

Morley Primary School

'A small school with a big personality.'



As Headteacher of Morley School, I am passionate about ensuring that all pupils, whatever their needs, are given the chance to fulfil their potential. OfSTED said (May 2009) that 'equality of opportunity is one of the foundation stones on which the school's provision is built.' I am so very proud of everything that the staff and pupils have achieved, and thank them for all their hard work and support. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of staff, Governors, parents, and a local community, who all contribute so much to enhancing the children's time at school. I have asked the pupils to say what they think about our school, as anything I can say will not sound half as good (they wrote our school aims, and I've never seen anything to better it), and it is, after all, their school.



The pupils' opinions

Morley Primary School is the best school ever!

Our school is a small school, but it has a big personality.

Our school is exciting all the time. It's very old, and old people are very wise, so it's very good. It is like home. Our pupils and teachers are amazing and talented. We have excellent teachers who make us think and make learning really exciting, and we do amazing learning. We learn in a fun way. We are all awesome. There are 80 children and 15 staff. Miss Marsland came to our school to be our Headteacher in September 2007. All our teachers are cool. They are funny, but they can be strict when they have to. We love it here. There are 7 year groups in our school from Reception to Year 6. The children are divided into 3 classes: Class 1 has Reception, Year 1 and Year 2; Class 2 has Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4; and Class 3 has Year 5 and Year 6. Miss Bestwick and Miss Marsland teach Class 1; Miss Carroll teaches Class 2 and Mr Taylor teaches Class 3. We have very good helpers in school to make sure we have understood. Mrs Rhodes is our Bursar. Mrs Rhodes has a nice big office full of stuff. She looks after all the money and contacts our parents for us. We train student teachers for a whole year in our school.

We go on really good school trips like the ballet, Joseph, the Safari Park, the Workhouse, the Holocaust Memorial Centre, skiing in Manchester, Morley Hayes for golfing, Gruffalo hunting and our Christmas party, York Viking Festival, Kingswood, Liverpool, Warwick Castle, the Roman caves, and Cadbury World. We have lots of after school activities like choir, line dancing, French, sports, philosophy and golf. We have written a cookery book with recipes from our families, friends and famous people like the Prime Minister to raise funds for our new school garden. We have people from everywhere to visit us.



All of us are good at writing. When you see our work you will go WOW!!!! The pupils have big imaginations. If we do good work we get to put a marble in the jar, then when it is full we get to have a class prize like an ice cream van or bowling. If we do very good work then we can go to Miss Marsland's Office and get a sweet. We sponsor a pony named Oliver Twist at Redwings Horse Sanctuary – we asked to do this after we heard about the horses in Buckinghamshire on the news. Once a year we have a charity project. Our teachers sometimes join in with fun and mischief, and we sometimes get to tell them off, like when we ran the school in our pyjamas for Children in Need Day. We like to have fun.



Everything we get wrong, every mistake we make is just a step to achieving our goals.

Our school was built over a hundred and twenty years ago but it is very modern inside. We are developing our playground and building a vegetable garden. We have created a beautiful jungle garden at the front of school which Broomfield College built for us.

We all have good manners and we are full of kindness. It is a school full of kindness and we always give second chances. Everybody makes friends. It's easy to make friends because it's so small. On Friday we have a special assembly where we give awards like the Headteacher's Award and the Attendance Trophy. Headteacher's Award children get to have afternoon tea with their parents in Miss Marsland's office. Each class has a Class Captain who is chosen each week.

At our most recent inspections (May 2009 and 2012) our school was judged to be "outstanding" in every area. We could have told the inspectors that!



Our parents do lots of things for school, including the Village Show, Barn Dances, Fashion Shows, the Halloween and Easter events, and a cookery demonstration. We like the Barn Dance because we get to go to Morley Hayes. We work with Morley Hayes a lot. We like to work the local community. We switch on the Christmas



Lights with the Parish Council each year, and the whole school went to the Derbyshire Ploughing Competition when it was held at Smithy Farm next to school. Our annual Summer Production is held at Heanor Gate Science and Technology College.

Our school is out of this world. Our school is Outstanding.



'This is an outstanding school. Pupils make outstanding progress and they engage in memorable learning experiences. In lessons the atmosphere is electric.'

OfSTED 2012

Morley Primary School

Pupils, staff, parents, Governors and the local community of Morley Primary School are delighted to hear that they have been placed amongst the 'top performing schools in the country' according to a letter received from the Minister of State for Schools, the Hon David Laws. The school received its 4th Outstanding grading from OfSTED in June last year, and were thrilled to discover that this places it amongst the best schools in the country. Only one primary school in England at that point had a 5th Outstanding OfSTED grade, and Morley is the only primary school in Derbyshire currently to have attained 4 such grades. Everyone is justifiably very proud of the pupils' achievements – although according to one pupil the accolade was well deserved as 'We are epic!' 'Truly awesome – we don't do mediocre.' said another pupil.

Morley Primary is a small school with a 'traditional' village feel, and very up to date standards and expectations. The children say it is 'a small school with a big personality.'

Originally a Victorian Board School, the school house was built over a hundred and thirty years ago. Pupils join the school at age 4 and leave us at age 11 to move to a range of secondary schools. Pupils are taught using a variety of exciting cross-curricular themes, which were much praised by OfSTED ('Teachers make learning come alive'. OfSTED June 2012). They also benefit from many visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum, and use the local environment to support their work. Older pupils take part in a year long programme to develop their understanding of economic awareness, and in annual residential visits to support teamwork, physical skills and promote independence. The youngest pupils are supported by a well developed and resourced learning environment which gives them the opportunity to learn at first hand both indoors and outside. We also have a privately run Breakfast and After School Club which enables parents to benefit from extended child care. The Club, which also runs during some school holidays, has also received a very positive OfSTED grading.

The school holds the Basic Skills Quality Mark, Healthy Schools Award, Health Promoting Schools and Derbyshire Anti-bullying Commitment Awards, ActiveMark, School of Excellence Award, and Eco Schools Silver award. We are also a Partner School with Derby County Football Club. We are a founder member of the Curriculum Foundation, a placement school for both trainee teachers (under the School Based Initial Teacher Training for Outstanding schools programme), and trainee Headteachers (under the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers programme run by the National College), we are a Local Leader in Education, and we were a finalist for Educational Establishment of the Year at the Education Show 2013. We are currently working towards Eco Schools Green Flag and Teaching Schools status, as well as developing the school environment both internally and externally, and developing networking links with other schools. This all sounds very boastful, but the staff and pupils have worked unbelievably hard, and deserve to be very proud of their achievements. I feel very privileged to be Headteacher of such a wonderful school.

We have excellent relationships with the local and wider community, and are developing global awareness by working with the SoundAffects charity supported by the BBC.

For further information about the school see the website on <http://www.morleyprimaryschool.uk.org> or telephone the Headteacher, Miss Kate Marsland, on 01332 831295.

You would be very welcome to visit.

