



We are proud to be a small school. We feel that our size is one of our strongest assets as it allows us to do things differently and offer the children who attend our school a unique, happy and successful start to their school experience.

Everyone at our school gets to know everyone else and this leads to everyone having a strong sense of *belonging*. All our children care and look out for one another and the all-round nurturing sense of Cheselbourne Village School means our children feel safe, acknowledged and respected. These attributes are vital ingredients in the recipe that enables children to succeed. To succeed in their learning and (through working alongside families) succeed in developing as well-rounded young people, and later down the line, adults.



Having fewer children in a class (or school) means there are more opportunities afforded to each child; rather than having to pick just a few children to take part in activities, often a whole year group or class can participate.



One particular aspect of this is our ability to offer all children the chance to speak or perform publicly in school assemblies and services, particularly during our end of year production where every member of our school is involved. This enables children to develop self-confidence and self-esteem, both so important for a successful education journey.

Being a small school also means we benefit from teaching our children in Mixed-Age Classrooms.



Knowledge and Understanding of Your Child's Needs...

In mixed-age classes children usually stay with the same teacher for two years, which allows a teacher to really develop a deep understanding of a student's strengths and needs. This in turn helps ensure the right support for a child's learning is put in place to enable them to reach their full potential. During the second year, the teacher already knows them so time doesn't need to be spent on assessment of a child's abilities, learning can begin right away. Mixed-age teaching also ensures teachers view students as unique individuals rather than a member of a group. More attention is paid to individual needs and as a result, teachers can focus on teaching each child according to his or her own strengths.



Sense of Community...

Children enjoy being taught in mixed-class groups and love the sense of responsibility that grows across the two years. Older children have the opportunity to serve as mentors and take on leadership roles as they nurture and motivate the younger ones. Younger children are able to accomplish tasks they could not do independently or without role-modelling from the older children. This ultimately leads to a growing sense of independence as learners develop confidence in their own abilities. All learners also develop familiarity with their classmates and learn to mix confidently with a wide range of age groups from a young age, creating an environment that encourages learning *from* and *with* others which reflects 'real-life' outside of the classroom.

