



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School

**Reception
Acorn Class
2026-27**



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School

Welcome to Gilbert Colvin Primary School

Welcome to all our new Reception families!

We are delighted that your child will be joining our lovely school community.

At Gilbert Colvin, the needs of our children are at the core of every decision we make.

We look forward to working in partnership with you as your child begins their learning journey.





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Reception Team

Miss James – class teacher

Mrs Rashid – LSA (learning support assistant)





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Core Leadership Team



Ms Cohen
Headteacher



Mr Endacott
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Begum
Inclusion Lead
Assistant Headteacher



Miss Turtington
Assistant Headteacher

Our core leadership team is here to support every child and family at Gilbert Colvin. They oversee safeguarding, teaching & learning, inclusion, behaviour and wellbeing, and the day-to-day running of the school.

Parents can approach any member of the team if they have concerns about their child or any issue affecting their experience in school. We are always available, and we encourage families to speak with us whenever they need support.



Safeguarding Team

Gilbert Colvin
Primary School



Designated safeguarding lead (DSL): **Liz Cohen, Headteacher**

Contact details: **liz.cohen@gilbertcolvin.redbridge.sch.uk**



Deputy DSL:
Adam Endacott
Deputy Headteacher



Deputy DSL:
Neena Begum
Assistant Headteacher



Deputy DSL:
Emma Turtington
Assistant Headteacher



Deputy DSL:
Antonia Vella
Key Stage 1 Phase Leader

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Gilbert Colvin. These are the adults responsible for keeping our children safe. If you ever have a concern, no matter how small, please come and speak to us. We are always here to help.



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Our Ethos, Mission & Values

Our Ethos

We are a caring, inclusive school where every child is supported to grow in confidence, self-esteem and strong values. We celebrate diversity and encourage teamwork.

Our Mission

We help children:

- grow in confidence and enjoy learning
- take on challenges and aim high
- learn in a safe, supportive environment
- gain the skills and values they need for the future

Our Values

Perseverance – keep going, even when things are difficult

Courage – try new things and be confident

Integrity – be honest, take responsibility, do the right thing

Kindness sits at the heart of everything we do.



Perseverance



Courage



Integrity



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Welcome to Reception

Reception is the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It is a warm, nurturing environment where children learn through play, exploration and high-quality teaching.

Our Reception Structure

- **One Reception class**
- **Two adults** (Class Teacher + Early Years Practitioner)
- **Start time:** 8.45am
- **Finish time:** 3.10pm





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The EYFS Curriculum

Reception follows the **Early Years Foundation Stage Framework**, supporting development across the seven areas of learning:

Prime Areas

Communication & Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Specific Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts & Design

These areas are taught through a rich, play-based curriculum that *sparks curiosity and encourages active exploration.*



How We Teach in Reception

Daily Teaching Includes:

- **Short whole-class sessions** for
 - Maths
 - Literacy
 - Topic
- **Daily Phonics** using the **Read Write Inc.** programme (RWI)
- **Adult-led activities** matched to children's next steps
- **Child-initiated learning** where children explore, create and problem-solve
- **Outdoor learning** every day
- **Observations** used to inform planning and tailor support to each child's needs





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Learning Journeys

We capture each child's progress through a Learning Journey, which includes:

- Tapestry online learning journal
- Photographs and videos
- Samples of children's work
- Observations from staff
- Contributions from home (special moments, celebrations, achievements)

This builds a rich picture of your child's development across the year.





Reception Routines

A typical Reception day includes:

- Soft start and settling activities
- Carpet sessions (phonics, maths, literacy, topic)
- Free-flow indoor and outdoor learning
- Snack time
- Lunchtime in the hall
- Afternoon learning and story time

Children benefit from clear routines that help them feel secure, confident and ready to learn.

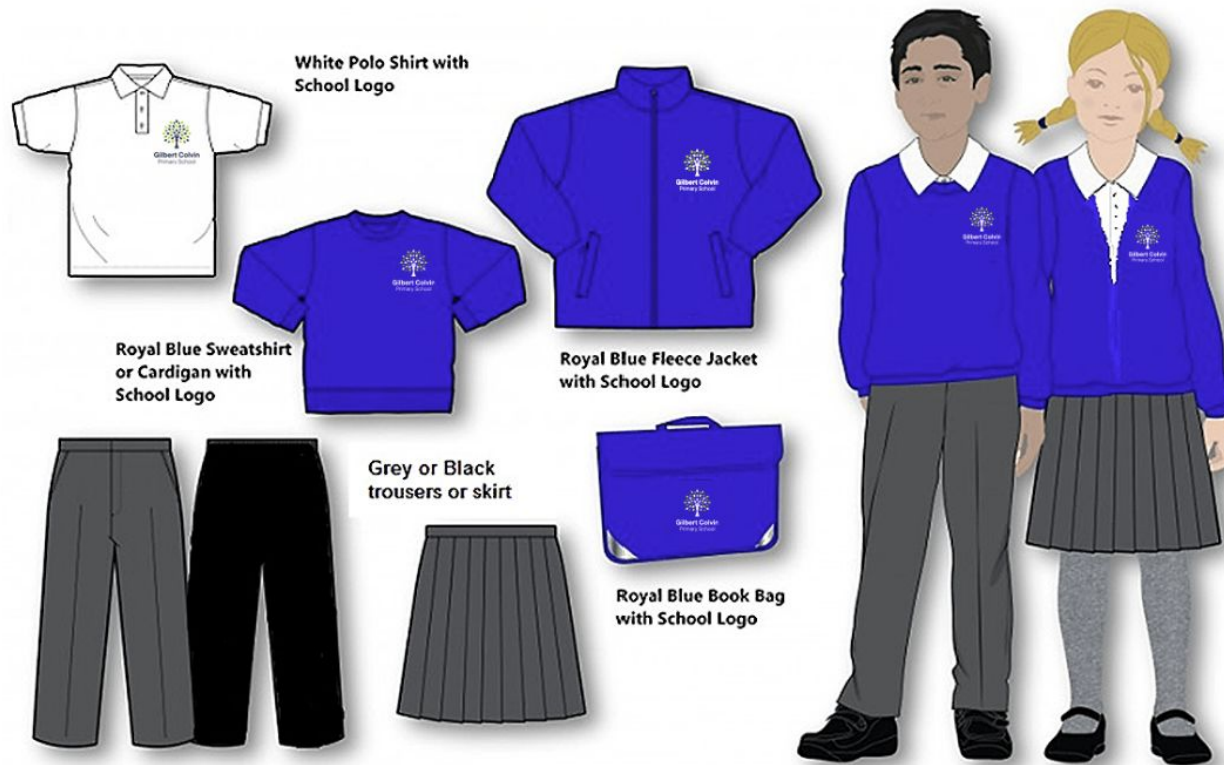




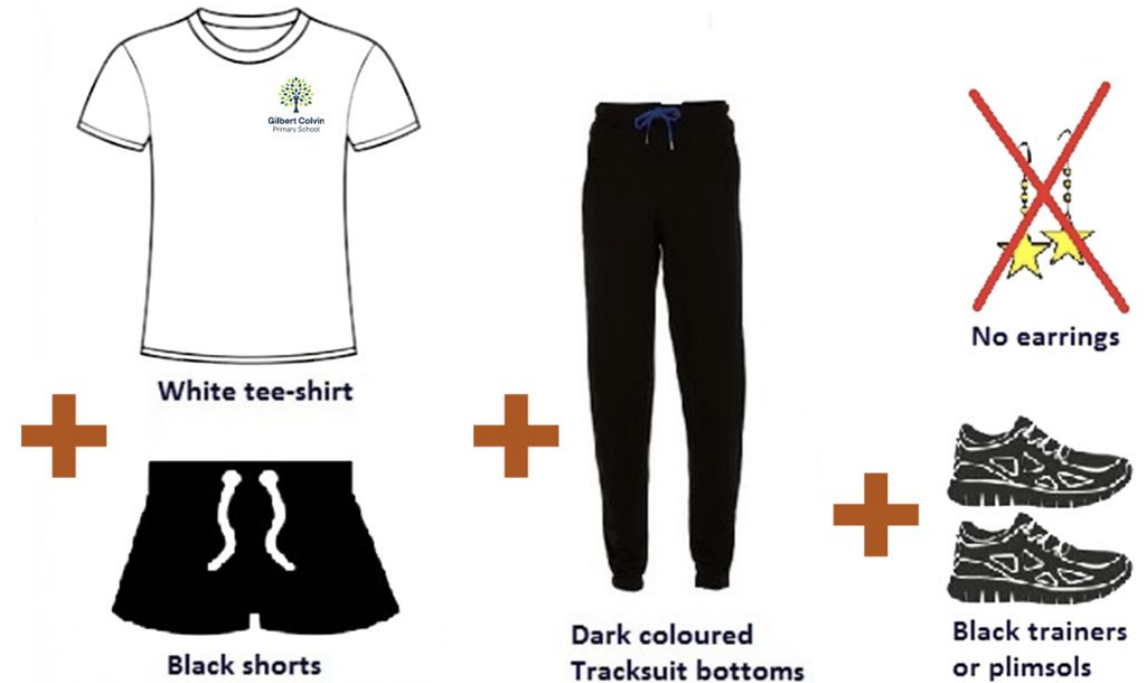
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School Uniform

Our uniform is designed to be simple, affordable and practical. We strive to keep the cost of our school uniform as low as possible and offer a second-hand uniform shop.



PE Uniform





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School Meals & Packed Lunches

All Reception children receive **Universal Free School Meals**. Meals are cooked onsite and meet School Food Standards.

Packed Lunches

If you choose to send a packed lunch:

No nuts

No fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate

Include at least one portion of fruit/veg

Snacks

Reception children receive free fruit daily.





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Attendance Expectations

Good attendance is essential for learning and wellbeing.

Parents must ensure their child attends school regularly and arrive between 8.45am and 9.00am.

Key Points

Holidays during term time **cannot be authorised**

Report absence **daily**

Children arriving after 9.00am must be signed in at the office

Good punctuality helps children start the day calmly and confidently

Mrs Idris is the school attendance officer





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How Parents Can Support Their Child Before September

Independence Skills

Help your child practise:

- Putting on their coat
- Using the toilet independently
- Washing hands properly
- Tidying up toys
- Opening lunch items
- Saying goodbye confidently



Communication Skills

- Talking about their day
- Listening to stories
- Following simple instructions

Social Skills

- Sharing and taking turns
- Playing alongside other children





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How Parents Can Support Learning

Reading

- Share stories daily
- Talk about pictures, characters and events
- Encourage a love of books

Early Maths

- Counting objects
- Spotting numbers in the environment
- Talking about shapes and patterns

Language Development

- Encourage conversation
- Introduce new vocabulary
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes

General Support

- Ensure good sleep routines
- Provide healthy meals
- Encourage curiosity and play





Online Safety & Screen Time

Young children need close supervision online. Use age-appropriate apps and websites and keep screens in shared family spaces. There's lots of guidance on [our website](#).

For 4-5 year olds, national guidance suggests no more than one hour of screen time a day. Research shows that high screen use can reduce children's focus, sleep quality and attention span, while slow, age-appropriate content watched *with* an adult supports learning. There are many [articles](#) to support this with suggestions for low stimulation tv shows.

How you can help:

- Choose safe, child-friendly apps
- Watch together and talk about what they see
- Keep screens out of bedrooms
- Balance screen time with play, reading and conversation





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Induction Arrangements

Your child's start to school will be gentle and supportive.

Induction includes:

- Stay & Play sessions
- Shorter settling sessions in the first days
- Gradual build-up to full days
- Time for staff to get to know your child individually

Stay & Play sessions allow:

- Children to explore the classroom with you
- Staff to meet families
- Children to begin forming relationships
- Parents to ask questions
- A calm, positive transition into school life

These sessions are always very well attended and help children feel excited and confident about starting Reception.

Dates and details will be sent separately.





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Additional Funding & Support for Families

Some families may be entitled to extra financial support. If your child qualifies for **Pupil Premium**, the school receives additional funding to help boost their learning and wellbeing. At Gilbert Colvin, this supports

- targeted learning
- extra resources
- subsidised trips
- 50% off one club per term

You may be eligible if you receive certain benefits or if your child has ever had Free School Meals in the last six years. Applying is quick, confidential, and completed through the **London Borough of Redbridge** website – the link is [here](#) on our school website. The school office can help you apply if needed.

Families in Redbridge may also be able to access wider support such as early years funding, childcare support and community services. If you think you might qualify, please speak to us – we are here to help you access the support available.



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We Look Forward to Welcoming You!

Thank you for joining us today.

We are excited to welcome your child to Gilbert Colvin and begin this important journey together.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team or contact the school office.

