



Parson Street Primary

Prospectus 2025–2026





Our Mission

"Empowering all to create opportunities for lifelong learners in our communities"

A Very Warm Welcome to Parson Street Primary School...

It is a privilege to be leading the school as Headteacher. Having worked here for the past four years, I have seen first-hand the strength of our community and the positive impact of our shared commitment to improvement. I am proud to have been part of our journey to 'Good', and I am looking forward to building on this strong foundation as we move into the next stage of our development.

Parson Street is a school with a distinctive character. We are proud of our high expectations—both of ourselves and of our pupils. We make no apology for setting ambitious standards, and we are deeply committed to ensuring every child is supported to achieve their very best. Our curriculum is carefully designed to provide a broad and balanced education that gives all children access to opportunity, regardless of their background or starting point.

At the same time, we are a highly inclusive school. We value and celebrate difference and strive to ensure that every child feels a strong sense of belonging. The school has a warm, purposeful atmosphere, and many visitors comment on the calm, respectful environment that underpins daily life here. Relationships are at the heart of our approach—between staff and pupils, with families, and across the wider community.

Our 'learning gems' play a central role in shaping the attitudes and behaviours that help children become effective, reflective learners. These values are embedded throughout the school and support pupils in developing the confidence, independence and resilience needed to succeed, not just academically, but in life beyond school.

As part of the Trust in Learning (Academies) group, we benefit from a wider network of professional expertise and collaborative working. This enables us to continually reflect on and improve our practice, while remaining firmly rooted in the community we serve.

Thank you for your interest in our school. I would be delighted to welcome you to see Parson Street in action. Whether you're a prospective parent or simply curious, I encourage you to visit us and experience the atmosphere for yourself. We would love the opportunity to show you first-hand what makes Parson Street such a special place to learn and to grow.

Mrs Gemma James
Headteacher





Vision and Values

At Parson Street, our vision is to ensure that every pupil is **next stage ready**—prepared not only for the academic demands of their future education, but equipped with the personal and social skills needed to thrive in life. We are uncompromising in our ambition for all children, regardless of their starting points. Through high-quality teaching, a carefully structured curriculum, and tailored support, we move every child forward.

Our commitment extends beyond academic progress: we develop confident, resilient and compassionate individuals with a strong sense of **identity and purpose**. As a vibrant and inclusive school community, we pride ourselves on being a **beacon of support** for families and the wider neighbourhood. Our approach is relational and rooted in genuine care—every child is known, understood and valued. Teachers work closely with families to understand each pupil's individual needs and barriers to learning, ensuring that support is both personal and effective.

We celebrate **diversity**, foster a strong sense of **belonging**, and actively promote **inclusion** in all aspects of school life. Parson Street feels like a family—welcoming, nurturing and **ambitious for every child's future**.



Emerald Power

Emotional resilience and bounce-back-ability.



Topaz Power

The power of your voice and speaking well.



Ruby Power

Kindness and respect.



Amethyst Power

Teamwork, co-operation and collaboration.



Diamond Power

Problem solving and independence.



Opal Power

Citizenship and responsibility.



Pearl Power

Connections and links in learning.



Sapphire Power

Focusing and ignoring monster distractions.



Grit Power

Practise and perseverance.

Successful Learners

At Parson Street, we believe that **learning how to learn is just as important as what is learned**. Our Successful Learners strategy is a whole-school, metacognitive approach that explicitly teaches **behaviour for learning**. Through this, children develop a deep understanding of the attitudes, habits and strategies that lead to success—not only in the classroom, but in life. Central to this approach is a **shared language** around learning behaviours, which is used consistently across the school to help pupils reflect on how they learn, not just what they learn.

Our nine Learning Gems—including perseverance, emotional resilience, collaboration, independence and focus—are powerful tools that children use to understand and navigate their learning journeys. Pupils take real pride in demonstrating these behaviours and love being rewarded with gems that recognise their **effort and growth**. These skills are not only essential for academic achievement; they are life skills—equipping children with the confidence, self-awareness and adaptability they will need in the wider world. Visitors regularly comment on the exceptional maturity with which our children speak about their learning powers and the clarity with which they can explain how these help them progress. It's this foundation that makes our learners both **self-aware and future-ready**.



Early Years

At Parson Street, we believe every child is full of potential and we recognise them as individuals, encouraging **confidence, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.**

We create a nurturing, joyful and supportive environment where children feel safe, valued and inspired to learn. **Our high-quality teaching and rich learning experiences** inspire curiosity and confidence.

We place great value on **learning through play**, encouraging children to explore ideas, solve problems independently, and express themselves as imaginative, creative thinkers.

Building positive relationships with our children and their families underpins everything we do and ensures everyone feels a sense of **belonging** at Parson Street.

We know that when we get it right in the Early Years we give children the **best start** in their education and personal journey through primary school.



Core Curriculum

Over the past few years, Parson Street has undergone a **significant curriculum transformation**—one that Ofsted recently recognised as a key strength of the school. Our curriculum is **ambitious, carefully sequenced and deeply engaging**, designed to ensure that all pupils leave us with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need for the next stage of their education. It reflects our belief that children learn best when they are inspired, supported and challenged—and when their learning is **firmly rooted in meaningful contexts**.

In English, our writing curriculum is built around a **diverse and thought-provoking range of texts**, each chosen to spark imagination and drive purposeful writing outcomes. We enrich writing through a variety of **experiences** that build vocabulary, develop understanding and give children something real and meaningful to write about.

Our bespoke reading strategy, *Thinking Out Loud*, places **oracy** at the centre—embedding structured talk and discussion as tools for interpreting unseen texts, promoting deep comprehension and a **love of reading**.

In Maths, we develop strong **procedural fluency** as a foundation before explicitly teaching problem-solving and reasoning, ensuring pupils can not only answer questions, but explain and **justify their thinking**.



Wider Curriculum

Across the wider curriculum, we take an **enquiry-led approach**, with broad and rigorous units in History, Geography and Science that encourage children to ask questions, explore big ideas and deepen their understanding of the world around them. These enquiries are rooted in a strong sense of place—anchored in our **local context of Bristol**—while also **expanding children's horizons** to include national and global perspectives. Through this, we explicitly teach a sense of identity and belonging, helping pupils to understand their own context, heritage and community, as well as their place within the wider world.

We aim to **nurture thoughtful, informed and responsible citizens**, and our curriculum gives children the opportunity to explore real-world issues such as sustainability, equality and social justice—**building the knowledge, empathy and sense of responsibility** they will need to make a positive impact in their futures.

None of this would be possible without the passion and expertise of our teachers, whose commitment to exceptional teaching, closing gaps and bringing learning to life ensures that every child is given the best possible chance to succeed.



Personal Development

Providing the children with essential life skills and knowledge is something we value highly. We work with a range of external agencies to provide workshops, **visits and assemblies** which enhance our bespoke PSHE curriculum. We provide a range of **pupil leadership opportunities**, encouraging children to find their voice as a School Councillor or Opal Ambassador.

Our Opal power teaches the children the value of **community**, and we engage with a range of local agencies and organisations throughout the year. These range from the Bristol Robins sport foundation to local care homes and charities. We celebrate our diverse school community in our annual Family Food Festival, **inviting families to come and share** food from their culture.

We also develop children's love of expressive arts and provide opportunities to come together and share these experiences. We use **expert local providers**, such as the Bristol Beacon Earthsong music project to provide high-quality, specialist teaching across the school and take part in events such as the Stages dance performances and TiLA Speak Out oracy competition. We are also the only Primary School in Bristol to benefit from having **our very own swimming pool!**



Personal Development

The below list gives you a flavour of some of the opportunities our pupils have throughout the year:

- **School trips** to the local area: library, outdoor space, care homes
- School trips further afield: Bristol zoo project, the SS Great Britain, Tyntesfield, Brean, KS2 camp, City Hall
- **Sporting** competitions: football, rugby, cricket, swimming
- Swimming lessons each year in our very own **school pool**.
- **Dance sessions:** specialise dance PE sessions, Stages competition and in-school dance club
- **Theatre performances** at the Tobacco factory
- **Musical performances and music lessons** at Bristol Beacon with the Earthsong Project and Carol concerts at local churches.
- **PSHE workshops** from experts; Nextlink, Papaya, NSPCC
- **Curriculum visitors:** local authors, Science workshops, Fairtrade farmers
- **Family celebrations** in school: Food Festival, Winter Party, Summer Festival
- **Charity fundraising** throughout the year: Red Nose day, Children in Need or local causes
- **Pupil leadership** opportunities as Opal Ambassadors or School Councillors

We also offer a range of afterschool club activities throughout the year that are **completely free**, such as Lego club, Green Team and Running Club.

If you need wrap around care for your children, then we also have a service called **'The Nest'** which can provide breakfast and afterschool care.



A school for the community

At Parson Street, community is at the heart of everything we do. As you walk through our doors, you're greeted by the words: **"One world, one community, one Parson Street"**—a reflection of our commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive environment for every child and family.

We're proud to celebrate the **rich cultural diversity** of our school through vibrant events that bring everyone together. Our annual Family Food Festival is just one example—where families share dishes from around the world in a joyful celebration of **unity, heritage and togetherness**.

Parson Street has been recognised as a **School of Sanctuary**, celebrating our support for families seeking refuge and asylum. This recognition also reflects our dedication to **nurturing empathy and kindness** through an inclusive curriculum that prepares children to be **compassionate, thoughtful citizens of the world**.

Here at Parson Street, we have an active PTA who put on **fun events** for the school community as well as raising money for the school. In recent years we have ran **discos, Christmas Fairs, cake stalls and blue light events** with the local emergency services. We have helped fund the Yr6 leavers **photo books, class Christmas presents, reading spine books** and membership of Children's Scrap store for the school.



Our Team

At Parson Street, our team is the **heartbeat of the school**. From our dedicated teachers to our brilliant support staff, every adult plays a vital role in creating a nurturing, inspiring environment where **children thrive**. Our staff go above and beyond every day—not just to teach, but to listen, encourage, and care. We work together with families and the wider community to ensure **every child feels seen, valued, and supported**. It's this passion and commitment that makes Parson Street such a **special place to learn and grow**.

Meet the Team:







Thank you for your interest in our school. We encourage you to visit and experience for yourself what makes Parson Street such a special place to learn and to grow.

To book a tour, please phone us on
0117 903 0226
or visit our website to see the dates of our
open days.

- The Parson Street Team



Our Location

You can find us on the corner of Bedminster Road and Parson Street.
There are many transport links; we are right next to a train station,
main bus routes, cycle paths and foot paths.

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Trust in Learning
Trust in Success