

WELCOME TO ROYAL CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

What is special about our school ?

Royal Cross is the Lancashire school for deaf children, based in Preston with pupils from across the region.

We believe 'communication is the key' to success and everything we do is geared towards developing language and communication skills. Our approaches are tailored to individual needs with signing and speech used in whatever combination works best for each child. This ensures that pupils don't miss out on any part of the day and have the best chance of success.

Emotional wellbeing is also an important priority and involves nurturing social, emotional and behavioural skills. We know that happy, healthy and safe children get the most out of school. At Royal Cross deaf children have a peer group and role models to strengthen their personal and social confidence and promote positive attitudes and self-esteem. Safeguarding is an essential priority and pupils learn protective behaviours for their personal safety. Everyone feels included in all aspects of school life and can enjoy learning and achieve well.

The school has an excellent staffing level providing a happy, secure and supportive environment. There is a wealth of expertise and specialist resources and highly qualified staff create a positive climate for learning. Children have the best of both worlds – lots of individual attention in small groups and an inclusion programme with mainstream schools.

The curriculum is creative, relevant and stimulating with excellent ICT provision and a wide range of sporting activities. A themed approach and personalised learning programmes enable pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

We are keen to work closely with families and encourage them to communicate successfully with their children. Hopefully parents will join in with the wide range of family activities on offer and take advantage of support available if needed.

We are very proud of our school and hope that you will come for a look round. Please get in touch if you would like to visit or ask any questions, or you can check out our website for further details www.royalcross.lancs.sch.uk or click on the QR code.

Bev Hennefer
Headteacher



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Staffing



Our School Priorities and Aims

- ✓ developing **communication** skills
- ✓ nurturing **emotional well-being** and **self-esteem**
- ✓ safeguarding pupils to protect their **personal safety**
- ✓ making sure all pupils **progress, achieve** and **enjoy** school



successful learners

happy and **confident** pupils

independent and **responsible** citizens

We work together with Families and Children's Services so that all pupils can:

Be healthy

Stay safe

Enjoy and achieve

Make a positive contribution

Develop skills for the future



"Communication is the key to personal & social development and academic success"

Trips and Outings

The curriculum is enriched by a range of offsite activities and Royal Cross follows the LA policy and guidance for educational visits. In some instances parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to meet the cost but if parents are unable to contribute, pupils would not be excluded from the activity. However, if insufficient funding is available it may be necessary to postpone or cancel the trip.



Canoeing and rock scrambling during the activity holiday



Inclusion Programme

Our inclusion programme is designed to promote development of the skills, confidence and knowledge pupils need to be active participants in society.

We have well established links with mainstream schools and ensure pupils have positive experiences with mainstream children together with opportunities to develop communication strategies and increased independence.

Many of our pupils are able to transfer to mainstream schools or more local specialist provision for their secondary education.

We have a special partnership with Ashton Community Science College and its feeder primary schools in Preston. Ashton has a Deaf Support Department and provision up to the age of 18.

Year 6 pupils take part in a transition programme to prepare them for secondary education.

School Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear the school uniform. The style of clothing is optional but should follow the colouring listed below

Girls	Pale blue shirt	Grey skirt	Royal blue jumper/sweatshirt
Boys	Pale blue shirt	Grey trousers	Royal blue jumper/sweat shirt
PE	White/pale blue T-shirt	Black/navy shorts or PE skirt	Plimsolls/training shoes

Lunch Arrangements

Pupils can have a hot meal or bring sandwiches. Special diets are catered for by request. Parents may be asked to provide a packed lunch for trips and outings. Dinner money is collected on Fridays and should be in an envelope labelled with your child's name.

Pupil Welfare

Pupils are well supervised throughout the day both in and out of the classroom. Qualified first aiders are on hand to deal with minor injuries. Parents must provide the school with an emergency contact number so that we are able to inform you if your child becomes ill at school or on the rare occasion when injuries require further medical attention.

Prescription Medicines

These can be administered to pupils at school. Medication should be handed into the school office so that the Administration of Medicines procedure can be followed. Containers should be clearly labelled with the pupil's name and clear instructions provided. Staff will not give pupils medicine if these conditions are not met.

Fire Drills

These are held regularly and pupils are familiarised with the routine. The school is equipped with a visual and audible alarm system and deaf staff have radio pagers.

Health Services

The School Medical Service provide health checks and advice. We liaise closely with Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists when appropriate and have a Speech & Language Service. We also have good links with audiology clinics and Cochlear Implant Teams. A Technician visits regularly for hearing aid / radio aid maintenance.

The Curriculum

What will children learn?



Our pupils follow the National Primary Curriculum, delivered through a creative approach that boosts their enjoyment and achievement. There is a whole school 'Topic' each term with an emphasis on language development and the acquisition of essential skills. The curriculum is enriched by a wide range of educational visits and a variety of sporting activities. Personal & social development is given a high profile throughout the school day within 'Circle Time', Deaf Studies and cross-curricular opportunities so that all pupils have a voice, gain good self-esteem and a positive view of themselves.

In order to improve pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development our curriculum promotes basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. At a suitable level, this helps the children to understand the importance of respect so that when they leave school they are fully prepared for life in modern Britain. It is also essential to learn protective behaviours for personal safety both online and 'out and about.'

Our whole curriculum enables pupils to develop:

- skills and strategies to overcome communication difficulties
- personal & social confidence and safety
- independent learning and academic success

We take great care to ensure that statutory requirements for assemblies and RE are met and provide an introduction to Sex & Relationships Education whilst recognising and respecting pupils' cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from these areas of the curriculum but we encourage them to ensure that children are appropriately informed before moving on to secondary school.

How will they be taught?

Pupils are taught by Teachers of the Deaf in small class groups supported by specialist Teaching Assistants. The high level of staffing allows for individual and small group work as needed and the pace and style of teaching is modified to ensure all children can access lessons and make good progress. Pupils also have the opportunity to be taught with mainstream peers from local schools both on and off site with support from Royal Cross. All staff have specialist qualifications ensuring an excellent quality of support for children's individual learning needs. Intensive work on phonics using visual cues to support lip and spelling patterns enables pupils to develop reading skills. We use the Oxford Reading Tree and a wide range of specific resources including VisPhons and sign graphics to support literacy.

How will pupils communicate?

Royal Cross provides an inclusive communication environment that ensures full access to all aspects of school life and allows for incidental learning.

Pupils develop language naturally through interaction with all members of the school community supplemented by structured teaching. This is difficult to achieve outside a specialist environment such as Royal Cross Primary School.

We offer child driven approaches to communication including speech & language therapy, signing and PECS so that all pupils can develop age appropriate language in ways best suited to their individual needs. Speech and signing are used in whatever combination works best for each child and all pupils have individual communication targets agreed between the Teachers of the Deaf and Speech and Language Therapist. Staff are highly skilled in working with a wide range of hearing aid and cochlear implant equipment and ensure that these are well maintained so that maximum benefit can be gained.



Resources



Information and Communication Technology



ICT is widely used throughout the school - we have interactive whiteboards and iPads in every classroom and a wide range of software and peripherals. The use of technology brings enormous benefits to teaching and learning and is potentially a very powerful tool for overcoming communication difficulties. Our Computing curriculum and teaching strategies ensure pupils develop the skills needed for independent learning and communication. Technology is also an important way of keeping in touch with parents and involving them in their child's education. We use class email and Dojo (instant messenger) in addition to written and face to face communication.

However technology also brings an element of risk so we make every effort to promote online safety. This is a very important part of safeguarding children and we encourage all parents to access the online safety section of our website and offer practical support if required.



School Website and Moodle

Check out our website for further information about the school, news, holiday dates, curriculum topics, policies and newsletters.

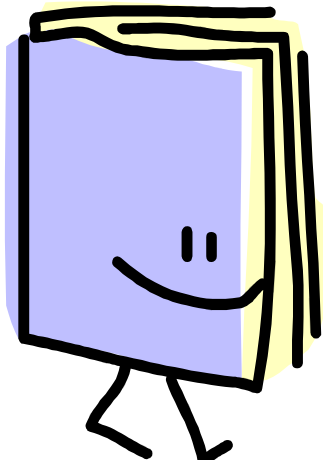
Access to the Moodle, our interactive learning platform is available through the school website and passwords are issued to parents and pupils. On the Moodle there are activities for children to use at home, information about year groups and the school day and a discussion forum in the Parents' Home Room.



www.royalcross.lancs.sch.uk



School Library



The computerised library has been recently refurbished and is well stocked with a range of fiction and non fiction. These include specialist resources featuring sign graphics, signed interpretation and subtitles. We also have video conferencing facilities so that pupils can hook up with deaf children in other schools.

The hall is well equipped with a soundfield system and huge multimedia drop down screen for internet resources, DVD's, TV, Wii games etc. This is very useful in assemblies, signed singing, Wake and Shake (aerobics for kids) and PE.



Ofsted's View of our School

The following extract is from the Ofsted Inspection Report dated 04 - 05 March 2015.

For a copy of the full report please contact the school or click the link on the school website.

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils.

This is an outstanding school.

Royal Cross continues to be an exceptionally successful school where pupils and staff share a love of learning and pupils achieve outstandingly well.

Teachers, teaching assistants and health professionals form a highly skilled staff team with a total commitment to ensuring that every pupil has an equal opportunity to succeed, whatever their needs and background.

The quality of teaching is outstanding. The teachers of the deaf plan outstanding lessons which enable each and every child to understand new language and new concepts. As a result, pupils make outstanding progress in their reading, writing and mathematical skills from their different starting points. They make similar progress in other subjects.

Teaching assistants have a high level of knowledge and understanding about the needs of deaf pupils and those with additional disabilities. They contribute highly effectively to pupils' learning and progress, offering as much support as needed but also helping pupils to learn as independently as possible.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. A stimulating curriculum motivates pupils to want to learn, so that they have excellent attitudes to their learning.

Pupils are happy and confident in this supportive environment which meets their communication needs extremely well. They make great strides in their personal and social development. Pupils say they feel very safe in school and on trips out.



Children in the early years make an excellent start because the quality of teaching and planning is outstanding. Children begin to develop effective communication from the moment they arrive.

Partnerships with parents are generally very strong. However, some families have difficulty supporting their child's learning at home or in attending school activities, sometimes because they live a considerable distance from the school.

The school is exceptionally well led by a very experienced Headteacher with excellent support from senior and middle leaders. Leaders, including members of the governing body, together with all staff, share a vision to improve the school continually and raise standards.



Annual Information

Attendance

By law each class teacher must take the register twice a day. A series of codes are used to record reasons for absence. Absences are divided into authorised and unauthorised and reported. We expect parents to write a note, telephone or pass on a message via the taxi escort to let us know why a child has not been at school. If no reason is given school will contact parents. Other absences may be authorised at the school's discretion. Holidays are discouraged in term time however, individual circumstances are considered on submission of a Holiday Request Form available from the office. We are required to publish attendance statistics in the prospectus.

2015 - 2016

Total number of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session 25

% of pupil sessions (half days) missed through authorised absence 9%

% of pupil sessions (half days) missed through unauthorised absence 0%

What about secondary school?

Many of our pupils transfer into a more integrated setting at the secondary stage. We have close links with the Deaf Support Department at Ashton-on-Ribble Community Science College and provide a preparation programme for pupils before they leave.

School	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Ashton Community Science College	0	3	6	1	1
Sir Tom Finney	0	0	0	1	1
Astley Park	0	1	0	0	0
Ridgewood	1	0	0	0	0
Hameldon College	2	0	0	0	0
Broadfield	1	0	0	0	0
Crosshill	0	0	1	0	0
Seashell Trust	0	0	0	0	1

Keeping in Touch



Many of our pupils' families do not live locally and we realise it is difficult to pop into school.

We therefore use a variety of strategies to keep in touch.....

Contact us via

T 01772 729705

F 01772 729866

bursar@royalcross.lancs.sch.uk

www.royalcross.lancs.sch.uk



Teachers2Parents

Text messaging is used to remind parents about meetings and events or for information regarding emergency closures. We also make use of class email and Dojo (instant messaging). Please make sure that we have up to date mobile numbers and email addresses if you wish to take advantage of these services.

Home School Books

Home School books are particularly important to aid communication between home and school. They are useful for parents and school to find out what is happening as well as to pass on messages and may include photographs, writing and drawing. As pupils' language skills develop, they are encouraged to take more responsibility for passing on basic information themselves.

In year 6 the children may have a homework diary to familiarise them with the process prior to secondary transfer.

Work at Home

Parents can help by discussing the school day with their children and making sure any homework is completed. Homework will consist of short activities e.g. learning spellings, drawing pictures relating to school based work, sharing or reading a book, practising sums or completing a simple worksheet. The school's Moodle site also contains activities that children can do at home and information for parents.



Reporting Progress



Parents receive two written reports each year about their child's progress - an End of Year Report in the summer term and School Advice for the Statutory Annual Review of the Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education Health and Care Plan.

We urge parents to attend Annual Reviews as these are important meetings focussing on pupil progress over the past 12 months and setting targets for the year ahead. Having the opportunity to discuss achievements and any concerns is invaluable in working together to help pupils fulfil their potential.

The End of Year Report includes a full curriculum report and comments on aspects of development such as personal, social and health education and other achievements.

Parents are also welcome to discuss issues with their child's class teacher or the Head / Deputy by phone or by arranging an appointment. Home visits can also be arranged by request.

Newsletters /Moodle /Website

Information is provided each term through newsletters, the moodle and the school website to keep parents up to date with events in school.

Questionnaires

It is important for us to know how parents feel about the school and so we send questionnaires home from time to time. Parents are encouraged to express their opinions and contribute to school development and improvement.

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about Royal Cross and you can access the webpage using the link below.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



School Documents

Copies of the School Prospectus and Inspection Summary are available free of charge.

Parents are always welcome to arrange to visit school to find out what we are doing. You can also look at the range of documents we keep in school. These documents include

- Curriculum policies and schemes of work including RE and Sex Education. These outline what children will be learning through the school and how it will be taught and assessed.
- Statutory documents and circulars
- Full inspection reports
- The complaints procedure
- Special Needs policy
- Child Protection Policy

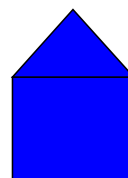
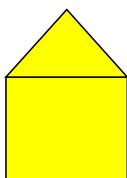
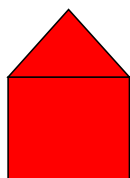
Copies of these documents are available on request and school policies can also be accessed via the school website in the 'About Us' section. If you would like further information about the curriculum please contact the school.

Discipline

There are a number of basic rules of which all children and staff are aware. They are mainly related to the safety and general welfare of the children. We aim for positive reinforcement rather than a negative approach and older pupils are encouraged to be role models for younger children. All pupils are expected to carry out 'class jobs' and have the opportunity to develop responsibility through membership of the School Council, becoming a Prefect or Librarian etc.

Rewards

All the children belong to one of three house groups and compete for their house in special events as well as collecting house points for good work and behaviour.



The winning house receives a small cup each week and a big cup at the end of each half term !

Stickers and certificates are awarded in weekly celebration assemblies and contribute towards Records of Achievement.



House Trophies



School Certificates, stickers and badges

Pupils are encouraged to talk to staff about anything which is worrying them. Bullying is never tolerated and any incidents are dealt with promptly. Parents are kept informed and are encouraged to share any concerns they may have with the school. All disciplinary procedures are discussed with the Head / Deputy to ensure consistency throughout the school.

Care and Control of Pupils

We are committed to safeguarding our pupils and abide by Lancashire policies for Child Protection and Care & Control. Where it is believed that a child is suffering from or at risk of significant harm we will follow procedures sensitively, professionally and in the best interests of the child.

If staff become aware of, or have a need to become involved in, situations where a child may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, or if the behaviour of a child seriously disrupts good order in the school or causes damage to property, staff may need to intervene physically. In such circumstances staff will follow the school's policy for dealing with such situations. Any parents wishing to view this policy may do so on request.

What to do if you have a complaint

A full copy of our complaints procedure is available on request or on the website. We hope parents will tell us about anything they are not happy with and we will do everything we can to resolve the problem.

Minor complaints should be dealt with by the class teacher. If you are not satisfied then contact the Head / Deputy. All serious complaints must be explained to the Headteacher so that an investigation can take place. The Headteacher will always meet concerned parents in order to resolve difficulties. A parent who is still not satisfied should contact the Chair of Governors. Names and telephone numbers of governors can be obtained from the school office.

Visits to School

What to do if you are interested in visiting the school or seeking a place for your child.....

We welcome visitors to look round the school. Please telephone to make an appointment so that someone will be available to show you round and answer any questions.

Formal applications for admission must be made by the Local Authority SEND office. SEND area offices phone numbers can be obtained from school.

Admission Criteria

- Educationally significant level of hearing loss (or severe speech and language impairment) that has increased barriers to learning or coexists with additional factors.
- Able to benefit from a total communication setting and specialist communication strategies.
- Low levels of language and communication difficulties on entry.
- Requiring a deaf peer group and more time/intensive input from Teachers of the Deaf, in order to achieve potential - academically, personally and socially.

Home, School and the Community



Clubs

As the majority of pupils travel in taxis Royal Cross provides a variety of Lunchtime Clubs on the premises. Many pupils take part in activities after school in their home area and we are more than happy to help families find suitable After School Provision.

There are a number of special events each year which we hope parents will attend. These include Celebration Days, Christmas entertainment and Sporting Activities.



At Royal Cross we work hard to build good relationships with pupils' families and the local community.

Home School Liaison

Home visits can be arranged by request to share information and help with communication as well as keeping us in touch with families' views and needs. We can offer help with transport if required to make it easier for families to attend school events.

PTFA / Family Group

The Parent Teacher & Friends Association works hard raising funds for additional resources and arranging social events. Weekend Family Groups provide support with communication and a chance for parents and siblings to meet. Getting involved gives families the opportunity to get to know each other and can be an invaluable support network through the ups and downs of parenting!

Inclusion

We liaise closely with mainstream primary schools in order to provide an inclusion programme tailored to pupils' individual needs. As a vibrant regional community special school we share our skills and expertise to support inclusion. We have good links with Early Years provision and the Lancashire Special School network as well as mainstream partner schools.

School & Community Resources









We also have good links with local services. The Harris Museum, School Library Service, Fulwood Leisure Centre and other local organisations enable us to offer pupils the access they need to trips and resources to support learning within the school.

Staffing



Royal Cross Primary School is a learning organization and our enthusiastic and talented staff are committed to continuing professional development. This ensures we have up to date skills and the expertise required to meet the individual needs of our pupils. All teachers have specialist qualifications and all staff have sign language skills.

 <p>Beverley Hennefer Headteacher</p>	 <p>Jo White Deputy Head</p>	 <p>Kath Clinch School Business Manager</p>
 <p>Linzi Harding Teacher of the Deaf</p>	 <p>Sofia Parveen Teacher of the Deaf</p>	 <p>Jilly Sumsion Teacher of the Deaf</p>
 <p>Julie Rainford HLTA</p>	 <p>Janet Bamber Deaf Instructor</p>	 <p>Christine Johnson TA 3/Speech & Language</p>

 <p>Lisa Clinch TA 3</p>	 <p>Cath Grilli TA 3</p>	 <p>Laura Park TA 3</p>
 <p>Louise Reilly TA 3</p>	 <p>Debbie Cartwright TA 3</p>	 <p>Zoe Lynch TA 3</p>
 <p>Nicola Bamber Catering Assistant</p>		 <p>Speech & Language Therapist</p>