



Welcome

A warm welcome to Patterdale CofE School! We are a small rural school, wonderfully located at the southern tip of Ullswater lake in the foothills of the mighty Helvellyn. Rooted in community, the school is more like a family – every child is known and understood, their strengths built upon and their uniqueness celebrated.

Providing a loving family environment is central to our core values and we make sure that our children feel treasured for who they are. We encourage our older children to support and nurture their younger schoolmates, thereby helping them to build the skills, empathy, confidence and independence that will stand them in good stead as they progress to higher education.

I am fortunate to work with a fantastic, close-knit and caring team, and hope that this prospectus will provide you with a taste of life at our school – it's curriculum, activities, values and ethos.

Nicky Steels

Headteacher

**Patterdale Church of England
Voluntary Aided School**

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General Information

Patterdale C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School for children aged 3 to 11 years.

The school is located in the heart of the Lake District National Park amidst the picturesque scenery of the stunning Ullswater valley. Blessed with fantastic views of Place Fell and the Grisedale Valley, the school provides a safe, happy and motivating learning environment for our pupils.

The school's unique location encourages the children to seek adventure, to explore and to be curious; and its extensive and varied grounds enable us to provide an exciting outdoor curriculum with forest school adventures and woodland skills honed in our wooded 'Wild Area'. The grounds also consist of a tree-lined field where the children can build dens, explore the trees and enjoy a variety of activities. The school also has playgrounds for recreation and sport, an adventure play area, a wild-life pond & orchard area, and access to excellent nearby tennis and netball courts.

The school staff and the Governing Body are dedicated to the welfare, education and happiness of all children in school, and are highly motivated in applying their enthusiasm and experience to the continuous improvement of the school and the learning experience it provides for children.

Access to further information and policies is available on the school website:

www.patterdale.cumbria.sch.uk

School Staff and Class Structure

Headteacher	Nicky Steels
Senior Teacher	Nicola Reay
Teachers	Susie Simpson Sarah Kendall
Senior Teaching Assistants	Emma Dowson
HLTAS	Helen Curry & Donna Butcher
Business Managers	Mandy Howard-Carter & Jonathan Holdsworth
Cleaners	Danielle Morland & Su Martindale
Cooks	Lorraine Richardson & Su Martindale
Clerk to the Governors	Catherine Wilmot

Our tight-knit school team works together to get to know all of our children so that every child is known and understood, their strengths built upon and their uniqueness celebrated. The classes are organised into an Early Years Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Class and a Key Stage 2 Class, but we have a flexible approach to learning and often enjoy whole school activities. In addition, we have a library, school hall, ICT suite, office, cloakroom area with disabled access and a fully operational school kitchen.

Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage One comprise:

Nursery	3-4 year olds
Reception	4-5 year olds
Yr 1	5-6 year olds
Yr 2	6-7 year olds

Key Stage Two comprises:

Yr3	7-8 year olds
Yr4	8-9 year olds
Yr5	9-10 year olds
Yr6	10-11 year olds



School Aims

We want our children to...



...be confident in:

- being themselves
- social situations
- what they have learnt
- their role in the community, near and far
- physical and sporting activity

- be safe, happy and fulfilled
- have a sense of right and wrong
- be polite, honest
- show respect and care for others



- have an appreciation of Christianity and other faiths and beliefs.
- look after their environment, local and global
- have happy memories of Patterdale



- have the academic skills needed to move onto the next stage in their education
- have enquiring minds to be self-motivated and learn independently
- be healthy and fit and to know how to stay that way

These aims were last reviewed in 2025, with children, parents, governors, staff and members of the community

The School Day

School Hours

8:45am-3.15pm

Before School...

School is open for children from 8:45am.

Children are dropped off at the school main entrance by their parents/carers at 8.45am. If a child is to be collected by someone other than their registered parent/carer then the school must be informed either by email or a phone call as soon as possible after 8.30am. A verbal message from a child is insufficient.

Car Parking...

Those dropping off and picking up children may use the 'stop and drop' area in front of school, but please note that this is meant to be a quick stop so we ask drivers to be as time efficient as possible. You can also park behind the Starkey Hut or in front of it. Please observe the 20 mile an hour speed limit outside school and take extra care to follow the road markings – advice can be found in the parent section of the school website.

Walking Bus...

A walking bus, led by volunteers, occasionally operates to school from Glenridding. For further details please see the Headteacher or School Business Manager.

After School Clubs...

After school clubs run from 3.15-5pm from Monday to Thursday and from 3.15-4.15pm on Fridays. In the past we have enjoyed activities such as craftwork, forest school, karate, cricket, gardening and football.

Absence and Lateness...

It is vital for children to attend school except in exceptional circumstances. You can find a copy of our Late/Absence Procedures in the Parent section of the school website.

Medicines...

Medication that is required three times a day only does not need to be taken during school hours. Special arrangements for four times daily medication can be made in consultation with the Headteacher. A '**Permission A**' form for medication is required to be completed by parents.

Asthma inhalers should be brought to the school by the child and be kept easily accessible within the classroom. Parents are reminded to check that inhalers have enough medication left weekly.

The School Day



Discipline...

Much of the discipline in school takes the form of expectations rather than rules. We encourage a caring attitude towards each other and towards the property of others. We expect children to be courteous, friendly, well mannered and thoughtful. Misbehaviour is dealt with by withdrawal of privileges. Parents will be consulted if persistent misbehaviour occurs, so that together we may decide on a suitable course of action. All children take a full and active part in developing our own classroom and playtime rules to ensure that the children are safe and maximise their opportunities for learning. For our detailed behaviour and bullying policy please see our website.

Insurance...

We would like to make parents aware that if a child is injured at school the County Council is not automatically responsible. The County Council's responsibility is strictly limited to cases where there was negligence by them or their staff. Accidents can happen in school, on the sports field, or during school visits, when the County Council or its staff is not in any way at fault and are therefore not responsible. The provision of personal accident insurance is considered to be the responsibility of the parents. The school has Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies, which are available to read on the school website.

School Meals...

Our kitchen provides non-processed foods as much as possible and produces a healthy balanced menu. The menu is displayed weekly for parents' information on the notice board and on the school website. Individual dietary needs can be catered for when necessary. We request payment for school meals on a half-termly or termly basis. Cheques made payable to Westmorland & Furness Council or bank transfers to W&FC are preferable.

Starting School

A child wearing a red wetsuit and a yellow helmet is standing in a shallow waterfall. The water is cascading over dark, mossy rocks. The background shows lush green trees and foliage.

Children are admitted at the beginning of the school year in which their fifth birthday occurs, usually on a part-time basis for the first few weeks. In the past, this has been 4 full days with a mini-weekend in the middle (Wednesday off!).

You are reminded that there is no legal obligation to send your child to school until the beginning of the term following your child's fifth birthday.

Nursery... Monday - Friday 8.45am - 3pm

Ullswater Nursery runs in the school for 30 hours each week. Children may be admitted the term following their 3rd birthday. There are twelve places available, please contact us if you would like further details.

Uniform (all named)...

The school uniform consists of a red polo shirt and sweatshirt with the school motif on it. They are purchased from the school website. Jeans are not permitted. The children are expected to take pride in their appearance and are encouraged to come to school dressed smartly. Dark coloured trousers or skirts coordinate well with the sweatshirts. Dark shoes (not trainers) should be worn to school. Children will also need a change of footwear for outside use. Wellies are essential on wet or snowy days!

Equipment (all named please)...

1. The school will provide a drawstring PE bag
2. Trainers for PE and outdoor wear
3. Dark shorts and a red school PE t-shirt
4. A book bag will be provided in the first instance. Any replacement book bags will need to be paid for by parents.

Please name all items that belong to your child, thank you!

The School & the Community

Patterdale School Support Group

(Charity Number 1114449)

The school support group meet once a term to plan events and raise funds for the school throughout the year. Events are often social activities for the whole community.

Regular fundraisers include providing refreshments at the Ullswater Country Fair and at the Hodgson Brothers Mountain Relay; Easter & Christmas raffles; a mini-lottery called the 200 Club; and school hosted events such as BBQs and breakfasts.

The school is fortunate to have the support of a fantastic tightly-knit community, its support is invaluable.

All parents are automatically members of the support group, although there is a small committee that ensures continuity.

St Patrick's Church

The school has very close links with St Patrick's Church, which is only a short walk from the school gates. Children visit the Church weekly for Collective Worship and on numerous other occasions as part of the RE curriculum, as well as taking part in various services through the year.

The Church is an integral part of the community and of school life.

The Curriculum

The enriched curriculum we provide has been developed in order to fulfil our school aims. The education will be balanced and broadly based whilst taking into account the requirements at the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum. We will ensure that learning is supported and developed through effective record keeping and assessment.

The Early Years foundation Stage

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. This is broken down into 7 areas of learning:

- ✚ Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- ✚ Communication and Language
- ✚ Physical Development
- ✚ Literacy
- ✚ Mathematics
- ✚ Understanding of the World
- ✚ Expressive Arts and Design.

We believe that play is crucial in enhancing children's ability to learn. It provides children with important opportunities to socialise and talk about what they are doing.

Throughout Nursery and Reception, the teacher and senior teaching assistants will build up a profile of assessments, which will then be discussed with the parents or carers at the end of each term.

The National Curriculum

Compulsory national curriculum subjects for Key Stage 1 and 2 are:

- ✚ English
- ✚ Maths
- ✚ Religious Education
- ✚ Science
- ✚ Design and Technology
- ✚ History
- ✚ Geography
- ✚ Art and Design
- ✚ Music
- ✚ Physical education (PE), including swimming
- ✚ Computing
- ✚ Ancient and modern foreign languages (at key stage 2)

For short & long term plans please see our website.

Collective Worship

An act of Collective Worship takes place each day for the whole school. It is a special time in which children have an opportunity to reflect, share thoughts, listen and learn about a variety of issues. They include an element of worship; prayer, song, listening to music or silent contemplation. Parents may withdraw children from Collective Worship time, if they feel that this would be appropriate; please speak to the head teacher.

Homework

The homework policy, on the website, clearly states what is expected of pupils in each year group. In order for this to work successfully close co-operation is expected from parents so that they can work together with teachers in the best interests of the child.

Relationships, RSE & Health Education

This subject is specifically taught in Year 5 and 6. However, the programme builds children's knowledge and understanding in a logical progression from Year 1 through to Year 6, using age-appropriate objectives and materials usually taught in science. Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from some Sex and Relationship lessons; a letter will be sent out seeking permission prior to the sessions starting. The content is delivered by a nurse.

School Trips



School trips are a very important part of our school life. Trips take place throughout the year to support learning and experience across the curriculum. We have our own mini-bus and this enables us to take groups of children out on day trips to various places – for example to the theatre or local historical sites - and allows us to participate in interschool sporting activities.

The junior children take part in an annual residential trip to an outdoor activity centre to participate in an Outdoor Adventurous Activity Course. Every other year, the year 5 and 6 children enjoy a city visit. Year 1 & 2 children have annual sessions of outdoor activities at Patterdale Hall.

All trips are planned with careful consideration for the children's health and safety. Staff undertake the necessary risk assessments and ensure that there is plenty of adult supervision. Adults accompanying children are required to complete a disclosure and barring service check (DBS). Parents will be informed about trips—but we ask permission at the beginning of the year to take children out within the local area. Year 6 children are offered the opportunity to go on a ski trip in January—along with other Cumbrian Primary Schools.



SEND

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Children with SEND are given the same opportunities for learning as their peers. All children are carefully assessed to ensure that the work is correctly matched to the child to avoid frustration and maximise the progress that they make. We keep close contact with home to suggest ways in which you could help your child and will discuss fully with you any assessment we make. The school can approach the Local Authority's Educational Psychologist and Specialist Teacher team if we need further assessments or advice. Further details can be found in the SEND policy on the school website along with our Local Offer.

Other Information

Transfer to Secondary Education

Relevant information is distributed by the Local Authority concerning transfer to secondary schools and provision is made for children to spend some time in their new school towards the end of Year 6.

Children transfer to a number of different schools after leaving Patterdale including; Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Ullswater Community College and Keswick School.

Formal Complaints Procedure

If you become concerned in any way about your child's education, it is important that you tell us about this. We are always keen to do all we can to resolve your concerns and to ensure you are happy with your child's school experience. As a first step you should discuss this with your child's teacher and the Headteacher. The School's Complaints Procedure can be found on the school website.

Latest Ofsted Inspection – May 2022

Latest SIAMS Inspection – Feb 2025

To view both reports visit:

<https://www.patterdale.cumbria.sch.uk/ofsted-siams-and-performance-data/>

Copies are also available from the school office.

Official Disclaimer

The information supplied in this document is in accordance with the information at present available to the Authority and is believed to be correct as at the date of printing (Sept 2024) but its accuracy is not guaranteed. In particular, nothing herein prejudices the right of the Education Committee or any of its sub-committees or the Head of the school to make any decision relating to the school as they see fit, without regard as to whether this will affect the accuracy of any matters contained in this publication. Further, neither the Education Authority nor the school, nor any members of staff of the Authority or the school, is legally responsible for any erroneous information contained in this document.