

Our School is...

- **Forward thinking;** we know that education is continually changing and moving
- **Interested in research based practice;** we look outwards to what the best practice looks like
- **Nurturing;** we know that happy children learn well and that happy staff enjoy their work
- **Aspiring;** we believe in all the children in our care and will do our utmost to support them to achieve well
- **Collaborative;** we are excited by our work with others and seek out partners to work with
- **Restless;** we are always looking for ways to improve
- **Supportive;** of our staff, our learners and our parent partners
- **Inclusive;** we believe in offering equality of opportunity to all our learners



Effort, Respect, Honesty and



A member of the
Excalibur
Multi-Academy Trust

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A Brief Guide to our

St Katharine's CofE



*'From Little Acorns
Great Oaks Grow'*



An Introduction to St

Perhaps the single most unique thing about St Katharine's is that we are a school without a village. Built for the workers of the Savernake Estate in the late 1800's the school has continued to serve the immediate community and those further afield since then. In the last 10 years the school has nearly doubled in size. With nearly 100 children currently on roll, we are almost full, our full capacity being 105. Extensions and considerable re-organisation of the interior space has enabled us not only to grow in recent years but to continue to thrive. Our children come from within our catchment area, which includes Savernake itself, Froxfield, Cadley and Durley, and many of the surrounding villages spanning the A4 from Marlborough to Hungerford and beyond.

We run 4 classes at St Katharine's, each year making decisions about how we are best organised. These decisions are made around the size of each year group and informed by a strong knowledge of our groups of learners.

This year, with 15 children in Reception, we are running a small reception only class; a fantastic opportunity to give the children just setting out on their journey with us, the opportunity to begin that journey in a single year group. At St Katharine's we have high expectations for all our children, this can be seen in the strong year on year achievement of our children at the end of each of the key phases that we teach. High academic expectations are very much coupled with a desire for children to leave us having developed a love of learning and a sense of themselves as a learner. We are keen to develop learning values such as resilience, grit and determination along with a sense of responsibility and the ability to build strong relationships. Underpinning all of this are our school values, arrived at by the whole community, of: *respect, effort, friendship and honesty*. Our children behave exceptionally well and we are always proud when taking them on visits or when welcoming visitors to school.

We are a small school but this does not make us any less forward-thinking or creative; recent initiatives such as running the daily mile, becoming a 'Forest School' and developing research based practice are examples of this. We are keen collaborators, always looking for opportunities, beyond the school, to help us take the next step and share the excellent work that we are already doing. It was this that led us to join the Excalibur Multi-Academy Trust in September 2017. We hope that by working in collaboration with this group of primary and secondary schools we will ensure a long and vibrant future for St Katharine's.

Learning: The Curriculum

We are excited by the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer the children at St Katharine's. We have high expectations and our children achieve very well, compared to national data **and** from their starting points.

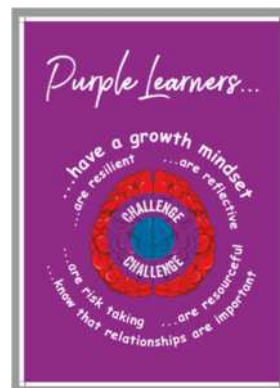
We are interested in current pedagogy and as such adapt our practice when available research shows us that there are new and better ways to teach our learners. Our teachers work very collaboratively together and we are proud of a learning culture that also extends to the adults in our organisation. We make the most of the unique environment that surrounds the school and are working hard to ensure that learning outside of the classroom is a regular part of children's school experience.

Being in a small school exposes children to lots of roles and responsibilities and provides multiple opportunities to be fully involved in all aspects of school life. All children will for example; be in a sports tournament, read aloud to a large audience and take part in a performance more than once before leaving us.

Our learners are ready to make the next step with confidence as they approach Secondary School.

Learning: Behaviour for Learning

We are very proud not only of the behaviour of our children in school and when they visit other places but also of the **learning** behaviour that they demonstrate. We believe that children need to understand **how** to learn and to see themselves as a learner. Learning is something that you do not something that is done to you.



This image, that can be seen around our school, is central to that philosophy. We celebrate children's resilience, ability to reflect, take a risk and step outside of their comfort zone. We want children to use resources independently and select things to support them in their learning and when they demonstrate that they are happy both giving and receiving feedback, we are keen to celebrate this. We encourage challenge and know that it is when we have been challenged that we feel the most reward.

These attributes do not always come naturally or easily to young children. We try to celebrate them when we see them, model the importance of mistakes and celebrate the learning that comes from them.

We hope to prepare our children for the next step in their education and take with them an enjoyment in learning as a process.

Find out more...

Please visit our website to find out more about our school stkatharinesprimary.org.uk

If you still have questions following your tour of the school please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

	<i>From Little Acorns Great Oaks Grow</i>
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