

Gorran School



Information Pack



Head Teacher: Jonathan Sleep

Chair of Governors: Jenni Ferguson

**Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall,
PL26 6LH
01726 842595**
secretary@gorran.cornwall.sch.uk
www.gorran.cornwall.sch.uk





About Gorran School

Gorran School is a vibrant, active and happy primary school which fosters high individual standards in a family, caring atmosphere. We work hard to ensure that all our children are guided towards their potential in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Our caring ethos is reflected in the activities that we take part in. For example, we place a strong emphasis on caring for our environment and we foster links with the Lost Gardens of Heligan and The National Trust, as well as taking part in local initiatives, such as beach cleans and the recent development of Carvinick Fields, just behind the school.

Our school environment was perfectly summarised by Ofsted in their report following the February 2024 inspection:

'Pupils love coming to this welcoming school. Across the school, relationships between staff and pupils are warm and nurturing.'

'Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. At social times, pupils of all ages play together... Pupils feel safe in and around the school. Pupils are valued members of the local community.'

We set high expectations for every pupil and we are proud of the outcomes we achieve. Children are engaged and enthusiastic in their lessons and we consistently expect and maintain high standards of behaviour.



Our teachers enjoy using the local environment as a stimulus for learning and to enrich the curriculum. As well as our own Forest School, local 'welly walks', trips to the beach, various nearby museums and our heritage week with a local theatre group, our upper KS2 pupils enjoy sailing lessons in the warmer months. Both KS2 classes also take part in annual residential trips, including a bi-annual trip to the Isles of Scilly. As a result, children leave Gorran as confident, well-rounded learners, ready for the next stage of their education.

The School Site

The school is situated on the higher land midway between the beautiful villages of Gorran Churchtown and Gorran Haven. It is within walking distance of both and enjoys a picturesque setting with excellent views, including views towards the coast.



The school has three classrooms in the main building, arranged around a central hall. The classrooms are large, bright and well-resourced. Our fourth classroom is located in an Elliott building, which is shared with the independent pre-school.



Externally, the school benefits from two playgrounds, a large playing field with a pond, a Forest School area, an outdoor classroom, a bike track and a swimming pool.

The pool is a tremendous resource that is used daily in the warmer months for swimming lessons, promoting water safety and increasing the children's confidence. We have also been able to hold end-of-year 'pool parties' for the children, as a reward their hard work.



We also have a raised garden area, where our green-fingered KS1 pupils were delighted to harvest their own vegetables last year.

Site Plan



School Structure for 2025/26

The current Published Admission Number for the school is 15. As of January 2026, we have 91 pupils on roll, with numbers expected to rise to 93 later in the term following two proposed in-year transfers. The classes are currently structured as follows:

Class	Year Groups	Teacher	TA	Number of pupils as at January 2026
Lion Class	YR 5 & 6	Jessica Jaye	Lucy Seaber	24 Pupils
Zebra Class	YR 3 & 4	Charlie Murray	Melinda Douglas	34 Pupils
Elephant Class	YR 1 & 2	Liz Sampson	Scovia Crowe	23 Pupils
Giraffe Class	YR R	Richard Jones	Harley Stott	10 Pupils

Our other staff include:

Staff	Areas of Responsibility	Support Staff	Areas of Responsibility
Sally Dowling	Administrator	Penny Hermes	SENDCo
Lesley Pothecary	Financial Administrator & Catering Assistant	Alex Giles	PPA cover - Music
Elizabeth Biggers	Teaching Assistant (providing 1:1 support)	Jo Williams	PPA cover – Primary Languages (French)
Michaela Wilkins	Teaching Assistant (providing 1:1 support)	Wendy Pitcher	Site Supervisor



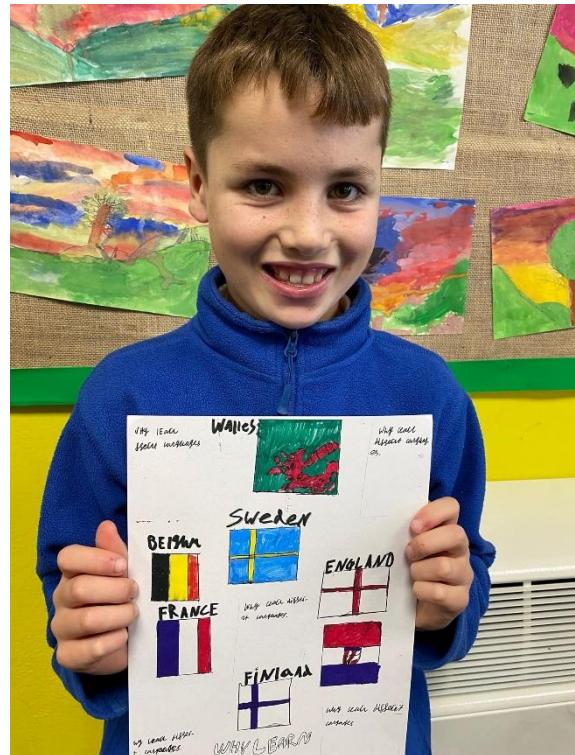
Our Curriculum

At Gorran, we deliver the requirements of the National Curriculum in an exciting and engaging way.

We have recently adopted Curriculum Maestro, developed by Cornerstones, to ensure coverage and progression across subjects. Our teachers are now embedding the resources and adapting the topics to suit the needs and interests of their classes.

In the core subjects, we use Essential Letters and Sounds to teach phonics and spelling to Reception and KS1 children, and the Literary Curriculum to teach English through high-quality texts. White Rose resources are used to support the planning and teaching of mathematics.

Further details about the curriculum can be found on our website:
<https://gorranschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/>



Extra-Curricular Activities

For a small school, Gorran offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Teachers provide after-school clubs including football, netball, singing, art and creative clubs.

We participate in football and netball fixtures and cross-country events against other local schools, as well as sports, music and dance festivals organised by nearby secondary schools and the St Austell Festival of Music and Speech each Autumn.



Instrumental lessons are provided through the Cornwall Music Service Trust, including guitar, drum kit and keyboard/piano tuition, alongside drama coaching through the LAMDA syllabus. Pupils also enjoy a regular singing assembly, led by a very talented KS2 teacher. At Christmas all pupils perform in a concert at the local church – a much-loved community event.

Safeguarding

Gorran School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to support pupils, families and staff.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is currently Jonathan Sleep, the outgoing headteacher. Two senior teachers have recently completed their DSL training and act as Deputy DSLs.

All staff receive regular safeguarding training. Concerns are recorded using MyConcern and the school is part of Operation Encompass.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The school has an experienced SENDCo, Penny Hermes, who works at the school for half a day each week. Approximately 8.4% of pupils are on the Register of Need, with approximately 8 pupils receiving 'SEN Support' for needs including dyslexia, speech and language difficulties and autism. Two pupils currently have an Education, Health and Care Plan, with a third application in progress.

In addition to supporting individual pupils, the SENDCo works closely with our teachers to develop inclusive strategies that benefit all children. This includes the introduction of 'regulation stations' in all classrooms, the use of Zones of Regulation resources across the school and the training of a group of year 5 pupils to act as 'Wellbeing Ambassadors'.

A Parent Café was also held last term, attended by professionals from the Autism in Schools team and the Cognition and Learning team. This was well attended by parents and the intention is to offer similar sessions once or twice each term.

Attendance

Attendance for the 2024/25 academic year was 96.4%, with 2.8% authorised absence and 0.9% unauthorised absence. Given the small size of the school and the presence of two pupils on reduced timetables, attendance is considered strong. The headteacher continues to work with a small number of families where absence is persistent.



Friends of Gorran School

The FrOGS are a friendly, enthusiastic group of parents and carers who work alongside staff to support the school and enrich every child's experience at Gorran.

The FrOGS have raised significant additional funding through a wide range of events. The funding has supported the maintenance of the swimming pool, the construction of a new bike shed and the maintenance of our own minibus, which is used regularly for sports fixtures and educational visits. Just as importantly, the FrOGS play a key role in strengthening the school community.



We are extremely lucky to have such an active and enthusiastic group of parents and carers supporting the school.



Gorran Pre-School

The school is very fortunate to have a professional, independent pre-school group on the premises, which provides a good academic and pastoral environment for our children.

The pre-school group and the school work closely together to provide an excellent start for the children's education. We greatly value all the pre-school group's input and commitment and together we believe that we provide a comprehensive service that is of a very high quality and is delivered in an exceptionally caring and professional way.

The majority of our reception in-take tends to come from the pre-school, but every year we attract pupils from other areas, including St Austell and its surrounding villages.

