



## Beliefs and Values

Our aim is to share a working partnership between pupils, staff and parents so that we encourage and challenge everyone to develop to their full potential.

We value all people in our school and as part of a family community.

Learning and educating takes place in a creative and collaborative environment to enable all to have the opportunity to achieve their very best, irrespective of background.

We value honesty, courtesy, integrity and a shared commitment to quality and innovation.

## A caring environment

The well being of each pupil is central to their happiness and achievement. All pupils have a class teacher who registers them and is their first point of contact. Classes are organised in teams where the Pupil Progress Manager has a pastoral and academic overview of the pupils. Rewards for good behaviour - merits and green slips are highly prized.

Behaviour entries and pink slips are also treated seriously if a pupil has caused problems for themselves or others.

## Discipline

The school has a Behaviour Management Policy and an effective Anti-Bullying Policy, which praises good behaviour whilst poor behaviour and bullying is challenged and tackled immediately.

As a supplementary part of this pupils are often counselled when they are experiencing particular difficulties in their lives which have an impact on their attitudes to school.

The school promotes positive behaviour management but when all other avenues are exhausted, pupils are excluded for serious breaches of the school's expectations and standards. Under a new agreement Kitbridge and Solent Middle Schools act as partnership schools for exclusions of more than 5 days. All parents are therefore required to sign a Home School Agreement when a pupil enters the school, which sets out the terms of the partnership between pupils, parents and Somerton.

## School Organisation

### Key Stage 2: years 5 and 6

At Somerton children are taught a variety of subjects by Class teachers and specialist teachers. Class teachers teach their pupils so that the primary curriculum is extended, particularly in year 5. Keystage 2 tests (SATS) take place in May of year 6 in English, Maths and Science while pupils first learning of a foreign language (German) starts in year 6.

### Key Stage 3: years 7 and 8

Pupils are taught by specialist teachers. Specialist teaching is now the common approach and pupils are grouped in most subjects according to ability and performance, allowing the full potential of each child to be realised.

Key stage 3 pupils are prepared for end of key stage tests. If ready, these tests are taken at the end of year 8. Otherwise pupils sit these tests in year 9.



## Mathematics

A sound grounding in Maths is vital for all pupils. Learning and teaching recognises the importance of mental, practical and investigational maths. At Key Stage 2 6 lessons of maths are taught each week to raise confidence and standards across the school. Somerton maths results show steady improvement recognising the hard work of pupils and staff.

## English

Literacy is the key element of our English teaching in years 5 & 6 with one hour per day dedicated to learning. Children study a number of fiction texts, poetry, drama and are taught creative writing skills. In year 8 pupils begin to study Shakespeare. Our English results have been excellent with pupils achieving high standards.

## Science

Science is a strength at Somerton where there are excellent facilities and specialist teachers. Pupils carry out practical learning in an ambitious environment and take part in Key Stage 2 and 3 Standard Attainment Tests. Learning concentrates on raising awareness of the relevance of Science in pupils lives and as preparation for life in the 21st century.

## Religious Education

R.E. is non-denominational in content and approach and is concerned with developing an understanding of religion in all its dimensions. Parents may of course withdraw their child from Religious Education if they so wish.

## Design and Technology

Pupils are skilled in construction and presentation. They are encouraged to utilise these skills to explore and develop design related tasks. Pupils will exercise and develop their skills by following through a design concept that ensures the final product is both aesthetic and functional.

Food and Textiles links with the subjects Science, and Art. Its aim is to develop pupils' attitudes towards health and nutrition. Needlecraft skills are developed through the use of textiles and knowledge of materials.

## Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE is concerned with the physical, social, vocational and moral development of the individual. It concentrates upon the personal development of individual children as citizens in both the school environment and their place in the outside world. Pupils are taught to have self respect and exercise sensitivity to those around them. Citizenship and developing attitudes which promote citizenship is core to PSHE.

*The positive ethos of the school encourages pupils to*



## Music

Music plays an important role in Somerton Middle School. All children are given the opportunity to sing and play musical instruments. The school provides wind, brass, string and percussion instruction to any pupils who wish to learn an instrument.

## Physical Education

Pupils sample a wide range of physical activities, which help to promote an understanding of physical health, fair play, co-operation and responsibility. Somerton is highly regarded in terms of sport, and holds many trophies and awards in sports excellence.

## Humanities – Geography and History

Humanities incorporates the subjects History and Geography. Pupils are encouraged to develop their enthusiasm for the physical and historical world through enquiry and research. Historical sources, field work, map reading and presentations are all key skills accessed in this subject.

## Art

Every child possesses the ability to be creative. Somerton pupils work with a variety of media, including textiles, print, collage and ceramics. Children learn about art history and art appreciation and they are encouraged to embrace a variety of artistic styles. Somerton Art has won numerous awards both on and off Island.

## German

Pupils begin to learn German in year 6. Somerton aims to develop pupils' ability to use language confidently and effectively. Year 7 and 8 pupils are offered the opportunity to visit Germany and liaise with German students.

## Information Communication Technology

ICT skills are taught in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 and incorporated into all subject areas. Somerton has a central ICT suite and extended resources room benefiting from networked computers. Pupils have access to computers in all curricular areas. Pupils are taught the skills of web design, on-line research, and computer presentations.

## Special Needs

All pupils have individual needs and all teachers are teachers of Special Needs. Somerton meets the Special Needs Code of Practice and provides additional support for pupils within the classroom, in smaller groups, during lunchtime and after school.

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o become actively involved*



## Homework and Communications

Homework forms an integral part of the reinforcement of learning for children. All pupils are given a homework timetable at the beginning of the year which outlines what they can expect from each subject every week.

Homework planners are provided to record the set tasks, help the pupils organise themselves and enable you as a parent to monitor your child.

Parents should read the homework planner and use it to communicate with staff on aspects of the homework which is set.

Pupils who have a statement of Special Educational Needs have a Home/School Liaison Book to enhance teacher-parent communication.

The Somerton Newsletter to Parents "Somerton News" is available every Friday on our website [www.somerton.iow.sch.uk](http://www.somerton.iow.sch.uk) A printed copy is also given to pupils.

## Gifted and Talented Pupils

Our Gifted and Talented pupils are recognised by subject areas and these pupils are encouraged to take advantage of extension and enrichment activities which take place within subject areas and outside school. Activities include

- \* Team sports
- \* Masterclasses in Mathematics, Technology and Science
- \* Writing weekends
- \* Visits from authors
- \* Gifted and Talented Art classes

## Assemblies and arrangements for collective worship

Assemblies take place every day and have a strong moral theme reinforcing the school's beliefs and values. Assemblies also provide an opportunity to share and celebrate success. If parents wish their child to opt out from assemblies then they have the right to do so but should in the first instance contact the Head Teacher.

## Sex Education

Sex Education is introduced in year 5 and continues through the school as an additional specific module taught in Science in year 7 and in the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme. Teaching about HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Illnesses is also included. Before the year 5 introduction, parents are invited to school to preview content and discuss relevant issues. Year 7 parents are notified in writing that their children are to be taught the second module.

The syllabus follows the guidelines produced by the LA and has been endorsed by the Governing Body.

## Supply Teachers

Somerton boasts a highly qualified and dedicated team of supply teachers to cover unavoidable teacher absences.