



Bowlsh Infant School
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Bowlsh Infant School



Prospectus 2025



School History

Having first opened in July 1869, our school has a rich heritage. Initially educating the children in the mill communities of Bowlish and Darshill, we are proud of the long history of involvement in the local community and value this ongoing relationship.

Over the years, the buildings have been extended, refurbished and resourced to a high standard. The main building visually reminds us of the school's history with its beautiful original features while our classroom environments demonstrate our innovative approaches.



About our School

Bowlish Infant School is a friendly and welcoming community school, with a committed team of staff and governors who do all they can to provide the very best learning experience for our children. With capacity for up to 117 children aged between 4 and 7 years, we organise our classes as follows:

- Robin Class - Reception age children
- Owl - Reception & Year 1 age children
- Swallow - Year 1 & Year 2 age children
- Finch – Year 2 age children

Broadly, our internal facilities comprise of four spacious classrooms, a well-stocked library, hall, sensory room, intervention pods, cooking area, kitchen, staffroom and the school offices. We strive to create enabling indoor learning spaces, with wellbeing and an understanding of sensory processing in mind.

The outdoor areas are well-designed, and utilised. The forest school is used weekly by the children, the timber trail, field, sensory garden and playground are open for daily use (weather permitting). Our outdoor extended-classroom spaces enable play and exploration as a key role in our curriculum delivery.

Staff

Our staff are highly experienced and are committed to doing their very best for the children. Alongside this, they are genuinely nice people who love spending their working life with children.

Headteacher: **Miss. Eldred**

Office Manager: **Miss. Hunt**

Senior Teacher and Y2 Class Teacher: **Mrs. Lloyd**

SENDCo & Reception & Y1 Class Teacher: **Mrs. Spencer**

Reception Class Teacher: **Mrs. Phillips-Jones**

Y1 & Y2 Class Teacher: **Mrs van Boggelen**

Y1 & Y2 Class Teacher: **Mrs Harpin**

HLTA: **Mrs Chant**

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Baber – Senior TA

Mrs Byrne

Mrs Connock

Mrs Coy

Mrs Dix

Support Staff

Mr. Plant

Mrs. Plant

Mrs. Wright

Mrs. Manville

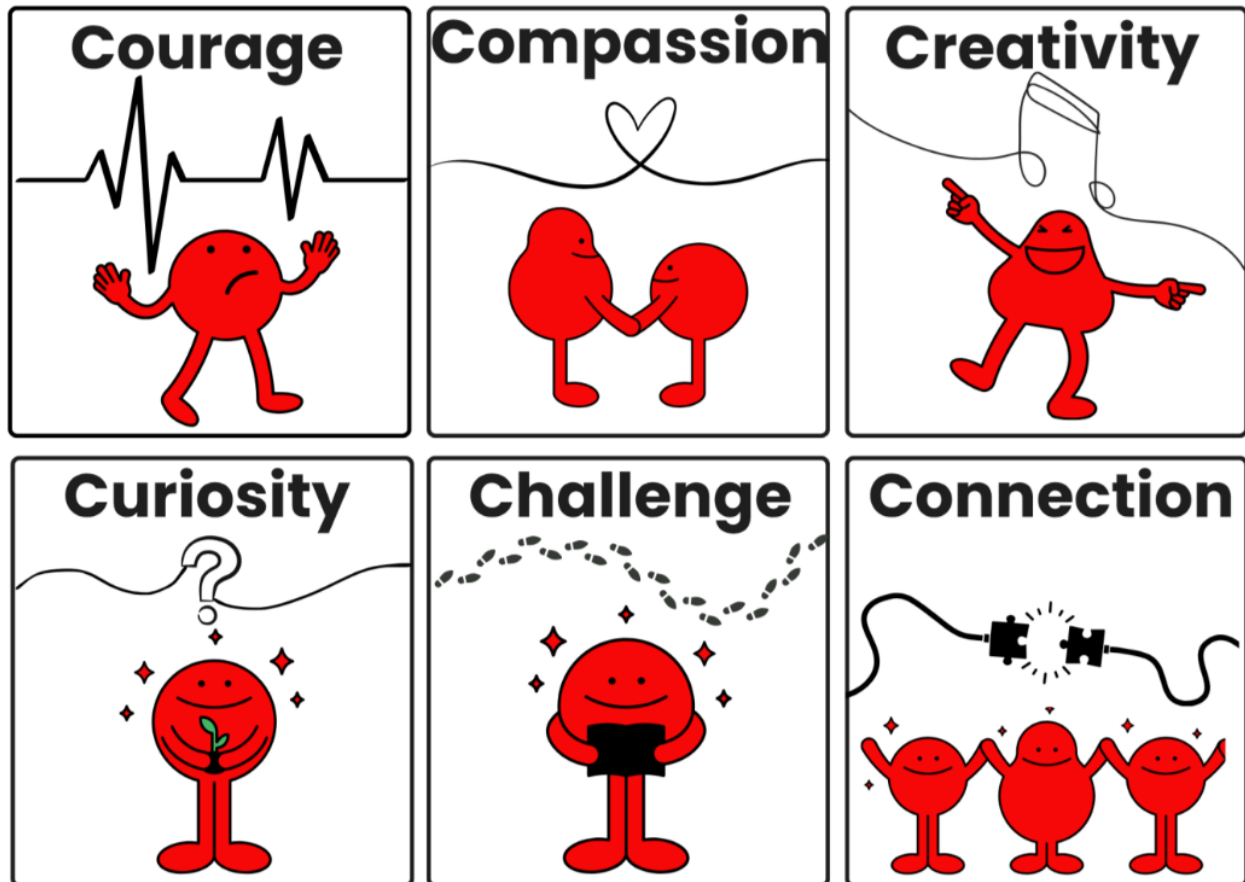
Mrs. Rolfe

Mrs. Fear



Why we do what we do

OUR BOWLISH VALUES



OUR BOWLISH VISION

We aspire for our children to have the **courage** to overcome **challenge**, the **curiosity** and **creativity** to help them achieve, and the **compassion** to ensure they can make and sustain meaningful **connections**.

OUR BOWLISH MISSION

Using an ambitious curriculum, we **challenge** children and nurture their **creativity** and **curiosity**. In an environment with trusted **connections**, we develop their emotional wellbeing and sense of self by scaffolding experiences to encourage **compassion** and **courage**.





Behaviour Ethos

We reinforce, nurture, promote and teach positive behaviour and relationships using 3 key words:

We are

Safe, Calm, Ready

with our

Heart, Head, Hands.

We talk openly and positively about emotions and support children to recognise and respond to them in ways that is helpful for them, using our Zones of Regulation. Our intention is to notice how children are feeling and to understand what that behaviour communicates us to help them self-regulate and manage their own behaviour.

Zone							
	nervous afraid frightened scared	sad upset unhappy miserable	calm relaxed peaceful cool	caring loved friendly kind	happy positive excited cheerful	angry bothered annoyed furious	confused distracted muddled unsure
	help	help			help	help	





Charity, Community & Extra Curricular

We believe that giving and thinking of others has a significant role in leading a fulfilled life, with gratitude being at the heart of the happiness. Each year we select a charity to support and funds are raised through a range of activities including our special charity week, which runs in the Spring Term.

We run many events across the year and are well-supported by our local and wider community. Examples of our community pulling together are regularly noted; we are a lucky school to have the community we do.

A dedicated team of supporters form our Friends of Bowlsh Infant School (FOBS) to raise money to pay expenses such as trip coaches and swimming, but also to raise larger sums to go towards school projects such as the wellbeing room and our planned library refurbishment. FOBS are always looking for parents to get involved and help at either individual events or all year round. From the Christmas Fayre, discos to the Summer BBQ, there is always something to be done.

Throughout the year the school plays host to a variety of visitors, workshops and events who enrich the curriculum for the children. Examples of this are, visiting animals, dance classes, yoga and live performances. We also work closely with other local schools on a variety of events throughout the year.

Although our children are still young and the school day can be long, we work hard to provide a range of clubs and enrichment opportunities for the children to experience. Within school hours we endeavour for our children to attend forest school and take part in cooking activities every week along with performing art opportunities.

Side by side

Parents and carers play a vital part in their child's education and at Bowlsh we value this role greatly. We believe that parents are a child's first teacher and that working "side by side" is the key to your child's success in school.

A few examples of how we keep parents informed and engaged in their child's education, are with:

- Parent forums and workshops.
- Happy Learning Hours.
- The use of ClassDojo.
- Using parent helpers wherever we can.
- A Parent and Family Support Advisor.
- Parent invitations to watch performances and class assemblies.
- Our staff are available face-to-face for daily interaction each morning and after school to greet and hand over the children to parents.
- Parent Teacher Meetings and Reporting.
- The weekly Parent Peek.





Lunches and Fruit

All children at Bowlish Infant School receive free school meals which are provided by an external caterer. For more information about the menu, please contact the School Office. Children are also welcome to bring their own pack lunch.

Every day, each child is provided with toast for breakfast and a piece of fruit during the morning session. All children under the age of 5 also have a glass of milk.

We promote healthy eating and cater for children with allergies.



School Opening Times

Our school is open five days a week, Monday – Friday.

Our school opening times are as follows:

8.50am - The school day starts

9.00am - Registers close

3.20pm - The end of the school day

Daily hours in school - 6 hours and 30 minutes

Weekly hours in school - 32 hours and 30 minutes

Wrap Around Care - To support families needing additional childcare, before and after school care is available at Bowlish. For further details please call us or see our website Wrap Around Care page.



The Foundation Stage Curriculum

The experiences and activities provided in the Reception Classes are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This curriculum consists of seven main areas.

Communication and Language	Physical Development	Literacy	Mathematics
Understanding the world	Expressive arts and design	Personal, Social & Emotional development	

Within the Reception classes these seven areas are planned for through cross-curricular topics as well as planned and child-initiated play activities. Indoor and outdoor play and activities are provided to enable the children to learn in different environments. The children also experience Forest School activities on the school grounds which inspire and develop their interest in the environment.

The importance of phonics

The teaching of phonics is a priority within the early years of school. Children experience daily phonic sessions where they follow a programme involving:

- Hearing and identifying sounds around them.
- Learning the individual sounds that letters in the alphabet represent.
- Learning rhymes which help them to remember the letters and the sound they represent.
- Sounding out and then blending back together the individual letters from a word to read it.
- Learning that some sounds are represented by more than one letter.





Using their ever-developing phonic knowledge to read independently.

Key Stage 1

When the children move into Year 1, they start to learn within the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum. The areas of learning are based on the following subjects:

Literacy	Maths	Science	Physical Education	Computing
Geography	History	Music	Design Technology	Art
Personal Social Health Relationship Education				



*The children also experience Religious Education based on the County Agreed Syllabus for RE.

As within the Reception Classes the teachers plan cross-curricular topics as much as possible to ensure that the learning has a theme and inspires the children. Forest School continues throughout the KS1 and teachers use the outdoors for learning opportunities whenever possible. Phonics remains an important element of learning and daily sessions support the children with reading and spelling.

What our children say about our school

The school is kind.

We do lots of
counting
numbers.

Our teachers are
kind and teach us
phonics and
forest school.

Be good with your
friends.

We are safe,
calm and ready.

You get House
Point!

I love it when we are
singing.

I like forest school
in my wellies.

Playtime is my
favourite.

I have lots of
friends.

When we do
cooking Mrs
Wright lets us eat
the food!

Mrs Manville
gives you a sticker
when you eat all
your dinner.

The library has
lots of books and
you can borrow
them!



How to join Bowlish Infant School

Applying for School

In the first instance, if your child is going to join us in September 2026 you will need to register with and apply through the Local Education Authority.

The application portal is currently live and you can apply online at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions or phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 for a paper copy of the application.

Information for parents will be available on the admissions Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Somersetschooladmissions/>

Please visit [the governments 'School Admissions' page](#) for further information.

If you are moving into the area and would like your child to gain a place at our school you will need to complete an 'in year school transfer form', which can be gained from your child's current school.



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