



## Fairlands Middle School

### INTRODUCTION

Fairlands Middle School is a mixed school covering years 5 - 8 (children aged between 9 and 13) located in Cheddar, 8 miles from Wells and 20 miles from Bristol.

### THE SCHOOL

The school was opened as a new purpose-built school with specialist accommodation in 1976, when reorganisation into the three-tier system took place within the Cheddar Valley.

There are currently 485 pupils on roll with a team of 28 teachers and about the same number of support staff. All of the teaching staff act as class tutors, and will have responsibility for pastoral care and developing the partnership with the parents. Pupils are received mainly from four partner First Schools, approximately half from Cheddar itself; the remainder travelling in from Axbridge, Draycott & Rodney Stoke and Shipham. Some other children travel from 'out of catchment' areas.

An Ofsted team of Her Majesty's Inspectors paid a visit to our school in September 2015 and have written a very positive report about our school. We were the first school in Somerset to receive a short inspection for good schools. We are proud that in previous inspections nothing has been judged as anything less than 'good'.

Our main aim is for the children to be able to learn to their full potential and develop lively enquiring minds. We will help them to grow as independent young people, well prepared for the next stages in their learning and able to thrive in our complex and challenging society.

In order for the children to learn best we set out to provide an environment in which pupils feel secure and are able to develop their own self-esteem. We emphasise respect for others and a sense of personal responsibility within the community.

At Fairlands Middle School the parents support us strongly in our educational and social activities. We regard it as essential to develop strong partnerships between home and school, and the wider community.

In 2014 we re-constituted our governing body to form a Federation with three of our partner First Schools. The Mendip Edge Federation comprises Fairlands Middle School, Cheddar First School, Draycott and Rodney First School and Shipham First School. Our single governing body now sets the direction and supports all four schools.

In addition, we are very pleased to be a part of the Cheddar Valley Community Learning Partnership, which comprises of 9 First Schools (aged 5 – 9), Fairlands and Hugh Sexey Middle Schools, and the Kings of Wessex Academy (aged 13 – 18). Our 12 schools have formed links to create a continuous system to look after the educational needs of all young people in the Cheddar Valley.

*Stefan McHale*