



Sowe Valley Primary School  
2019/20 Prospectus

Sowe Valley Primary School  
Princethorpe Way,  
Ernesford Grange,  
Coventry.  
CV3 2QX

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school@sowevalley.coventry.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all the children, staff and Governors I'd like to warmly welcome you to Sowe Valley Primary School.

At Sowe Valley we aim to create a safe, stimulating environment with a positive ethos. We aim to bring learning alive, making it exciting and fun. We want to give our children a thirst for learning that continues with them throughout their future school experiences and lives.

An essential ingredient for this to happen is teamwork. We view education as a joint venture, involving everyone - children, parents, staff, governors and the wider community. We hope that we will be able to depend on your cooperation and support in this partnership, hoping that together we can provide the best for every child.

We hope this prospectus will give you a 'feel' for the life and work of the school and for the caring and friendly atmosphere I know you will find here. You are, of course, very welcome to come and look around for yourself; just ring the office to arrange a convenient time.

Yours sincerely

Carole Carter  
Headteacher

'Pupils' behaviour in and around school is good.  
They work and play happily together.'

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### Vision

At Sowe Valley we feel that the children are at the heart of everything we do. We strive to ensure that our children are happy, confident children who share a positive attitude and an enthusiasm to find out about the world around them.

We believe that learning should be engaging, purposeful and challenging and aim to provide a diverse and motivating curriculum that responds to the needs and interests of our learners.

Sowe Valley is a learning community for all, where children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community work together to create a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which every individual is valued, encouraged to succeed and equipped with the skills they need for the adventures ahead of them.

### Aims

We aim for the children to leave our school;

- Having achieved their academic potential
- Having enjoyed all areas of learning
- Confident and thoughtful
- Caring, helpful and happy
- Well prepared for the next stage of their education

### Admission

The school's admission limit for Reception is 30.

A booklet "Primary Education in Coventry" is sent to all parents of eligible pupils in the September prior to their admission the following year. The booklet gives information to parents about the application process and includes a form.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

[admissions.benefits@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.benefits@coventry.gov.uk) or  
(024) 76831613.

### Organisation

Our school has seven classes catering for a full range of abilities across the curriculum within the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. There are currently no mixed-age classes.

### School Council

It is important for children to feel involved in the decision making process of school life. We therefore run a School Council made up of representatives from each year group.

These meetings are chaired by the pupils themselves and include such issues as playground developments, school meals, colour schemes, ground and building improvements.

### School Times

#### Foundation Stage/ Key Stage 1

Morning 8.55 am - 11.45 noon

Afternoon 12.45 pm - 3.15 pm

#### Key Stage 2

Morning 8.55 am - 11.45 noon

Afternoon 12.45 pm - 3.15 pm

### Lunch Time

At lunchtime children have the following options:

- A choice of meals with a vegetarian alternative and a salad cart
- To bring their own packed lunch

If children bring their own packed lunches, they should be brought in secure containers, clearly marked with the child's name. Cutlery cannot be provided by the kitchen.

Dinner money should be paid ideally via electronic payment (Schoolcomms) for the week ahead. Please come to the office for information on how to set this up.

If children wish to change from one option to another we would ask for one week's notice to facilitate this.

Free meals are provided for all children in Reception / Year 1 and Year 2.

From Year 3 children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or on a low income can get free meals; please come to the office for information.

At present there are 8 supervisory assistants who look after the children at lunchtime, supervising the eating of their lunches and their playtime before and afterwards.

A piece of fruit is provided for each child in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 every day. Key Stage 2 children are also encouraged to bring fruit to eat at morning break.



### School Uniform

Our school uniform is as follows:

Boys:

Pale blue polo shirt or white shirt  
 Royal blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan  
 Grey or navy trousers  
 A school coat and fleece are also available

Girls:

Winter  
 Pale blue polo shirt or white blouse  
 Royal blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan  
 Grey or navy skirt/pinafore dress/trousers  
 A school coat and fleece are also available.  
 Summer  
 Blue and white dresses - checked or striped

Drawstring bags and book bags can also be purchased.

The wearing of trainers except for sport is not allowed.

### PE Kit (in a named bag) as follows:

- White t-shirt
- Royal blue shorts
- Pumps (KS1 and KS2)
- Trainers (KS2 only)
- Warm outer clothing for outside (KS2 only)

Expensive sports kits should not be brought into school as the school cannot accept responsibility if lost or stolen.

It is essential to name all items of clothing, particularly the school uniform, as lost property accumulates at an alarming rate.

In wet or snowy weather you may be sending the children in wellingtons. We suggest a named clothes peg is one way of keeping them together.

### Jewellery

Our school policy is that jewellery should not be worn except for ear studs and watches. Earrings are not to be worn for all PE lessons and activities. Children will be asked to remove jewellery for these lessons, and you may want to consider sending your child without earrings on PE days. Children who cannot remove earrings themselves will be expected to have ears covered with a plaster or tape (provided by yourselves), although I should emphasise that this may not prevent injury and the school cannot be held responsible for any injuries sustained as a result of a child wearing earrings. We recommend that jewellery is not worn at all. We ask that valuables are not brought into school as the school is unable to accept responsibility for lost or stolen items.

**Headteacher**

Carole Carter

**Deputy Headteacher**

Emma White

**Teaching Staff**

Mrs Gordon

Miss J Foster

Miss A Wickens

Mrs J Mortimer

Mrs M McDonald

Miss Pownall

Mr Shilton

Mrs Wakefield

Miss Ward Jones

**Teaching Assistants**

Mrs K Lewis

Mrs H Bhakta

Mrs A Thompson

Mrs J Williams

Mrs J Townsend

Mrs N Pearce

Mrs R Dhanota

Mrs C Shelton

Miss S Mooney

Mrs A Shirley

**Learning Mentor**

Mrs R Buswell

**Business Manager**

Mrs M Rosamond

**Administration Staff**

Mrs S Chappell

**ICT Technician**

Mrs A Webb

**Site Services Officer**

Mr K McDonald

**Lunchtime Supervisors**

Miss S Mooney

Miss A Davis

Miss C Shelton

Mrs S Buckley

Mrs S Dixon

Mrs S Pinfold

**Breakfast Club**

Mrs S Pinfold

Mrs M Chauhan

**Cleaning Staff**

Mrs J Taylor

Mrs G Bhatt

**Pre-School Staff**

Mrs L Sanders

Miss C Parker

Miss K Jones



**Sowe Valley Governing Body**

**Clerk to Governors**  
K Russell

**Chair of Governors**  
Dr M Chappell

All of the above can be contacted  
through the School Office.

**Governors**  
Mrs R Buswell  
Mrs S Lane  
Mrs V Seaton  
Mrs S Burton







At Sowe Valley, we aim for our children to foster a life long love of learning. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is creative, inspiring and fun! We encourage our children to have the confidence to explore and experiment as they work to develop their talents and achieve their full potential. We are committed to providing a stimulating, caring and safe environment, which encourages our children to become confident, to work hard and to respond positively to challenge.

### Literacy

Our central aim is to develop children's abilities to communicate effectively in speech and writing, to listen with understanding and to become enthusiastic and knowledgeable readers.

Our English programme is designed to help children clarify their ideas and express them confidently, whilst understanding the importance of listening carefully and responding appropriately to other people.

To ensure our children become keen and able readers we employ a range of teaching methods and materials. Children participate in a wide range of reading and writing activities throughout both Key Stages. Children study fiction and non-fiction, poetry, plays and works from many cultures and traditions.

Throughout the school, children are taught to present their writing legibly and according to the basic rules of grammar and spelling, but also creatively and with a style appropriate to the proposed audience and purpose of the writing.

### Maths

We aim to make maths interesting and exciting in order to develop children's interest and enthusiasm for the subject. This comes from a wide range of mathematical experiences such as problem solving, investigations, games, use of information technology and learning from everyday situations such as shopping, telling the time and cooking. We follow the curriculum as set out in the Revised Framework National Numeracy Strategy throughout the primary years. The programme for Reception takes account of the Early Learning Goals and provides a bridge from the Goals to the National Curriculum.

### Science

Scientific activity is one of the ways in which we relate to our surroundings and everyday lives. Our Science teaching aims to help children become both knowledgeable and inquisitive. Through both Key Stages we teach the children about materials and their properties, life and living things and physical processes such as electricity, light and sound. We also show them how to plan investigations and obtain and consider evidence, so that increasingly the whole exercise of investigating an idea, with appropriate supervision and support can be carried out by the children themselves.

Within our programme some Science is taught mainly as a separate subject. Some areas of scientific work lend themselves particularly well to being taught within a topic or theme. Where appropriate this is done, helping children to understand the place of scientific knowledge and skills in all our lives.

### Modern Foreign Languages

Learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience in preparation for future life. At Sowe Valley we aim to introduce our pupils to another language in a fun and enjoyable way. Interesting and relevant topics are chosen in order to engage and stimulate learning and to develop children's curiosity of language.

### ICT

We recognise the importance computers play in society today and understand the need for children to become computer literate. ICT is linked wherever possible with other areas of the curriculum and is also taught as a subject within its own right. The children carry out research as well as having the opportunity to produce art work, make music, handle data, word process and interact with simulations. We have networked computers in bays around the school and a trolley of laptops for use within classrooms. There are also Apple Mac computers and iPads available to the children. All classrooms are equipped with an interactive whiteboard with additional provision in work spaces outside the classrooms. Children have supervised access to the internet and we ask parents and children to sign an agreement in support of safe internet use.

The school has a website, where children and parents can access work, photographs and websites set by teachers, which you can visit at

<http://www.sowevalley.coventry.sch.uk>

### Geography

Our main aim is to teach children the geographical knowledge and skills which they need to investigate the physical features and effects of human activity which have shaped their locality, their country and their world. Undertaking fieldwork, using plans and maps, studying places, weather, settlements and environmental change are important elements of our scheme of work for Geography

### History

In History the children develop a sense of time and an understanding of the past through our approach of investigation and enquiry using artefacts, photographs, paintings, videos, music, visits and information technology. The children are encouraged to develop a curiosity and long term interest in the past that will enrich their understanding of today.

### Technology

In Design and Technology we aim to help children to come to know and understand how structures and products work and have been assembled. We provide them with opportunities to apply that knowledge and understanding in designing, making and controlling products of their own. The selection of materials, correct and safe use of tools, adapting and evaluating designs are important features of this work.

### Religious Education

In Religious Education our central aim is to help children come to an understanding of religion and the ways in which it addresses the fundamental questions of human existence. To this end we teach children about the major world religions, offer them opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs and values and help children to develop a positive and respectful attitude towards other people. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education if they wish.

### Collective Worship (Assemblies)

Children and staff meet together for assembly each day. Once a week, the whole school meets for a Pupil of the Week assembly, where effort and achievements in work and behaviour are celebrated. We like all children to take part in assemblies but if parents wish their children to be withdrawn they should contact the Headteacher who will discuss acceptable alternatives.



### Music

We aim to make Music a fun and enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build the confidence of all children.

With music the children will gain an understanding of sound and rhythm through listening to and playing a variety of instruments. They have many opportunities to sing, compose, listen to music and learn about different composers.

Christmas productions, class assemblies and special assemblies provide further opportunities for musical performance.

In addition children gain many transferable skills and qualities through musical activity. They cultivate personal qualities (such as perseverance, self-motivation, self-discipline, teamwork, problem solving skills and listening skills) and important social skills. Children are able to express and develop their talents during productions, concerts, trips and assemblies. All the children are offered the opportunity to play a musical instrument. Additionally, peripatetic music teachers offer lessons for Keyboard and Guitar. There is a charge for this service.

### Art

Our Art programme sets out to foster enjoyment, skill, knowledge and understanding. Through the school, children are introduced to a variety of media, resources and techniques, from which they are encouraged to select in order to express and develop their ideas, record their observations and feelings and experiment with shape, pattern, line and texture. They are encouraged to reflect upon their own work and that of other artists from different times and cultures.

### P.E

We aim to give children a broad and balanced curriculum of physical activities and opportunities to understand the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle. All the children take part in gymnastics, dance and games. In Key Stage 2 swimming is taught to Year 4.

We also have some thriving and enthusiastic sports clubs and we welcome parental support for these activities. Many extra activities are provided through our involvement in Sports Link where we share activities with other local schools.

Co-operation, competition and an awareness of good sporting behaviour are vital elements of our games activities.

### Health Education

Health Education is taught throughout the curriculum. In the Early Years onwards topics that arise from children's natural questions such as "Ourselves" or "Our Body" are implemented into the curriculum. As the children move into Key Stage 2 the school policy agreed by the Governors specifies that a health education module based on the Jigsaw PSHE programme. Before this is delivered parents will have the opportunity to see the relevant content and contribute should they wish to. Parents may withdraw their children from these sessions if they wish.



### Visits

During the year each year group has the opportunity to take part in a school visit. This will relate to their curriculum. For example; Year 2 children visit The Seaside, as part of their 'Seasides in the past' theme and Year 6 visit Coventry Cathedral to enhance their work on 'Britain since the 1930s'. There are also opportunities for groups of children to take part in events related to sport and our Year 5 and Year 6 children are encouraged to take part in the 'Young Voices' concert at the Genting Arena.

### School clubs

The school encourages and supports a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.

We aim to provide a wide range of activities that our children can participate in after-school. Many of our clubs are led by staff within school including multisports, football (boys and girls) and craft club. Other activities that parents can pay for include street dance, and dance/drama. All children are given the opportunity to sample playing a musical instrument. We have a before school club that caters for children from Sowe Valley.

### Residential Visits

Residential visits are a great way of building self confidence and increasing independence as well as allowing children to develop teamwork skills. We aim to provide our children with a residential experience whilst with us at Sowe Valley and give them the opportunity to take part if they wish to do so.



### Pastoral Care and Discipline

We expect good behaviour from all our children, enabling them to be safe and happy whilst at school. Self discipline is our ultimate aim and it is hoped that children will learn to respect each other and show tolerance to all within our school community. However, if children have to be sanctioned, they are dealt with by the class teacher or, if necessary, by a senior member of staff, or the Headteacher. If a child persistently offends, we will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss the behaviour and work together to help the child.

Good behaviour is actively encouraged and positive reinforcement is used by all. There is a reward system and stickers / certificates are presented regularly in school assemblies to highlight good citizenship and to celebrate achievements. Good behaviour is promoted on a daily basis through the use of our code of conduct. Agreed school-wide by the School Council and Staff, the code seeks to reinforce the principles of behaviour that creates a happy school environment.

### Equal Opportunities

This school believes in the right of every individual to be treated with respect and to enjoy freedom of expression and equal opportunities. This school supports the principle that there should be equal opportunities for all persons regardless of race or ethnic origin, gender, class, age, ability, language, physical disability, physical appearance or status. This school is fully committed to nurturing a climate of mutual respect and to ensure that all pupils are given help and encouragement and access to the opportunities available.

### Special Needs

In line with the national code of practice, the school has a register of children identified by staff as having Special Needs. Children's inclusion on the register will be discussed with parents. Progress will be regularly reviewed and information shared with parents.

In most instances Special Educational Needs (SEN) are catered for within the classroom by the class teacher in collaboration with the co-ordinator, who may provide materials and an individual programme to assist the development of the children concerned.

Where the problem persists the school consults with the Special Needs Support Service and the Educational Psychologist for their assessment and recommendations.

The school is committed to providing for more able pupils, through our Able, Gifted and Talented scheme.

Such children are regularly challenged within subject areas and provided with appropriate enrichment and extension activities. They are encouraged to develop any specific skills or talents.

All children are entitled to an education appropriate to their learning needs.

### Accessibility Plan

As a school, we are committed to listening to the opinion of anyone who has difficulties in accessing what our school has to offer. Their needs and views will be taken into account in the provision we make. Our priorities will always be to provide for the needs of the pupils and adults already in school, and then to plan for those who will soon be joining us. Work is carried out each year to improve access.

### Illness, Injury and Medicals

In the event that your child should become ill whilst at school minor problems will be dealt with by staff and one of the school's qualified first aiders. However, should there continue to be cause for concern you will be notified in order to take your child home or seek appropriate medical attention. In order for this to happen with the least amount of delay all parents are required to complete an Emergency Contact Form.

The school can, with your consent administer medicines, also if your child suffers from a long term illness such as asthma requiring ongoing medication, please complete the appropriate form available from the school office.

Routine medical examinations are carried out at school, of which parents will be notified.

The school nurse is available for consultation. Contact details for the school nurse can be obtained from the school office.

### Extended Absence from School

If parents wish to take their child out of school during term time, we ask that a request for leave of absence is made on the appropriate form at least four weeks before the date the leave is due to begin, except in an emergency. Application forms are available from the school office.

We follow the Local Authority guidance on parents taking children out of school for holidays during term time, which is not to authorise.

### Safeguarding

Sowe Valley is a Safeguarding School. We are committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

The named Safeguarding Officers are;

Mrs Carole Carter – Headteacher

Mrs Emma White – Deputy Head

Mrs Rachael Buswell – Learning Mentor

Copies of the school safeguarding policy are available on request.



## Homework

Parental support is vital to children's learning. It is proven that children who establish an early homework habit, particularly those who learn with their parents, are more successful at school.

Homework is work initiated by the school to be done outside class lessons. It is not an optional extra but an integral part of learning covering a range of activities appropriate to the age, ability and interests of the children.

In the Early Years at school, homework, for the most part, focuses on reading. Parents are invited to hear their children read regularly at home and comment on their progress in the child's reading diary. The children will also have spellings to learn at home. The Year 1 children take home a brief outline of the key teaching that has taken place that week with suggestions for activities to support the work done in class. The Year 2 children receive weekly Numeracy homework and occasional Literacy work. Sometimes the children are given a task related to the creative curriculum.

As the curriculum broadens other aspects of the child's learning may need extra attention from time to time learning tables and spellings. For example homework tasks may be given to improve these areas.

Often children are inspired to follow up features of their work and this may be given to improve these areas, possibly involving research in the local library or at home.

As children reach Years 5 and 6, their final two years at Primary School, homework tasks will become more evident to consolidate new areas of learning or strengthening area of weakness. This will be a good preparation for the pattern of life they will follow in Secondary School.

Children may also be given a practical activity to work on with their parents. This activity will usually support their theme. It may be to design and make a space station or a Greek costume.

## Parent Teacher Association

The school is fortunate to be supported by an active and enthusiastic group of parents, who meet regularly to organise a wide variety of social functions and fund raising events. These include Summer Fayres, children's discos, and a Fish and Chip Bingo Night.

The Friends of Sowe group is keen to welcome new parents so please contact the school if you would like to help.

## Keeping Parents Informed

The school aims to work in close partnership with parents. Our weekly newsletter provides details of future events and activities as well as sharing successes and special occasions. Regular year group newsletters also keep parents fully informed about the themes and activities within individual year groups. In order to provide parents with information on pupil progress and development, we hold two parent consultation evenings throughout the year. The first is held during the first half of the Autumn Term in order for you to meet your child's class teacher and discuss your child's progress. The second evening is held later in the Spring Term to discuss your child's progress, identify strengths and 'next step' development areas. A written report is sent home towards the end of the year to summarise achievement and attainment and parents are given the opportunity to discuss this report should they wish.

An open evening is held at the end of the year, in July, where parents are invited in to school to view the wonderful work that has been produced throughout the year. It also gives parents a chance to meet their child's next teacher for the following academic year.



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