



Welcome to Pixie Preschool,
a warm and nurturing early years
setting where curiosity and
creativity lead the way.

We believe that every child deserves
a safe, inspiring environment where
they can explore, play and grow
into confident learners.





About us

Pixie Preschool has been an integral part of Shillington Lower School since 2017, a school which has been at the heart of Shillington village since 1964 and a much-loved asset within the community.

We are immensely proud to be part of the Shillington Lower School family and see many benefits for the children in being linked to the school, most apparent is a smooth transition into our Reception Class (Hedgehogs).

Staff in Pixies and Hedgehogs work together to ensure there is a sense of continuity from Preschool, through Early Years, on to KS1 and beyond, supporting long term development and achievement. Shared curriculum experiences and close communication between pre-school and reception helps children progress more seamlessly. Pixie children become familiar with the school environment and staff, aiding in a confident start to school life.

We are very lucky to be part of a true village school, deeply rooted in local traditions, with a strong sense of community, care and belonging. Our close links to the village means children experience learning that reaches beyond the classroom - into the heart of the community.



Our wonderful Shillington Lower Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) are an active part of preschool life, arranging school events throughout the academic year including, cake sales, discos and seasonal fairs. The PTFA work closely with local groups and regularly take part in community events and celebrations. The PTFA are always on the look out for extra helping hands and joining is a great way for parents and families to build bonds within the Shillington Lower family.





Our Shillington Vision

Value everyone, value every chance, value every day.

We encourage the children to follow our Pixie Promises, promoting positive behaviour and helping children to understand the expectations and boundaries within the setting.

We celebrate positive behaviour with lots of praise, rewards and our 'Star of the Week' award which sees the winner take home 'Frankie Frog' for the weekend, which our families enjoy just as much as the children.

Our philosophy is simple – children learn best through play.



We aim to –

- Nurture confident, independent and happy learners.
- Build positive relationships and emotional resilience.
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and problem solving.
- Support each child's unique development through the EYFS framework.
- Work in close partnership with families and the wider community.
- Aid a smooth transition into Reception Class.





Our Curriculum

We follow the framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which focuses on the three prime areas of learning – Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development and an additional four specific areas – Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design.



Learning is planned around the children's interests and experiences, ensuring every activity is meaningful and fun.

Daily adult led activities are planned using the 'Development Matters' guidance, in accordance with the four principles of the EYFS – A Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development.

Each child has a keyworker, who gets to know them well, supports their individual progress and works closely with families to share achievements and next steps. Keyworker afternoons are held twice a year, giving staff and families the opportunity to review and discuss the individual needs, development and progress of each child.



Learning Environment



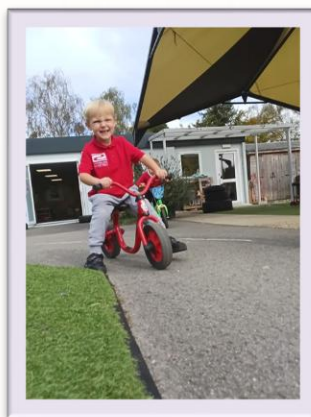


Our indoor space is thoughtfully arranged to encourage choice, independence and cooperation. The setting is spacious and bright with areas for role play, construction, creative play, reading, small world play and exploration. We have child friendly toilets and hand-washing facilities within the setting, further promoting independence and a separate area for nappy changing, ensuring children's privacy is respected.



Outdoors, our garden provides ample opportunity for active, hands-on learning. Children have access to a wide range of tabletop activities as well as sand/water, ride on toys, a large climbing frame, mud kitchen and sports equipment. We endeavour to ensure all 7 areas of learning are integral to every part of the day, indoors and outdoors. We operate a free flow system as much as possible allowing children free choice to spend time in/out as desired. Although learning is not restricted to a particular environment, this does not mean that the indoor and outdoor spaces need to mirror one another. Instead, we consider the unique possibilities offered by each environment and plan provision accordingly.

The Pixie Routine





The Pixie Day begins with a warm welcome into the setting, where children are encouraged to independently put away coats/bags etc, supported if needed, before using our 'Zones of Regulation' board to share their feelings whilst self-registering. We have a short carpet time, discussing the date, weather and recapping our 'Pixie Promises' daily, giving staff the opportunity to outline expectations for the day.

Play is child initiated throughout the sessions, with children able to access and select a wide range of resources independently.

We are very lucky to have time scheduled in the main school and on the large school field, meaning we can offer enhanced learning opportunities daily as below.

Monday – **Outdoor Explorers** – a time for children to explore and learn about the natural world. Come rain or shine we take to the field and enjoy nature-based play, creative exploration and confidence building activities in the great outdoors.

Tuesday – **Music Makers** – using the spacious school hall and wide range of musical instruments we aim to boost the children's confidence and communication through music. Encouraging rhythm, language and social skills through play.

Wednesday – **Tiny Tales** – our weekly trip to the school library. The children are invited to explore books with their peers and independently select a book to be taken home and shared with families.

Thursday – **Pixies love PE** – we take to the school hall once again to enjoy PE, promoting physical, cognitive and social development. We concentrate on improving motor skills, balance and coordination, laying the foundation for a healthy, active lifestyle.

Friday – **Mini Chefs** – a weekly cooking session which engages all of the senses, children explore texture, smells and tastes while learning the importance of healthy, well balanced meals.





The group is offered a morning snack from our snack bar of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with milk daily. Children staying all day or those attending our afternoon sessions are asked to provide a healthy snack each day. Hot school meals are available from the school kitchen for a daily charge.

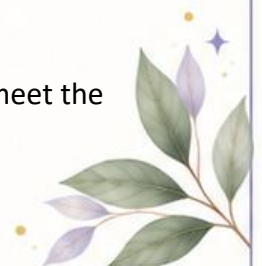
Alternatively, families can provide a packed lunch for their child. We promote balanced nutritious lunches in Pixies to best support the physical and cognitive development of the children, while also helping to regulate their mood, behaviour and concentration. Lunches are served in the main school hall, with all children seated together, reinforcing social skills as part of our school community.



We recommend comfortable clothing and flat, closed toe shoes/trainers suitable for play and outdoor adventures. Uniform is available from www.myclothing.co.uk but not essential and we remind parents/carers that messy clothes at the end of the day are a sign of active learning, hands on play, creativity, exploration and independence.

The Pixie Day always ends with a group carpet time where we share books, songs and games, encouraging social development, language and listening skills, attention span and self-confidence.

We believe in keeping a gentle rhythm to the day, balancing routine with flexibility to meet the needs of every child.





Funding and Fees

We operate a soft opening 08:45 – 09:00 everyday

Morning session - 09:00 - 12:00

Lunch time – 12:00 – 12:30

Afternoon session - 12:30 - 15:30

Full day - 09:00 - 15:30

Pixie spaces are available to children from the age of 2 years 9 months. We offer places for both funded and non funded hours. The amount of free childcare hours your family is entitled to is based on government criteria, to check your eligibility visit -

www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/check-youre-eligible

Non funded hourly cost

£7.00 per hour for children over 3 years

£9.00 per hour for children under 3 years

A daily charge of £3.50 (children over 3 years) or £4.50 (children under 3 years) for ALL children attending full time, to cover the additional 30 minutes not included as funded hours, is payable half termly.

Early pick up is NOT available as access to the playground is restricted during school hours.

Fees are reviewed on 1st April each year by the Governing Board.





Partnership with Parents

We recognise parents and carers as children's first and most important educators. We keep families closely involved through –



Daily interactions at drop off/pick up.

Communication books for each child.

Our Seesaw app.

Keyworker afternoons.

Seasonal events and celebrations.



Your voice matters to us – we value your input in shaping your child's learning journey and daily care.

What a few of our 2025/26 Pixie parents had to say –

The environment is nurturing and safe, run by intuitive staff who meet each child at their own level.

Pixies have been incredibly supportive in helping our son navigate his additional speech and language needs and his development and confidence has thrived under their care.

Our son goes in with a smile every morning and has built great bonds with both the staff and his peers. It's a joy to see him thrive there.

We'd love to welcome you and your child to our Pixie family - where every day is filled with imagination, laughter and growth.

