

Curriculum

How Your Child Learns – The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS Framework sets out how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development across seven interconnected areas of learning.

Three **prime** areas form the foundation of everything:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

These are strengthened and applied through four **specific** areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Together, these seven areas shape the activities and experiences we plan for your child. Rather than a formal curriculum, the EYFS is designed to be **flexible** – allowing our staff to follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children learn best through play, exploration, and creative thinking, both indoors and outside, and everything we do is tailored to support each child as an individual.

Getting to Know You!

Building strong relationships with our families is something we feel passionately about, and we put a great deal of thought into making sure that starting school feels exciting rather than daunting – for children and parents alike.

Here is how we get to know you before your child even starts with us:

- **Nursery visits** – during the Autumn term, our Headteacher and staff visit local nurseries to meet prospective families.
- **Home visits** – in the Summer term before your child starts, we come to you, giving families the chance to share everything we need to know about their child in a familiar, relaxed setting.
- **Stay and play sessions** – your child is invited in to explore the classroom, meet the staff, and begin to feel at home in their new environment.
- **Come Dine With Me** – pupils and parents are warmly invited to come and share lunch with us and get a real feel for a typical school day.
- **Introduction Meeting** – in July, our Headteacher and class team host a meeting to ensure families have all the information they need, and to hand out our Summer Learning Packs for children to enjoy over the holidays.

During the Autumn term, we also hold an open morning and evening so that families can visit at a time that suits them. We want every family to feel like a familiar and valued part of our school community from the very beginning.

Uniform

Trousers	Navy Blue	
Shorts	Navy Blue (Smart)	
Skirts	Navy Blue	
Pinafore	Navy Blue	
Polo Shirt	Light Blue	
Jumpers	Navy Blue	
Cardigans	Navy Blue	
Sweatshirt	Navy Blue	
Summer Dress/Jumpsuit	Blue & White Check	
School Shoes	Black Shoes or Black Trainers	
P.E. Kit Winter	Navy Sweatshirt & Tracksuit Bottoms	
P.E. Kit Summer	Navy Polo Shirt and Navy Blue Shorts	
P.E. Shoes	Black Plimsolls or Black Trainers	

As we head towards the new academic year, we wanted to remind families that there is **no requirement to purchase logoed uniform items**. Whilst we do offer branded uniform through [supplier], parents and carers are welcome to purchase uniform from any high street retailer or supermarket – provided it is the **correct colour and style** (for example, a plain white polo shirt or a grey sweatshirt). This gives families the flexibility to shop around for the best value. If you are ever unsure whether an item meets our uniform requirements, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wrap Around Care

'Kidz Active' provides our wrap around care. They lead our breakfast club every morning from 08:00-08:50, where children are provided with a breakfast and can take part in various activities. They also lead after-school clubs from 15:30-17:30 every day, focusing on a selection of activities! The children are provided with a snack during after-school clubs. <https://www.ashdon.essex.sch.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/> and <https://www.kidzactive.co.uk/contact-us/>

Jaffle



Option 1 Jaffle is our miniature dachshund and a cherished member of the Ashdon family. As our therapy and reading dog, he joins us four days a week – and there is something truly magical about a child settling beside him with a book. Reading to Jaffle is calm, judgement-free, and children absolutely love it.

Ashdon Primary School



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Email: admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Ashdon Primary School

Information for New Reception Parents





Welcome

We are a proud village school with a rich history, having opened our doors in 1900. Over a century later, that same community spirit runs through everything we do. We welcome up to 105 pupils across three mixed-age classes, and our size is one of our greatest strengths – every child is known by name, valued as an individual, and never lost in the crowd.

Our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and wonderful pupils make Ashdon a truly special place to learn and grow. We work hard to ensure that every child feels safe, challenged, and celebrated – and in December 2022, Ofsted recognised our efforts, judging us to be a Good school. We have continued to build on that ever since. We are also lucky enough to have Jaffle, our miniature dachshund and beloved therapy and reading dog, who joins us four days a week. Whether he is sitting patiently beside a child who needs a moment of calm, or listening intently as a pupil reads aloud to him, Jaffle brings a warmth and joy to school life that is simply impossible to put into words.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about everything Ashdon has to offer – we have a feeling you are going to love it here.

Our Vision & Values

At Ashdon, we recognise and celebrate every child as an individual, valuing and respecting all that makes them unique. As a community, we work closely with families, professionals, and external services to nurture and educate our pupils in the fullest sense – academically, socially, and emotionally – so that they leave us as confident, independent, and happy young people, ready for the next stage of their journey. Everything we do is built around three core values: Challenge, Care, and Celebrate.

Challenge We provide a rich, stimulating curriculum that excites curiosity and stretches thinking. We want every pupil to leave Ashdon with the skills, knowledge, and self-belief to pursue any university, career, or dream they set their sights on.

Celebrate We celebrate every pupil as an individual. Progress looks different for everyone, and we recognise achievement in all its forms – whether academic or otherwise – both in and out of school.

Care Of our three values, we believe care is the most fundamental. When a child feels genuinely cared for, they become tenacious, aspirational, and willing to embrace challenge and celebrate their own growth.

Underpinning everything are our Golden Rules – the Ashdon Way: Respectful. Responsible. Resilient. Ready.



Meet Our Staff



Our Environment



Attendance

At Ashdon, we believe that every day in school matters, and we ask that all pupils maintain an attendance rate of 97% or above. We understand that life sometimes gets in the way and will always consider individual circumstances sympathetically when absence is unavoidable. Please be aware, however, that holidays taken during term time will be recorded as unauthorised. Where attendance falls to 90% or below, a child is classified nationally as persistently absent.



Benefits of Mixed Classes!

Research – including the work of Dr. Maria Montessori, Simon Veenman, and others – consistently shows that mixed-age classes offer significant benefits. Studies confirm that pupils in mixed-age settings perform academically in line with those in single-year classes, and score higher in areas such as attitudes towards school, self-confidence, and personal resilience. Research also reminds us that age alone is not always an accurate measure of a child's emotional, social, physical, or cognitive development.

At Ashdon, mixed-age classes allow us to group pupils in ways that best suit their individual needs, enabling more bespoke support and greater progress. Our buddy system nurtures leadership from an early age, with older or more confident pupils supporting younger or less confident peers at playtimes, lunchtimes, and during reading activities. We know that children learn not only from their teachers but from one another – something that is invaluable for social and language development.

We believe that mixed-age classes create a rich, diverse environment that fosters a genuine growth mindset, where every child understands that skills and knowledge can always be learned and developed.

One of our greatest advantages is having Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 pupils learning together. This allows us to manage the transition from the EYFS curriculum into the KS1 National Curriculum in a far more supported and gradual way – something that can be a significant emotional and academic challenge in schools where children move class and teacher every year. At Ashdon, that transition is smooth, familiar, and carefully managed.

In our classrooms, every pupil has the opportunity to be a learner, an observer, and a mentor.

A Day at Ashdon

- 08:50 – School gates open, members of teaching staff available on playground
- 09:00 – Whistle blown, pupils line up and are taken into the school and the school day begins
- 10:45 – Break time for all pupils
- 11:00 – End of break / beginning of 2nd morning session
- 12:15 – Early Years and Key Stage 1 lunch begins
- 13:25 – End of lunch for all pupils. Afternoon session begins
- 15:30 – End of the school day