

**Believe  
and  
Achieve**  
School Prospectus

# Welcome to Crook Primary

*Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important things that you will do. We hope that Crook Primary School is the school that you choose for your child and that you will experience a happy partnership with us so your child leaves ready to face the challenge of secondary school with confidence.*

**Our school motto is:**

**Believe  
and  
Achieve**

# Why is Crook Primary the school for your child?



↖  
my classroom

## *Meeting the needs of your child*

The school seeks to meet the needs of all its children, to promote self-confidence and self-esteem and a respect for others by providing a positive and caring environment.

## *We 'believe and achieve' by:*

- Taking risks and learning from our mistakes.
- Having informed opinions and respecting ourselves.
- Being curious.

## *In Key Stage 1*

- We want to become more confident and believe in ourselves.
- We want to learn and be independent.
- We will learn to respect ourselves and others.

## *In Key Stage 2*

- We want to develop critical thought.
- We want to become ambitious.
- We will learn to persevere.

## *The aims of our school for every child are as follows:-*

- To be respectful and value each other and ourselves. By doing this, others will respect us.
- To behave well so that we are all safe and happy. By doing this we will become valuable members of the community.
- To be polite and honest. By doing this we will be trusted.
- To be proud of our achievements, so that our teachers and families will be proud of us and our school.
- To work well with our teachers and be eager to learn. By this we will achieve our best.



↖  
that's me  
in ICT...

## *School Rules*

Our school rule is "to follow instructions".

Whilst at school, we expect that the children:

- are polite and friendly
- are helpful and kind
- work hard and quietly
- play carefully and sensibly
- look after each other

If we do our best we can achieve anything and have a wonderful life.

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## *Commitment to Safeguarding*

Crook Primary is committed to safeguarding the children at all times. Staff are trained in child protection procedures and we consider

the needs of individual pupils who may need safeguarding with due regard to confidentiality.

# British Values

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## *Democracy*

Mutual respect is at the heart of our school. Children learn that their behaviour has an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are entitled to be treated with respect.

We encourage pride through:

- Pupil of the week and month
- Annual prize giving
- Annual DVD competition
- Each child is a member of a house team
- Involvement in community events within Crook

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## *Individual Liberty*

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. In Crook Primary School we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and a rich creative education.

Some examples are as follows:

- Behaviour systems
- Differentiation within lessons
- Accelerated readers scheme

- Wide choice of Extra Curricula clubs to pursue interests
- Values promoted through curriculum
- Crook X Factor
- Believe and Achieve Day
- School Educational Visits.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights. They are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety teaching.

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## *Mutual Respect*

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- Involvement in community events within Crook
- International school links.

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## ***The Rule of Law***

The importance of having laws is stressed every day at school so that our school is a calm and safe place to be. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws which that govern and protect us. They are aware of the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

These are some of the ways that this is implemented within school:

- Consistent behaviour system
- Rewards Days
- Classroom Rules

- Golden Time
- Pupil of the Week Assembly
- Meetings with Parents
- Shakespeare is taught throughout Key Stage 1 and 2 and discussion of plays examine these important themes

In Crook Primary School we receive regular visits from local authorities such as the Police and Fire Service which help to reinforce this message.

*"Behaviour is outstanding. The school works hard to develop the moral, social and cultural understanding of pupils so that they have a very strong sense of what is right and wrong in different situations and respond very well to the school's high expectations."* OFSTED (2012)

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## ***Tolerance of Faith and Religious Beliefs***

In Crook Primary School we are proud to say we hold an "International Schools Award" demonstrating our keen enthusiasm towards tolerance of different cultures and faiths. This is evidenced in our strong international links with countries all over the world through the use of international projects such as Connecting Classrooms. Topics are carefully planned to celebrate the diversity of faiths and cultures.

As Crook Primary is situated in an area which is not culturally diverse, we place a great emphasis on forming sustained international links. At present we have links with Tanzania, India, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique. These links are interwoven into our curriculum so they are meaningful and promote tolerance, understanding and interdependence. Our international links challenge parochialism and encourage aspirations. Our international projects help our children to understand the importance of social justice as an element in both sustainable development and improved welfare of all people. We want the children at Crook Primary

to be global citizens and give them the knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts and institutions necessary to become informed, active and responsible citizens. We want them to realise that similar situations and issues appear in schools around the world but that the local situation can dictate the outcome and that we need to respect the same and differing opinions to the same problem. We expect children to understand how they need to take responsibility for their learning and together we can make a difference but the actions of one person can change things for many. We want children to have informed opinions. We also believe children will have mutual respect and tolerance of others if they have this in themselves and their community.

Members of different faiths or religions are invited to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

# The Nursery

*The nursery is housed in a separate building and provides a safe and stimulating space for children to begin their school life.*

At present, children are entitled to 15 hours nursery. Parents are able to pay for additional sessions. This must be done on a half termly basis.



# Breakfast Club



*We provide a breakfast club at nursery for children in reception and nursery.*

*Parents are able to sign up for this service on a half termly basis. Prices and further details are available from the nursery.*

# The School day

*The school day starts at 8.55am when the bell goes and children line up in their classes.*

Please say goodbye to your child in the yard as it is important that children come into school with their class teacher. We ask that parents do not follow their children into school. We are happy for children to come to school by bike or scooter but the school is not responsible for these items. Children must not ride them in the yard after 8.50am or at home time.

In the event of school closure, a text message will be sent from school to the first contact on your child's admission form. Please make sure this is kept up to date.

## Timings

### Nursery Session

8.45 - 11.45  
12.30 - 3.30

### Playtime

Playtime is between 10.30 - 10.45  
In addition Key Stage 1 have a playtime between 2 - 2.15pm

### Lunchtime

Infant lunch is at 11.45am until 12.45pm  
Junior lunch is at 12.00 - 12.55pm

### End of school

Nursery 3.30pm  
Rest of the School 3.15pm

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## *Playtimes*

We encourage children to bring balls and suitable toys to play with at playtimes. The school is not responsible for any lost toys.

Playground leaders at lunchtimes organise activities and support children in their play.



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*We love playtime*

## *Absences Reporting*

*Children must attend school every day and it is your responsibility to make sure they do.*

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Children only get one chance at school and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

Children who attend school regularly:

- Keep up with their school work.
- Make friends and enjoy the school side of life.
- Have a better chance of getting a good job in the future.

If your child is not going to be at school for any reason, please contact the school by:

- Telephone 01388 762 400
- Text 01388 207 009
- Email [crookprimary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:crookprimary@durhamlearning.net)
- Complete the online form found on our website.

Children are not allowed to leave school during the normal hours unless they are collected from the school by an adult. Children who are ill will be sent home. Please ensure that we have up to date contact numbers at all times.

It is suggested that, wherever possible, appointments are made outside school time.

# Our School Building



↖  
my school

*Crook Primary is a mixed county school and children are admitted from 3 to 11 years of age.*

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*We have a lovely building and extensive playing fields. We have much space and the general environment is excellent. It is very secure and fulfils access arrangements for those with special needs.*

*The school has two halls as well as a gym. We also have an inner quad with play equipment for Early Years and another inner quad which is our environmental area.*

*The nursery is housed in a separate building within the school grounds with its own large outdoor space.*



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## Starting Reception

Parents and children are invited to visit school to meet the Reception Class teachers and to see the school.

When the children first start school in September they will only attend 9.00am – 12.00 noon for the first week, 9.00am – 2.00pm for the second week and the third week they will be

there for the full day 9.00-3.15 pm.

This helps to make the change to the regular school day as smooth as possible. Our reception unit is self-contained and children make the happy transition to school in a very safe and stimulating environment helped by our expert staff.

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## Behaviour

At Crook Primary, we expect children to follow instructions. We follow a 'Consistent Behaviour Plan'. This means that we reward children for good behaviour and give sanctions when children choose not to do as they are asked. The lists of rewards and sanctions are clearly displayed in every class.

Each week we have a star assembly where rewards are given out.

Parents are involved in a partnership with teachers to help children behave.

Children can win two bands for each term which gives them a reward day treat which might be anything from a bouncy castle to rock climbing.

We also run a "Golden Time" session every week. Children have to earn this session and do special activities which change each term.



## School Uniform

We expect all children to wear school uniform. It consists of a navy or white polo shirt, navy sweatshirt or hoodie and navy, grey or black trousers/skirt. In addition, beanies and caps can also be purchased. Shoes or trainers must be black. High heels and platforms should not be worn.

Children are allowed to wear one pair of studs in ears, but only if an Earring Indemnity form has been completed by a parent. These are available from the school office. Other body piercings are not permitted. No rings or hoops should be worn. Necklaces and bracelets are not permitted, unless they are our school reward bands. Parents are asked to make sure that children are capable of dressing

themselves when they come to school.

This should include buttons and zips.

It is very important that all school uniform is named correctly.

Uniform can be ordered from the school office or through the school website. We accept cash and also payment via our website through school comms.

Hair should be worn in an appropriate style for school and to avoid the risk of head lice, we suggest that long hair be tied back using a single hair bobble. Bandanas and large hair decorations should not be worn. All children should have a P.E kit consisting of t-shirt, shorts and plimsoles.

↖  
The uniform  
is great

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## Teaching and Learning

We aim to develop:

- Confidence to communicate in written or spoken form.
- Knowledge and understanding of mathematics.

- An interest in all aspects of the curriculum. Responsibility and respect for each other.
- Highly developed skills in ICT.

Methods of teaching are varied to suit the needs of the children and the requirements of the national curriculum.

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## Curriculum

We want our children to be happy, successful and achieve their best. They will be working in an ordered way to cater for all aspects of their development. All teachers will present the subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, History, Geography, Physical education, Music and Art in accordance with the National Curriculum requirements and

programmes of study. Our curriculum is a topic based creative curriculum underpinned by key skills and values. Topics normally last about six weeks and are designed to reflect the interests of the children. Parents are invited in to celebrate children's learning by taking part in curriculum afternoons which normally take place once per term.

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## Homework

Homework is sent out weekly. This is an important part of children's learning

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## Organisation of Classes

At present we have approximately 380 children on roll, in fourteen classes. There are two classes in each year group. In addition the nursery has 39 places.

For literacy and numeracy we group children according to ability across year groups from Year 1 to Year 6. Therefore, your child may have a different teacher in the morning for one of these subjects.



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## *Special Educational Needs*

Children with special educational needs are given the appropriate support. Our SEND philosophy places SEND children at the heart of personal learning and our curriculum is tailored to meet individual pupil needs. Miss Cleminson and

Miss Conlin are our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO). They are available to see parents. To make an appointment please contact the office.

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## *Appointments with teachers*

Our teachers want to have excellent relationships with parents so that we work together to achieve the best for children. In the mornings, the teachers' main priority is to bring children into school as quickly as possible to start learning.

Please refrain from engaging teachers in conversation except for a cheery "hello" and make an appointment with the office to see the teacher at the end of the day.

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## *Religious Education*

We cover aspects of Christian beliefs as well as other faiths and cultures.

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## *Educational Visits*

Educational visits and visitors help greatly to enhance the curriculum. The school makes requests to parents for the cost of educational visits.

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## *Sex Education*

We do not teach this as a separate subject but as part of health education. Questions from children are answered as they arise.

Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child from aspects of religious education or sex education, should do so in writing to the Head Teacher.

Throughout your child's life at Crook Primary School, they will take part in many educational visits. These visits are arranged to expand learning opportunities relating to areas of study in the classroom. The school has a designated 'School Learning Area' where visits take place as part of the school curriculum during a normal school day. This area includes the school grounds and local points of interest within walking distance of the school. Permission from parents will not be requested for school visits but parents will always be notified of when a visit is taking place. Written consent is requested for children to take part in residential visits or visits that involve adventurous activities on a 'one off' basis. Contributions towards the cost of school visits is requested and no child will be excluded through non payment but if insufficient funding is received, a school visit may be cancelled.

The school holds both Active Mark Gold Award and Enhanced Healthy Schools Standard.

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## *School Meals*

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### *PE*

We play team games e.g. netball, football, cricket and rounders. We join interschool leagues for football, cricket and netball. P.E is taught by a specialist as well as the class teacher.

There are three choices for lunchtimes. Children can be taken home, have a packed lunch or have a school lunch.

School meals are cooked on the premises. We would encourage parents to choose the school meals option.

Sweets should not be brought to school. Lunchtime drinks, as part of a packed lunch should be in plastic containers – no cans or glass bottles please. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day, and should bring a plastic water bottle for use at school. Only water or milk is allowed to be drunk throughout the day. Fizzy drinks are not allowed as part of a packed lunch.

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## *Extra Curricular Activities*

We provide a programme of after school activities which can be viewed on the website.

Key Stage 1 children are provided with fruit each day as part of the department of health fruit and vegetable scheme. Key Stage 2 children can buy fruit and juice from the tuck shop during morning break.

# Parents and the Community

*We hold two parents' evenings each year as well as providing a written report.*

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Please make an appointment with the class teacher if you have any worries or concerns about your child's progress.

There is up to date news on our website; [www.crookprimary.co.uk](http://www.crookprimary.co.uk).

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## Parent Support Advisor

Mrs Burton is our parent support advisor who is able to signpost you to different activities and services as well as to offer help and advice. If you would like to access her help you can do so by contacting the school office.

## Complaints

If you have any queries or complaints, please contact the class teacher or the Head Teacher. You may also contact any member of the Governing Body.

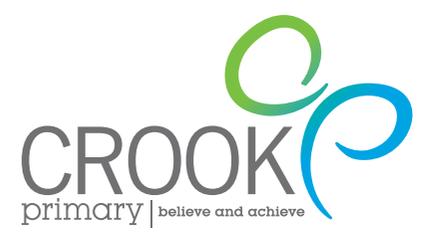
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## The Governing Body

The Governing Body of our school is made up of representatives of the Local Education Authority, parents, teachers and the local community. Elections to the Governing Body are held every four years, or as the need arise.

The governors seek to establish an environment in which everyone – staff, governors, advisory colleagues, parents and pupils – can work with each other for the success of our school. You may contact the governors on any issues concerning the school if you wish to do so.





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**[www.crookprimary.org.uk](http://www.crookprimary.org.uk)**

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**Headteacher**  
Antonella Lupton  
BSc (Hons), M. Ed.

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**Believe and Achieve**

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