



August 2026 Intake

Wednesday 17th Sept 6pm - Open evening

Saturday 8th Nov 9am-10.30am - Open morning

Find out what we can offer your child and what makes our school successful and welcoming.

BOOK NOW



In Pursuit of Excellence

Ashby Willesley, Leicestershire

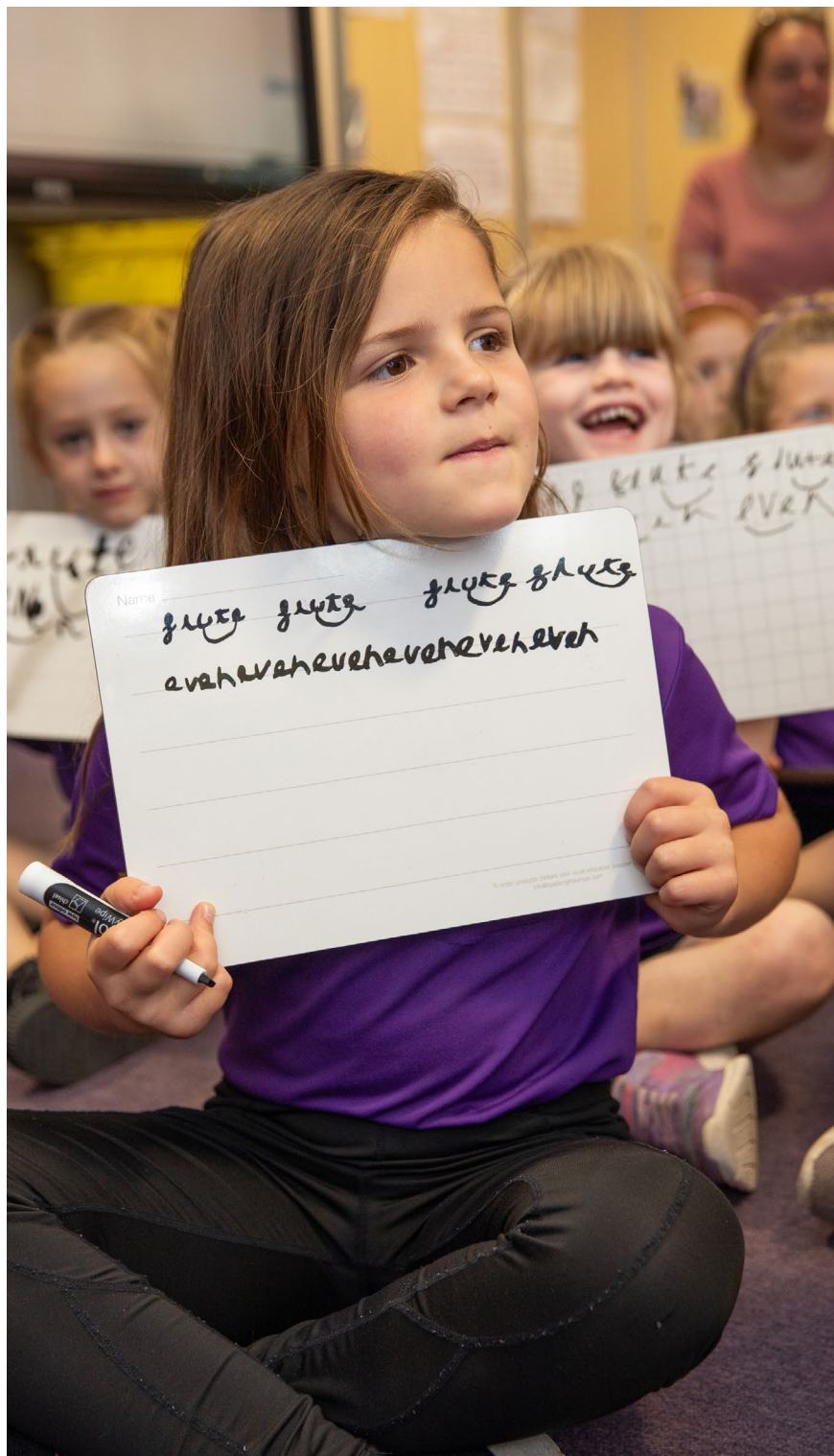


Our dedicated team is passionate about giving your child the best start in life. We strive for excellence in education while ensuring your children are safe, happy and contribute to our high expectations of behaviour.

2025-2026

PROSPECTUS

Our curriculum includes **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)**:
To promote physical health, creativity, teamwork and emotional wellbeing.



Welcome

Welcome to **Ashby Willesley Primary School**.

We are a 2-form entry primary school, located on the outskirts of the popular town of Ashby de la Zouch, overlooking the beautiful Leicestershire countryside.

We are the largest primary school in Ashby and pride ourselves on the welcoming 'family feel' that it has. This stems from our close family community including staff, pupils and families of our children. Everyone is made to feel valued and welcome, resulting in a happy, safe and positive place to learn.

Our pupils are known for their exceptional behaviour and kindness and are role models both in the local community and beyond.

Our dedicated staff are committed to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential. We have extremely high expectations which are reflected in our consistently high academic standards, behaviour and attitudes.



Chloe Dilks, Head Teacher



We have been made to feel welcome and included. We are all very happy.



Our Vision

Our aim at Ashby Willesley is to nurture happy, well-rounded individuals who are equipped to achieve their full potential during their time with us and beyond.

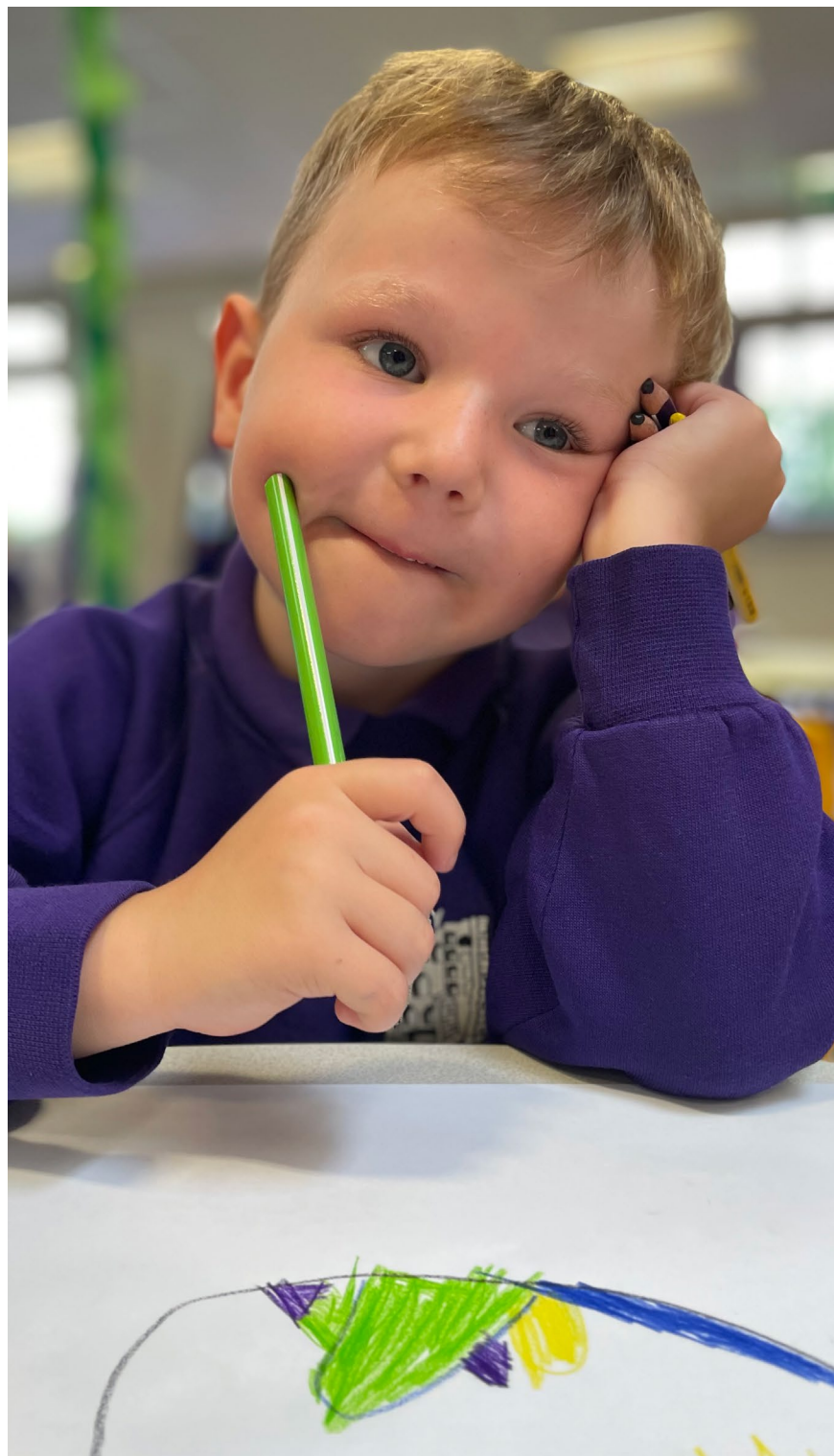
Our high expectations, challenging curriculum and positive ethos all contribute towards this.

Core Values

Our priority is that children feel safe and happy at school. To ensure this we have an ethos of encouraging and rewarding positive behaviour. Our children are taught about our 12 core values and the importance of demonstrating them on a daily basis.



[Read more, click here >>](#)



EYFS

We consider your child's first year at school to be one of the most important. It is the foundations on which their future education is built.

Our Foundation Stage offers:

- ★ Highly skilled and dedicated Foundation Stage team.
- ★ Carefully scaffolded and inclusive curriculum which is centered around each child's unique starting point and interests.
- ★ An excellent balance of child-led and teacher-led learning.
- ★ Direct access to their own large outdoor classroom all year-round.
- ★ A large and modern open-plan learning environment.
- ★ Strong parent relationships.



My child has settled in really well and is loving school. I think this has been assisted by the gradual start and all the information we were given so we could talk at home. We couldn't be happier with Willesley. New Starter parents 23/24



Our Curriculum

We believe that children deserve a curriculum that is rich in the experiences, knowledge and skills that builds on what they have learnt in EYFS.

At Willesley we offer :

- ★ A well-sequenced curriculum that allows children to build on prior knowledge.
- ★ The teaching of subject specific skills and knowledge to allow success in school and life.
- ★ Opportunities to learn inside and outside of the classroom.
- ★ A curriculum of diversity where differences are celebrated.
- ★ A curriculum where all children can achieve and be proud of themselves.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning Programme)

We are extremely proud of our new programme. Outdoor Play and Learning, where every child benefits from high-quality, adventurous and inclusive play during break times. OPAL helps improve physical health, creativity, teamwork and emotional wellbeing, making play a valued part of each school day.

[Read more, click here >>](#)



Reading

We value the importance of reading and believe that this is the key to future success as it unlocks all other subjects.

Our reading philosophy is 'Learn to Read...Read to Learn'

In EYFS and KS1 we 'Learn to Read' through:

- ★ Daily teaching of systematic phonics using Sounds Write
- ★ Exposure to quality texts in all curriculum areas
- ★ Carefully matched reading books to phonics
- ★ Promoting a love of reading
- ★ Encouraging a strong partnership between home and school

In KS2 we 'Read to Learn' through:

- ★ Exposure to high quality texts in all curriculum areas
- ★ Shared and guided reading
- ★ Using reading skills to learn more about children's own interest
- ★ Adult modelling of reading

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Enrichment

We value the importance of ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to learn through experiences that enhance and go beyond our curriculum. These enrichment opportunities enable children to use their imagination, challenge themselves and create memories. We have a consistent approach across the school; all pupils in every year group are offered the following enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

	Examples
A big trip	Visit the Warning Zone
A local trip	Visit to Ashby Castle
A cultural experience	Global Leicester Trip
A visitor in school	Vet/Emergency Services

In addition to these, we offer year group specific enrichment throughout the year. Examples of what these may include:

Kimbles Music + Movement	EYFS
Forest School	A 6-week block for all pupils in Y2 + Y4
Residentials	Y4 and Y6
Martial Arts	A 6-week block for all pupils in Y6

Pupils are invited to participate in a variety of extracurricular clubs as part of our enrichment offer. These change on a regular basis. An example of what this might include for a half term:

Y1	Multi-Sports
Y2	Music Club
Y3	Gardening Club
Y3/4	Basketball
Y5/6	Performing Arts
KS2	KraftyKidz



What Makes Us Unique

Sport

We are extremely proud of our excellent reputation for sport. We have won Primary School of the Year at the NW Leicestershire Sports Awards on several occasions, in recognition of our excellent attendance and engagement in sporting events. Our PE curriculum offers two hours of quality provision ranging from the learning of throwing and catching skills to outdoor and adventurous pursuits. Through our PE curriculum, our pupils also learn about perseverance and resilience and the benefits that sport brings to their physical and mental health. ME Sports coaches support our teaching and learning as well as offering a variety of high-quality sports clubs after school. We aim for every pupil to experience a sporting enrichment opportunity, each year.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning Programme)

Our new programme improves opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play. It is the result of 17 years testing and development in over 250 schools.

In 2018 OPAL won first prize in an EU funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe.

It is based on the idea that as well as learning through good teaching, children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.



What Makes Us Unique

School Grounds

Our unique location provides us with the best opportunity to explore what Ashby has to offer as well as benefitting from the wellbeing associated with the countryside.

We are fortunate to have a large outdoor space and newly appointed buildings, carefully designed to suit our pupils' learning and cognition. Year 6 have a dedicated, air-conditioned learning space in the tree tops building. We have a recently landscaped sensory garden overlooking the neighbouring fields, a dedicated outdoor play area for children in EYFS and a Garden of Dreams where children can use their imagination for play.

Music

We provide music lessons for a range of instruments, including piano, flute, clarinet, guitar, saxophone, and recorder. Our school has dedicated specialist tutors who conduct these lessons during the school day.

In Year 4, all pupils learn to play an instrument eg clarinet and our curriculum is challenging, engaging and offers plenty of opportunity to play instruments. Our school choir attends Young Voices on an annual basis and regularly performs at school events.

[Book an Open Day >>](#)



What Makes Us Unique

ELSA

At Willesley, we prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. We recognise that children of any age can experience wellbeing or mental health issues at any time and make it our aim to offer support as early as possible. We have a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) and a dedicated wellbeing room to support our pupils. We also have a senior children's mental health lead.

SEND

We have an experienced SENDCO whose role is to ensure that pupils with SEND have access to appropriate and targeted provision, to enable them to reach their full potential. We draw extensively on the expertise and support of external services and work in close partnership with parents. Our school environment and curriculum are carefully planned, taking into consideration the needs of all pupils.



An inclusive school.. where pupils with SEND are supported well.
Ofsted November 22

[Book an Open Day >>](#)



Our Wrap around Care

To support our families, we offer term time wrap around care.

Breakfast Club: 7.30-8.40

Our breakfast club is run by school staff and provides a calm and nurturing start to the school day. Children are provided with a healthy breakfast and a variety of activities to engage in.

After School Club: 3.15-6.00

ME Sports in the Community run our after-school club. They work in partnership with the school and reflect our high expectations. A variety of sport, crafts, games and activities are delivered with additional specific year group clubs being offered alongside and in addition to the club.

[Read more, click here >>](#)



Our Commitment to You

Children achieve their best when school and families have close working relationships. We are committed to establishing strong working partnerships with our parents and carers. We ensure that our communication channels are easily accessible to all through:

- ★ Reach More Parents – a simple online app
- ★ Year group emails
- ★ Open door policy
- ★ Half termly newsletters
- ★ Reading diaries
- ★ Weekly EYFS learning newsletters
- ★ Two formal parents evenings per year
- ★ End of year written reports
- ★ Friendly and approachable staff

[Book an Open Day >>](#)



Why Choose a Symphony Learning Trust School

The Trust is dedicated to upholding elevated standards and sparking the imaginations of young individuals.

In an ever-evolving world, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is resolute in delivering well-rounded, motivating, and captivating learning encounters for our students. Our core values of ambition, diligence, acceptance, and honesty serve as the foundation for this endeavour.

Symphony Learning Trust boasts a proven history of formulating and spearheading nationwide initiatives, along with highly effective inter-school support. We take pride in the influence we wield over student outcomes across our institutions, and our unwavering

commitment to enhancing standards and augmenting the calibre of education accessible to all our students.



@Symphony_LT



Symphony Learning Trust



symphony_learning_trust

[Learn more click here >>](#)

**12%
HIGHER**

Our children perform
12% higher than the national
average in reading, writing
and maths (SATs 2024)



Ashby Willesley Primary School

Packington Nook Lane
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 2QG



@Willesleyschool



Ashby Willesley Primary School



ashbywillesley_primary_school

www.ashbywillesley.org.uk

Tel: 01530 413654

Email: office@willesley.leics.sch.uk

2025 Open days

Do you have a child due to start school August 2026?

We invite you to our new starters parents and carers presentation evening on **Wednesday 17th September 6pm** and our open morning for children and their families on **Saturday 8th November 9am-10.30am**.

Meet our Headteacher, Mrs Dilks and other senior leaders to find out what we can offer your child and what makes our school successful and welcoming.

To book your place please call 01530 413654,
email reception@willesley.leics.sch.uk or
book online form.

[Email Willesley >>](#)

[Book online >>](#)

How to apply

For applications to our Reception class you must apply through Leicestershire County Council. Applications for entry in Autumn 2026 should be made by **15th January 2026. Applications are welcome from families who live in and out of our catchment area.**

[Apply now >>](#)

We have a few places available in different year groups. Please contact the school to see if we can accommodate your child.

[Contact Willesley >>](#)

The Symphony Learning Trust and Ashby Willesley Primary School is committed to safeguarding and safer recruitment. We are committed to promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.