

Avonwood Primary School

Virtual School Tour Questions – November 2020

Question: Can you give me an idea of how TAs are utilised in the school?

Answer: We have a brilliant team of TA's that support classes at Avonwood. In EYFS we have a team of 3 TA's, one of which is a qualified early years teacher. TA's are used to support all children rather than those less able, as the teacher must lead the learning for all children.

Question: Does every class have their own full time TA?

Answer: Sadly not. We have three TA's in our two EYFS classes, in KS1 we have approximately 2 TA's spread over 3 classes and in KS2 we have 1 TA across the three classes. We also have additional 1:1 TA's that support individual children.

Question: What are the timings of the school day?

Answer: During non covid times our school day runs from 8:50 to 15:15. During the current climate we have extended the school day from 8:30 to 15:30 with staggered drop off and pick up times (e.g. Year 6 start at 8:30 and end at 15:30, EYFS start at 9:00 and finish at 15:00).

Question: What percentage of children go onto grammar school?

Answer: Being a new school, we have our first Year 6 cohort this year. Therefore, we do not have this statistic to share.

Question: How many siblings do you expect to take this year? Have you done a sibling survey?

Answer: We surveyed our existing families and responses indicate 13 siblings will be applying for places this year.

Question: Can we see the classrooms and outdoor spaces eg sports hall, outdoor classroom, amphitheatre?

Answer: Please check out the various videos on the open evening page on our website, found on the "About Us" tab.

Question: Do you have a school counsellor?

Answer: We have a trained full time ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and purchase additional counselling capacity from the local "Listening Ear" charity organisation.

Question: Due to the decoupling from Avonbourne, are you still going to be part of the Trust and use the facilities you mentioned at the other schools and the other benefits such as science teachers coming from the secondary school you mentioned?

Answer: Yes the group of schools all belong to the United Learning Trust. We will still work closely with the teaching staff team at Avonbourne to make sure our curriculum links appropriately and to seek opportunities to collaborate together.

Question: Does the school know which school we picked first and does it affect the placement?

Answer: We are only notified of parental preferences after the local authority have allocated places. If you have any questions about the ordering of choices we would recommend you speak to the Local Authority BCP admissions team.

Question: Is there an opportunity for us to hear from the early years' teachers?

Answer: Please see the video found on our virtual open evening website page.

Question: Do you tick both catchment and distance on the admissions form on the BCP website? Does it matter?

Answer: We would recommend if you are not sure to speak to the local authority admissions team.

Question: Is 11+ prep offered to students?

Answer: No we don't currently offer this, parents can seek this privately with tutors.

Question: What are the most popular follow on schools for Secondary level? What number of children in previous years go onto Grammar, for example?

Answer: Being a new school, we have our first Year 6 cohort this year. Therefore, we do not have this statistic to share.

Question: How do you deal with allergies at lunchtimes? My son has contact allergies, and can't touch his allergens, he is very good at checking they are safe for him, but do you teach other children about allergies, so that they learn to understand as well?

Answer: We have many other children at Avonwood with allergies. If your child secures a place we will work with you in the summer term to make sure we have everything in place ready for them to start in September. We also use our PSHE curriculum to make sure children are tolerant, kind and respectful to each other. Our Earth Charter ethos helps with this too.

Question: What age do they start swimming?

Answer: They start swimming in Year 3 for one term to with the ambition for them to swim 25 metres and if not there are further opportunities in later years to achieve this.

Question: Is the catchment area a completely hard line? i.e. what about if you live just the other side of the Wessex Way and within a mile of the school?

Answer: Catchment is no longer a factor in the criteria for achieving a place at Avonwood primary school. In terms of address, admissions are determined on the distance as the crow flies to your home. If you have any questions regarding this we recommend you speak to the Local Authority BCP admissions team.

Question: Ofsted report references high number of NQT's/trainees - what is the make up/experience level of the school?

Answer: This year out of 19 classes and 22 teachers we have 3 NQT's, we feel this is a strength as it helps keep Avonwood evolving and improving. I believe the reference to NQT numbers relates to the secondary schools rather than Avonwood.

Question: What clubs are there available during and after school?

Answer: Please see this link - [Avonwood Primary School > Parents > School Clubs](#)

Question: How would you deal with a child that is struggling or a child that is exceeding?

Answer: We treat all children as individuals with high expectations – ‘Teaching to the top’. Avonwood benefits from an outstanding SENDCo who is able to help intervene at the earliest opportunity to support children that struggle. Avonwood is an academic setting with a robust and challenging academic curriculum which we feel helps children fly, for example, reading ‘Macbeth’ as a key text in Year 6.