



'PURPOSE WITH CARE'

## **Delapre Primary School**

Delapre Primary School, located in the Far Cotton area of Northampton, has been known by many names since it was first built in 1935. The school in all its guises is one immersed with a rich and diverse history that has largely shaped the school and the ethos held today.

In 2003, the school undertook its latest transformation by becoming Delapre Primary School. The school opened with just a handful of children on roll. In 2012 the school reached its capacity as a two-form entry, with 420 children attending. Now looking to the future, in 2018/19 the school will see momentous changes when it finally becomes a three-form entry school throughout, with 630 children on roll (we currently have 600). It has been an amazing journey for this ever-changing school.

Delapre Primary is a traditional school with a traditional methodology that embraces, wherever possible, the latest advances in teaching, whether technological or otherwise. There is an interactive whiteboard or touch-screen TV in each room, a dedicated computer suite as well as notepads and iPads for in-class use.

Delapre Primary is well resourced and has a gymnasium; hall; library; music room; IT suite; large playground; as well as a 3-acre playing field (overlooking Northampton). The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, fully supported by staff with virtually all activities provided for free.

The school ethos lies firmly in a mix of discipline, respect and humour. The reward systems in place ensure that positive recognition is always provided for the children's work and behaviour both in and out of school. Assemblies each week provide the school with an opportunity to reward our children. Sometimes children may forget what it means to be a 'Delapre Child' and on these occasions the children will be spoken to and helped to 'put things right' especially before they go home. This is vital and is often the reason for a telling off potentially being postponed to the next day. We do not send children home feeling anxious about coming to school the next day; the child and the family would suffer.

The school continues to develop its successful ongoing work with Northampton University where it presently holds a place on the Partnership Steering Group. We are pro-actively involved in supporting their recruitment, mentoring and lecturing and host students on a yearly basis including international MA students.

Being such a large primary school has huge advantages; we are fortunate to have a vast range of experience within the staff who fully support each other and allow each other the opportunity to be the best they can be. This shared practice is essential as we strive to maintain our high standards. We also work extremely hard with the children's behaviour to ensure that teachers are allowed to teach and children are able to learn. Any disruption is not tolerated. The staffroom humour is robust, and vitally so, and adds to the 'family' feeling throughout the school.

We pride ourselves on a welcoming and friendly atmosphere that supports an ethos of traditional education. Our aim is to create a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment in which all members of the school community can grow in self-esteem and develop their potential as human beings. The parents come to us expecting firm discipline mixed with love and humour. It is a fine balance, but well worth the effort.