Arts and Design:

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative and Expressive

## 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 by a pastoral team and experienced and knowledgeable teaching assistants who support learning in the classroom.

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 Reception, parents/carers 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, unit leader or the Head teacher.

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

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

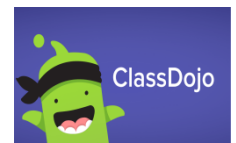
## Behaviour and Reward Systems

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 is 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 cooperation 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

### Key Stage Two (Y3-Y6)

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.

### Key Stage One (Y1-2)

Doors open in the morning at 8.45am and registration is at 8.55am.

If your child arrives after 8.55am They will be given a 'late' mark.

If your child arrives after 9.25am 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 3.15pm for Reception and KS1 children and 3.20pm for KS2 children.

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 to wear the following for PE days;

- Red t-shirt
- Black shorts or jogging bottoms in winter
- Black pumps / trainers
- Plain Red hoodie or logo PE hoodie



## 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. School meals cost £13.50 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 8.00am until 8.50am every day at a cost of £1.00 a session. Children are able to access a range of foods including, cereals, toast, yoghurt, fruit, 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 username 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 2023-24 is as follows:

School Opens at 8.45 / 8.50am	School Closes at 3.15/3.20pm
Wednesday 6 September 2023	Friday 20 October 2023
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 21 October to Sunday 29 October 2023	
Monday 30 October 2023	Thursday 21 December 2023
Christmas Holidays: Friday 22 December 2023 to Sunday 7 January 2024	
Monday 8 January 2024	Friday 16 February 2024
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 17 February to Sunday 25 February 2024	
Monday 26 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Easter Holidays: Friday 29 March to Sunday 14 April 2024	
Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
Half Term Holiday: Saturday 25 May to Sunday 2 June 2024	

Monday 3 June 2024	Friday 19 July 2024
Summer Holidays: Saturday 20 July 2024 to Tuesday 4 September 2024	

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DAYS:

- Monday 6 May 2024 – Bank Holiday

School is closed on the following days for staff inset training:

- Monday 4 September 2023
- Tuesday 5 September 2023
- Friday 22nd December 2023
- Tuesday 22 July 2024
- Tuesday 23 July 2024

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 lifetime 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 authorised..

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](http://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](http://www.higher-failsworth.oldham.sch.uk)

Twitter: @Higherfpschool

Facebook: /Higherfpschool

Instagram: @higherfailsworth