

Brindishe

Lee



Dear parents, carers, friends

Welcome to Brindishe Lee – part of Brindishe Schools. We belong to the local authority of Lewisham. We work in a formal partnership with Brindishe Green and Brindishe Manor Schools. Staff and governors work together and harness each other's strengths and expertise to provide the best education we can for all of our children.

Our children, staff and governors offer a very warm welcome to you and your family. This booklet aims to tell you about life at Brindishe Lee School, what we stand for and what we want for the children in our community.

For us school is about learning. That may sound simple – but for us it is the essential belief behind all that we do. We want children to enjoy learning, to be successful learners and to make learning something they want to go on doing throughout their lives. We see learning as the key to success and being able to make choices and decisions with one's own life. At Brindishe Lee this message about learning is the gift we will give to every child.

We know that children learn at home and at school; they learn in many different ways and from many different people. They learn most when they feel welcome, valued, understood and when they feel a sense of purpose and belonging. These are the principles, which will underpin and support all that we do at Brindishe Lee.

Partnerships and collaboration are very important to us. We want to make a strong partnership with you as parents, carers and colleagues so that we can provide children with strong support and clear guidelines for success.

We welcome you to our school to see for yourself how we are learning and working together. Call our school office or look at our website for details of our next open days. We will be delighted to show you around.

Best wishes

Diane Spalding

Headteacher

Brindishe Lee School

Dame Vicki Paterson DBE

Executive Head

Brindishe Schools

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about our school

We expect and work towards high achievement from all pupils.

Our values

Children, families and staff at Brindishe Schools are drawn from a rich variety of social backgrounds, family structures, ethnic groups and religions.

We value the right of each person to respect, courtesy and the recognition of individual differences. We work actively to ensure that all adults and children are given every opportunity to achieve, to recognise their own worth and to play an important part in our community.

We expect and work towards high achievement from all pupils. Each child's contribution to the classroom and school is welcomed and valued. We make sure that they have the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability and to raise their individual academic achievement.

Education at Brindishe Lee is designed to benefit all of our children and to celebrate the rich, cultural diversity of Lewisham's local community.

Your support in achieving these aims is appreciated.

Our school

Brindishe Lee is a community school where learning together is seen as a very important part of the education that we offer. The school building is open plan, which means the way we organise teaching and learning is different from traditionally designed schools. Each year group of children or class has its own classroom. Each class also has a shared area outside the room, has access to

smaller rooms and also use of our outdoor learning areas. Children will use different spaces in the school depending on the curriculum area or the type of learning in which they are involved. They are not always limited to one classroom under the direct supervision of their teacher. You might imagine this creates a lot of noise. In fact it doesn't – Brindishe Lee is a very quiet and calm school. Children learn in a calm and considerate way and behave responsibly.

Being part of an open-plan school encourages a feeling of commitment and belonging in our children. They are encouraged to see themselves as part of the whole school, they get to know all members of staff and all members of staff know them. Teaching and support staff work closely together sharing responsibility for making a very organised and educationally stimulating environment, ensuring that resources are well looked after and available. They also help all children to behave well and become successful learners.

Although Brindishe Lee has a very informal feel, structure and organisation are important to us and we have clear procedures and policies for every aspect of school life. These are carefully applied to ensure that Brindishe Lee children achieve high standards, are well supported in their learning and develop a strong sense of community and good citizenship.

Behaviour and relationships throughout the school are very good.

Our children

Our children range in age from 4 to 11 years. They are from a very diverse range of social, ethnic, religious, faith and cultural backgrounds. In terms of academic ability about a quarter of our children will need additional support to help them achieve the standard of which they are capable. About a quarter of our children will be in the highest range of ability.

Brindishe Lee can cater for all of these needs and differences because it offers extra support, a differentiated curriculum and very flexible teaching and learning resources.

The behaviour and relationships throughout the school are extremely good and we are very successful in developing in children a strong sense of self-discipline and shared responsibility. It is a strength of the school that we can concentrate our efforts on teaching and learning. We believe good teaching, boosting children's self-esteem, giving children responsibility and respect and a calm, praising atmosphere enable us to make sure that disruptive or challenging behaviour is rarely seen within this school.

Our staff

There is an executive head who has overall responsibility for Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Green and Brindishe Manor Schools. Each school also has a headteacher who is responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management and at Brindishe Lee, we have a deputy headteacher.

There is the equivalent of a full time teacher for every class but most classes have two teachers who work part of the week each and share responsibility for the class. We work this way because we believe it enables children to benefit from a wider range of expertise and experience. All teachers have time 'out of the classroom'. This is known as PPA time (time for planning, preparation and assessment). It is used to prepare plans and resources, to assess children's learning, attend training and to support curriculum and staff development. Our teachers are highly qualified and are often asked to support or advise teachers from other schools. When one of our class teachers is out of class, we are usually able to ask one of our own or 'in-house' teachers to work with the class. This means that the children are taught by someone who knows them and the way things work at Brindishe Lee.

We have a number of Teaching Assistants in school to support children with their learning. They are usually attached to a particular class and work alongside the class teacher. They may be supporting individual children or they may work with groups of children and provide general help in classrooms and around the school. Teaching Assistants are seen as equal members of staff, receive training and are consulted in all matters of school policy and practice. Some are training to become fully qualified teachers themselves. We also work with a range of specialist teachers and coaches who offer expertise in specific areas of the curriculum, for example, sport and music.

Our administrative staff in the school office deal with a broad range of tasks including supporting admissions to the school, managing the wide range of clubs and extra-curricular activities we offer children, administering children's lunchtime arrangements and dealing with all financial matters.

The school also has a school business manager who administers the school budget and ensures that we follow local and national audit requirements.

We have a housekeeper who provides practical support to staff, helps with children's safety, provides first aid and is also responsible for supporting the maintenance of the learning environment. Our premises officer is responsible for the upkeep, safety and security of the school building, site and grounds, and, of course, its users!

A team of midday supervisors/lunchtime playleaders is responsible for ensuring the safety and well being of children at lunchtime in conjunction with the headteacher and deputy headteacher.

Brindishe Lee staff work together as a team. We encourage team planning and teaching and shared responsibility. The teaching staff are able to teach and work with children of all ages and share in developing areas of the curriculum and school policy. This means that all staff will get to know, and probably teach, your child at some stage of their primary school career.

Staff at the Brindishe schools share ideas, expertise and resources. They plan inter-school projects and support each other's professional development. They are professional partners.

Brindishe schools' governing body

There is a joint governing body for Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Green and Brindishe Manor Schools.

Our governing body is led by a very experienced and well-established chair of governors.

Our governing body includes:

- a governor appointed by Lewisham Council
- the executive head
- a staff governor
- community or co-opted governors
- parent governors

Parent governors are elected to serve on the governing body by the parents of each school and normally serve for four years.

Our staff governor is elected by the staff of the three schools and normally serves for four years.

Co-opted governors are invited onto the governing body, by the governing body, to add areas of expertise and to represent the local community.

The governing body is responsible for many important decisions in the running of the schools. These include:

- appointing both the executive head and headteachers and the teaching staff
- agreeing the aims of the school curriculum and ensuring the national curriculum is implemented
- determining how the school's budget is to be used each year
- deciding how sex and relationships education and religious education should be taught in the school
- producing the school prospectus
- deciding what charges should be made for activities outside normal school hours
- dealing with official complaints and exclusions

The governors keep in regular contact with parents through newsletters and by visiting the school and attending school functions and events.

A full list of governors is available from the school office. You can contact the governing body by writing to the chair of governors via the school office.

Our parent governors are pleased to hear about views and ideas and can also be contacted via the school office or the website.

Full governing body meetings are held once a term in the evening. The agenda for the meeting includes items from the local authority, directives and initiatives from the Government and school-based matters. Parents and carers are welcome to attend our governing body meetings as observers.

The dates of full governing body meetings and information about the work of the governing body are published in the weekly newsletter. Minutes of the meetings are available for public inspection.

Involving parents and carers

At Brindishe Lee we try to build a strong partnership between staff and parents and carers because we know this is important in helping children to achieve and to enjoy learning.

We aim to keep you well informed about the school and your child's education.

How do we do this?

Class newsletters

At the start of every half term your child's teacher will send home information about the learning planned for the class. Every week you will also receive a class newsletter to explain what the children have been learning that week and to suggest how you support their learning at home.

Parent/Teacher meetings

In the autumn term parents and carers will be invited to make an appointment to meet the teacher who will be taking your child for the year. No work will be available at this meeting as it is very early in the term. During this first meeting each year we also carry out a data check to make sure we have the most up to date information about your child.

We will also discuss and agree targets (or next steps) for your child's learning.

Parents' meeting

Mid-way through the school year, there will be invitations for all parents and carers to come into school to discuss their child's progress and set targets for the rest of the academic year. Your child's work will be available for you to see and discuss with their teacher.

End of year summary

In July your child will bring home their end of year report. Parents and carers can make an appointment to discuss the report with their child's teacher if they wish. Parents and carers' written responses to the report forms part of their child's records.

Curriculum evenings and open learning days

These are occasions when parents and carers come into school to find out about children's learning and how they're being taught at Brindishe Lee. For example, we have held sessions on maths, literacy, computing and e-safety. Sometimes a guest speaker will be invited and sometimes children and staff give demonstration lessons or illustrated talks. These opportunities provide staff and parents and carers time to share ideas and information on important education issues.

Consultation

As school policies are being developed parents and carers are formally invited to

give their views particularly on draft and final policy documents.

Each year parents and carers are asked to consider and review our school development plan and to make suggestions about future targets and areas for development.

Sometimes a policy is not subject to consultation at school level and parents and carers are then informed of how to make their views known at local and national government level. This would apply, for example, to the Local Authority's admissions policy and government regulations and requirements.

Copies of school policy documents are freely available from the school office.

Talking to the teacher or a member of staff

If we have any concerns about your child's progress, happiness and well-being or behaviour the teacher will contact you straight away to discuss this with you.

If you have any concerns that you want to discuss with us then please contact us or come and see us as soon as possible. If you want to talk to a member of staff, then it is a good idea to telephone, send a note or email to request a mutually convenient time. The most difficult time for teachers to talk to parents and carers is at the beginning of the school day. It is important for teachers to give their attention to welcoming and settling in all the children in the class, so please try to help us by leaving discussions until the end of the day.

You are very welcome to come into the classroom after school to see your child's work.

If you cannot come to school, or do not want to arrange an appointment, you can write, email or telephone us instead.

Parents with a serious worry or complaint should arrange to talk this over with the deputy or headteacher. We hope that most problems or worries can be sorted out in this way. If you do not feel that the discussion has resolved the difficulty then you can make a formal complaint. There is a formal procedure for making serious complaints and copies of the procedure are available from the school office.

Home-school contract

You will need to sign a home-school agreement when your child starts at Brindishe Lee. This contract sets out what we can all expect of each other in order that children are well supported in their learning both in and out of school.

How can parents and carers get involved at Brindishe?

There are many ways in which parents and carers can support the work of the school. Most importantly you really help us when you support your child in coming to school on time and ready to learn each day. You help when you discuss with your child the work that they are involved in and when you follow it up at home. Research shows that children learn more successfully when their parents and carers are interested in what they learn at school.

We realise that children are not always able or willing to tell you what they have been doing at school each day. You can

find out more by asking the class teacher or the headteacher for any of the following documents:

- a copy of your child's weekly timetable
- a copy of your child's class teacher's termly plans
- more information about what learning is planned for the class – and your child

You are very welcome to come into the classroom after school to see your child's work. We have an 'open-door' session every Monday from 3.30-4.00pm. There is always lots of learning that you can do at home to help children – reading to them, hearing them read, discussing books, taking them to the local library, helping them to learn their tables, to understand money and change, tell the time and by playing educational games such as Scrabble or encouraging them to use internet sites such as: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Helping in school

We welcome parental help in school but we ask that you commit yourself to a regular time slot so that we can plan for and rely upon your coming. Parents and carers help in classrooms in many ways including reading with children, working with them on their writing or providing extra adult support. You may also be able to share a special interest or skill with them – pottery, computing, sewing or sports coaching, for example.

Please let us know if you would like to apply to help us. Under safer recruitment and safeguarding procedures all adults

who work in school are subject to full police and Disclosure and Barring checks. We can organise this for you.

Outings and educational visits

When we take children out of school on an educational visit we need to increase the number of adults going with them. If you can come along when a class is going on an outing, please let the class teacher or school office know. Please note that if you are going along as a named and counted volunteer helper for the visit you can not also bring along your baby or toddler.

Parent association

Our home school association is called FAB (Friends at Brindishe Lee).

There are two main aims of FAB:

- to raise funds to benefit Brindishe Lee children
- to make friends and contacts with other members of our school community

Meetings are held regularly. Notice of the times and dates of meetings, plus information about events, are in the Friday newsletter. If you have any ideas or offers of help but cannot come to meetings, please leave a note with the office staff who will pass it to a FAB representative.

Learning at Brindishe Lee

Brindishe Lee does not select according to ability and therefore the children within each class will be of mixed ability.

We recognise that children are better or more confident in some areas or subjects than others and they learn and develop at their own pace and in their own way and so we use a mixture of teaching methods and plan opportunities to cater for different learning styles. This way we ensure that all children are able to succeed. We always look for creative ways to introduce and link areas of learning.

We have an Achievement policy at Brindishe Lee. If you would like to read this please ask for a copy at the school office.

The curriculum

First of all what is a 'curriculum'?

The curriculum includes the subjects which children study, the content of those individual subjects, how they are taught (there are several different approaches, for example, to the teaching of reading), how they relate to each other (or how they are integrated) and lastly, how teachers organise children's learning over a half term, a term and the whole school year.

We aim to provide for the full academic, personal and social development of each pupil, and to encourage pupils to work and think independently and to make decisions within a moral code.

The curriculum at Brindishe Lee is designed to develop in all pupils:

- high standards of literacy, mathematics and computing capability

- the ability to discover facts accurately and use them critically
- the ability to identify and solve problems creatively, as individuals and in co-operation with others
- the ability to express themselves through the arts and to appreciate the art and creativity of others
- the ability to work well with others showing social skills of co-operation and leadership, mutual respect, understanding and support
- the motivation and ability to build on strengths and to learn from mistakes
- an understanding of the local, wider and global communities

Subjects are often drawn together or integrated so that children will use several in their study of one particular area or theme. We therefore combine these times to produce a more cohesive and linked curriculum for our children.

Reception

In reception class the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This is organised into seven areas of learning. There are 3 prime areas- communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and four specific areas – literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

Each of these areas has its own learning goals. By the end of Reception, most children should have made significant progress towards achieving these goals.



The curriculum for Years 1 to 6

In years 1 to 6 we follow the national curriculum. Our curriculum includes: English, Maths, computing, science, and design and technology, music, art, RE (religious education), history, geography, PHSME (personal, social, health and moral education) and PE (physical education) including dance. We also teach a modern foreign language, Spanish. These subjects are combined into six key areas of learning, as shown to the left.

Spiritual understanding

Learning in RE (Religious education) or as we prefer to call it 'spiritual understanding', is based on the locally agreed syllabus. This ensures that children learn about the six major religions of Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism.

We take care not to indoctrinate children in any way and views on all religious matters are expressed in a balanced way. Our emphasis is on giving children a framework of moral understanding as well as knowledge of religious beliefs and practices to enable them to become caring members of society and form their own religious views.

Spiritual understanding is sometimes taught as a separate subject and sometimes as part of a theme. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons and from daily acts of collective worship. Please discuss with the headteacher if you wish to withdraw your child.

Physical well-being, health and lifestyles

This area includes health education, promoting good behaviour and developing children's awareness of themselves and others in the community. Learning is often incidental but always essential. It involves children learning to keep themselves fit and healthy and develop a set of values and beliefs, including respect for themselves, for others and for the environment.

We include drug and substance abuse education, aimed at encouraging children to recognise the dangers of drugs and alcohol and how to assert themselves against negative influences and pressures. We teach children how to recognise and avoid addictive or harmful substances and how to keep themselves fit, safe and healthy.

In Brindishe Lee the children use technology to support their learning, including to access the internet. We teach our children how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and mobile phones.

We will also develop children's knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities and how to make a positive contribution to their community. They will learn about democracy and how local and national government works.

We take time to develop children's ability to listen to others, to express their views, and to discuss and debate current ideas and issues.

Sex and relationships education

Schools are able to decide whether or not to teach sex education and we include sex education as part of our curriculum. Before a class studies sex and relationships education formally parents are informed and are invited to view the materials, which will be used by a class. At other times if children ask teachers questions relating to sex or sexuality, it is our policy to answer their questions honestly and with regard for our equality policies. We will always try to inform you about the kind of questions your child is asking so that you may also respond to them.

Parents and carers are entitled to withdraw their child from formal sex and relationships education if they so wish, but we cannot withdraw a child from playground chatter, so we do hope that as many children as possible are able to take part in the lessons. We have a published policy for sex and relationships education. Please ask if you would like a copy.

School journey

In years 5 and 6 children take part in a residential school journey to support areas of learning such as geography and outdoor pursuits.

Assemblies

Assemblies happen daily and reflect the multi-cultural, multi-faith community of Brindishe Lee. Assemblies are broadly Christian in principle, exploring themes such as friendship, perseverance and

tolerance. We learn about famous people through stories and traditions from around the world. In our assemblies we celebrate the achievements of those within our community and our wider community. Each week we have a special assembly in which we praise children and share our learning, achievement and successes.

Extra-curricular activities, clubs, tuition and enrichment

As well as the learning that we organise during the day we also offer a range of out-of-school and after-school clubs and activities. These are offered to different age groups at different times throughout the year. They include such areas as basketball, dance, choir, hockey, tennis, multi-sports and French. We also offer extra opportunities such as computing for very able children and booster classes for year 6 children. We offer instrumental tuition during the school day, at lunchtimes and after school. Children can learn to play an instrument such as violin or clarinet. Many clubs are free. There is a small charge for instrumental tuition and specialist sports coaching.

Additional educational needs

Brindishe Lee School operates a policy of equality of opportunity and equality of access and inclusion. We operate the Local Authority's admission criteria and special needs policy under which provision is made to ensure that all children wherever possible are enabled to

take a full and active part in a school which is able to meet the child's needs and which supports parental preference.

We recognise that many children have special or additional needs, that these may be short or long term and that there is a wide definition of the term 'special needs'. In Brindishe Lee we use the term 'children who need additional support'.

In meeting children's needs the school follows a nationally and locally described guidelines.

If, after discussion with parents and carers, a child is considered to require more specific or urgent help, the school can refer to various support services, which are organised through the Local Authority.

Some 25% of our children are of the highest ability and may well have special gifts and talents. This may include a gift for maths or language or be a talent in sport or music for example.

We plan a differentiated curriculum so that these gifts, talents and strengths are nurtured. We work closely with local primary and secondary schools so that our more able and talented children can work with their peers and can access specialist teaching and coaching opportunities.

Arrangements for pupils with disabilities

We uphold children's right to education and recognise the diverse educational needs within our community. We know

Children are encouraged to respond to and evaluate their own and others' learning.

needs may change and require a range of provision. We have a duty to offer that provision where we can, to foster inclusion and provide full educational access. (Our website has more details.)

Some children need increased support to access learning because:

- a they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;
- b they have a disability as defined under the Equality Act, which affects their ability to access and benefit from the educational opportunities generally enjoyed by children of the same age.

We will try to ensure that all barriers to equal access in our school are removed or overcome. We monitor and track progress of all children so that the support provided is as effective as possible. We welcome the full engagement of parents and carers and where necessary seek support and advice from specialists outside school to ensure we develop and maintain a range of flexible resources to meet the needs of all children.

Provision made for children with disabilities at Brindishe Lee includes:

- experienced teaching and support staff
- additional adult support
- differentiated teaching and learning
- specific learning resources and materials
- minor building adaptations and design

Parents and carers with a child who has a disability or special needs should in the first instance apply to the school using the standard Lewisham Council form called Children and Young People's Services Application for Admission to Primary School. Please include information about your child's needs. If possible the application form should be accompanied by professional documents.

Monitoring children's progress

Teachers keep records of the progress of each child and their levels of achievement.

On entry and at the end of reception class, children are assessed in seven main areas of learning.

Teachers assess children's learning in a number of ways: through observation, discussion, questioning, assessing children's written work and through formal testing. Children are encouraged to respond to and evaluate their own and others' learning.

At the end of each year you will be given a report on the progress your child has made. There will also be comments on general attitude, attendance and behaviour within school.

Attendance and punctuality

Parents have a legal responsibility to make sure their child is in school every day and arrives on time. Children who arrive late miss the sense of belonging

Your child's well being, health and safety are very important to us.

that comes with being part of the routines at the start of the day. Children who are collected late are usually upset or disappointed so please try to be here on time at the end of the day.

If a child is absent please inform the school on the first day of absence. You will be asked to give a reason for their absence. We consider absences to be authorised if your child is sick. However absences for reasons such as birthdays or shopping trips will be recorded as unauthorised. The school keeps a record of absences and these are included in your child's report. Unauthorised absence and persistent lateness will be reported to the Local Authority's Attendance and Welfare Officer for their intervention and support.

In accordance with government guidelines parents should not organise holidays or any other unauthorised absence during term time, as it disrupts your child's learning. Children attend school for only 190 days a year and the rest of the year is available for holidays. In very exceptional circumstances the headteacher may authorise a limited absence. Parents should request this in writing explaining why the absence can only take place in term time.

Under current legislation parent/carers found guilty of taking their child on unauthorised holiday or other unauthorised absence in term time could be subject to a fixed term penalty fee.

Medical matters

Qualified first-aiders in school will treat minor accidents. In more serious cases we will call an ambulance and a member of staff will accompany your child to the hospital. In such situations we will inform you immediately.

It is important that the school has a contact number for parents or carers in case we need to contact you. We ask that you inform the school of changes to your address as well as changes to your home and mobile phone numbers. If you can provide the number of an alternative adult for contacting in an emergency, please give the details to the school office.

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please contact the school office to ensure we are able to accept the responsibility. You will need to complete an administering medicine request and instruction form. Without this, school staff cannot administer any kind of medication to your child.

Children who use an asthma inhaler are expected to be able to administer it themselves with supervision. Inhalers will be kept in the medical room and need to be clearly labelled with the child's name. Parents should make sure that inhalers are in date and still have medication left in them. Please check your child's inhaler regularly.

Your child's well being, health and safety are very important to us. You can help us by keeping us well informed about your child's needs.

**your
questions**

What is a typical school day?

School begins at 9.15 am and ends at 3.30 pm every day.

Reception

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Reception children learn through play and focused adult led activities. They will spend an equal amount of time learning outside as well as inside the classroom.

Years 1 to 6

The school day may vary according to your child's age and events in school. This is a typical day for a child in years 1 to 6.

The day begins with registration. Music may be playing as children enter the classroom, to set mood or tone. The teacher will introduce the programme for or 'shape' of the day. The learning will be organised in sessions, which may focus on a particular area of learning such as literacy or may be cross-curricular such as history and art. The teacher will make sure that all children understand each activity and during the day will discuss the key areas to be learned and what might be achieved.

During the morning, children will usually attend an assembly or a whole school singing session. After a 15-minute playtime, they will move onto a new area of learning, sometimes in the same group, sometimes with a new group of children. They usually learn alongside children of the same age range, but we also encourage cross age activities as we

know children learn so much from each other. After a lunch break with time in the play area, learning continues in the afternoon.

Will my child get home learning?

In Brindishe Lee we see home learning as a way of further developing the partnership between home and school. We encourage children to take responsibility for their learning both in and out of school. Class teachers send out information about what children are learning in class on a regular basis together with suggestions for home learning.

How do you encourage good relationships between children?

In Brindishe Lee we place great emphasis on self-discipline and praise. We encourage children to understand why certain kinds of behaviour are much more acceptable than others, and we encourage self-respect, respect for other people and our environment. We also encourage parents and carers to work with us to support children's good behaviour so that home and school are consistent in what they expect of each child.

So how do you deal with bullying?

Bullying is not tolerated in Brindishe Lee. We have a strong anti-bullying policy,

which is part of our Good Relationships, and Behaviour policy. We have a number of ways of ensuring that children are able to report problems of bullying and of making sure children know we will take action. We always respond to reports of bullying and we work in partnership with parents to make sure Brindishe Lee is a bully-free zone.

Please ask for a copy of our policy at the school office.

Why is there no uniform at Brindishe Lee?

We have discussed the issue of school uniform many times and each time children have, by a huge majority, said they do not want one. In Brindishe Lee we nurture children's individuality and respect difference, which goes against the idea of uniformity.

Certain types of clothing and footwear are not permitted in school; these include vests, sleeveless tops and tops that expose the child's middle or very short shorts. Shoes such as crocs, backless shoes and sandals or high heels are not permitted as they present a risk to the safety of pupils.

Jewellery should not be worn, except for small stud earrings and watches. Religious items such as a crucifix or Sikh bangle may be worn but all jewellery has to be removed by the child for PE.

We ask that children bring a change of clothes for PE. Shorts and a T-shirt are acceptable clothing. Tracksuits may be

worn for outdoor PE lessons in colder weather. Each child should bring a pair of socks and plimsolls or trainers with them. Please put your child's PE kit in a bag clearly marked with their name. Brindishe Lee bags are available to buy from the office.

It is unfortunate that sometimes losses occur within school. We take every effort to find missing items. You can help us by labelling all items of clothing and footwear.

What happens at lunchtime?

Children stay for a school meal or bring a packed lunch. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to have a free school lunch and we encourage them to do so.

Our school dinners are cooked on the premises. A three week menu is displayed in school and a copy is sent home. We provide a choice of meals and a vegetarian option is always available. Payment for dinners should be sent to school on Mondays only please, in an envelope clearly marked with the amount, your child's name and class. Cheques should be made payable to Brindishe Lee School. Parents/carers can also pay online using Parent Pay. Please access the information from the office or website – look under 'money matters'.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please make enquiries at the school office.

Schools are able to claim a Pupil Premium (over £1000) per child on free school meals to make sure each school's budget matches its community's needs. Families eligible for free school meals or Pupil Premium may also be offered reduced rates for extras such as clubs, educational visits and school journeys.

You may prefer for your child to bring a packed lunch. We teach and encourage children to eat healthily and this is followed up in the dinner hall. We ask that parents and carers support the school by providing healthy packed lunches. We ask that you don't send in sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks, glass bottles or cans. Children are encouraged to only drink water in school.

Children in reception class have access to their own outdoor play area throughout the day. They play separately from the rest of the school, although they do join them, from time to time, accompanied by their teacher, or teaching assistant.

At playtime, the rest of the children go outside to the play areas and, in fine weather, onto the grassed area known as the 'mound'. If it is raining children stay in the classrooms and are encouraged to read, draw or play board games.

If your child has a medical condition which prevents them going out to play, they can stay in the medical room or the office. Please ask the class teacher or headteacher if you think your child needs to stay in at playtime so that supervision may be arranged.

During very cold or very hot weather children may be brought in early from lunchtime play. They will either play quietly in their classrooms or watch a film.

Children aged 4 to 7 years are offered a piece of fresh fruit every morning playtime. This is part of a government-sponsored scheme. Children in years 3 to 6 may bring their own fruit to eat at playtime.

As many children are allergic to nuts or nut products we request that you do not send into school nuts or nut products for your child, or any other child to eat.

How do you keep the school secure?

Once school has started each morning the gates are locked and entry to the school can only be obtained through a video-controlled entry system. The main entrance to the school building is again entry controlled. Visitors to the school must sign in at the school office and they will be issued with a visitor's badge. We do not allow free access to the classrooms or other areas of the school building without prior arrangement and the permission of the headteacher.

Children are not allowed to leave the school grounds during the day, unless they are collected by an adult. Parents and carers deliver children to and collect children from classrooms at the beginning and end of the school day. Although some children in Year 6 with

written permission from parents do walk to and from school by themselves, younger children may only be collected by a known adult. Children cannot be collected by an adult other than their known and named parent or carer without the school staff being informed in advance.

All staff employed at the school, plus voluntary helpers, including parents, are subject to rigorous vetting procedures including Disclosure and Barring checks. We have close links with the police and our local community and any concerns relating to safety and security are always reported and promptly acted upon.

If you would like further information, please ask to see a copy of our Safeguarding policy.

How do I apply for a place at Brindishe Lee?

There are a number of criteria for admission and this information is published in our Admissions policy available from the school office or website.

Reception and in year admissions

If you wish your child to join Brindishe Lee then a common application form must be completed. Application forms are available from: The Admissions Team, Laurence House, Catford or you can download a copy from the Lewisham Council website: www.lewisham.gov.uk

And finally...

We hope that this has given you the information that you need about our school.

If there are areas or aspects of the school about which you would like to know more please do ask. We welcome your interest, questions and comments. We look forward to meeting you and to working with you, to benefit all of the children at Brindishe schools. Welcome to our partnership.



Brindishe Lee School

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Diane Spalding

Headteacher

Dame Vicki Paterson DBE

Executive Head

Spyros Elia

Chair of Governors

In partnership with Brindishe Green and Brindishe Manor Schools