

Busbridge Church of England Junior School

PROSPECTUS



Welcome

to Busbridge Church of England Junior School



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Busbridge Church of England Junior School. We are a happy and successful school in a semi-rural position on the southern side of Godalming. The school serves the families of Busbridge parish and the surrounding area, by offering an excellent Christian-focused education.

Our dedicated team bring to the school a wide range of skills and a great wealth of experience in teaching, guiding and nurturing children of this age group. We believe that children should find school an enjoyable and exciting time so that they are fulfilled in their learning and gain the knowledge, skills and a positive self-esteem to equip them for a successful and happy future.

Our school site is pleasant and open, with the original Victorian stone schoolhouse complemented by a large, recently extended modern building. The classrooms are spacious, light and comfortable. Our ICT Suite and library have been completely refurbished. The school is fortunate to have a dedicated music room and we have recently

planted a beautiful garden area. The resources available and opportunities for learning are extensive. We are pleased to offer disabled access and facilities.

The time that children spend at Junior School is precious and cannot be repeated. We recognise the confidence you place in us during this crucial period of your child's development.

Our prospectus is only an introduction to the work of the school. Please contact us to arrange a visit - we look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Holmes.

Miss Carolyn Holmes BA (Hons) QTS
Headteacher



With God we dream, learn, achieve and celebrate together. Our mission

Our values

We value:

- respect for each member of our community as an individual and aim to cater for his or her unique needs
- a life long love of learning which promotes enquiring and lively minds
- a worshipful Christian community within which every child grows to understand their value before God
- an environment which fosters learning and the best qualities of mind, body and spirit
- a broad and balanced curriculum which stimulates a sense of awe and wonder
- the celebration of diversity in all creeds, cultures and races
- the development of self-esteem and a positive attitude towards others
- creativity, enjoyment and excellence in all we do
- mutually supportive relationships between pupils, staff, parents, governors, church and community
- ambition and achievement - 'reach for the stars!'.

Our church and school

Well over a century ago, our school was built by members of Busbridge Church, and we have enjoyed a close relationship ever since. As a Christian school we value our assembly: a daily act of worship where we can also share and celebrate our achievements and successes. Assemblies are often linked to the church calendar or topical themes, and are enriched by regular outside visitors, who can provide a wider view of the world. We celebrate festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas with services in the church.

Our links with Busbridge Church are extensive and wide ranging. Many of our governors are nominated by the church and its staff and members are involved in assemblies, clubs and trips. The church also provides financial support for building maintenance and other projects. The church community uses the school premises for Sunday worship, youth activities and other events.

Both church and school benefit greatly from this excellent association and are enriched by it.

Should a parent prefer, their child may be excused participation in aspects of worship and religious education.





Our approach to learning

Busbridge Junior School has achieved a high level of academic success. We aim to develop the whole child, offering a broad and balanced curriculum where the foundation subjects of geography, history, design technology, art, music, physical education and French are valued alongside the core subjects of mathematics, English, science, information and communication technology and religious education.

We know that children learn in a variety of ways and find some subjects easier than others, so we use many different teaching methods and resources. We aim to inspire a simple joy of learning, which we hope will stay with them into adulthood.

We have two classes of thirty children in each of four year groups. There are occasions when the children are organised into different group situations to support learning opportunities. Teaching programmes are designed to suit individual learning requirements and thus enable all to fulfil their academic potential.

Subject Co-ordinators devise learning programmes in consultation with colleagues. These are implemented in the classroom according to the School Development Plan, and reviewed as part of the development cycle.

Resources

The school has a bright and stimulating new library with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. We have beech tables and desks, comfortable seating and a computerised cataloguing system which allows pupils to check books in and out themselves. Each class has its own reading resources, which are used in conjunction with the main school library.

Our mathematics and science resources have recently been reviewed and improved, with the introduction of new subject policies and schemes, including science resource boxes for each year group.

The ICT Suite now has a new server-based network of 18 PCs, with broadband internet access through the South East Grid for Learning. Further ICT resources include: an interactive whiteboard and microscope, multi media server, projector, digital camera and robotlab. Each classroom has at least 1 PC for use during normal lesson time.

We have a music room equipped with a variety of instruments for class and peripatetic music lessons.





The School Curriculum

English

We want the children to learn to love literature and language. English and literacy skills are learnt and practised in all areas of the curriculum.

We teach the children to be able to:

- listen carefully in order to understand the spoken word and develop a sense of the tone and nuance of what they hear
- express themselves verbally using a varied vocabulary and with depth of meaning
- read a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction, gaining an understanding of literary structures and styles
- write in a variety of styles both factual and creative
- present their work carefully, paying attention to details of grammar, spelling and handwriting.

Maths

Maths skills are used all the time in adult life. We encourage the children to see their importance and relevance. We use practical activities where possible, aiming to develop the children's ability to devise their own problem solving strategies. We use a variety of methods of calculation: mental, written and calculators where appropriate.

The curriculum includes number work, shape, space, measurement and data handling.

We use the National Numeracy Strategy and Collins Maths Scheme as the basis for our teaching. Children are set according to ability in maths lessons.

Science

We make science an enjoyable and interesting subject to learn, concentrating on investigative skills. The children develop their knowledge and understanding of the scientific concepts that govern the fascinating world around them. They are encouraged to test some of those concepts for themselves, and to record and present their findings. We channel their natural curiosity towards the following areas:

- Experimental and investigative science
- Life processes and living things
- Materials and their properties
- Physical processes.





Information and Communication Technology

We are very proud of our ICT suite, which all the children are timetabled to use regularly. They use an enormous variety of software to produce work for different subject areas.

By the end of Year 6 most of the children will be able to:

- create and show Powerpoint presentations
- work confidently in Publisher, Word and Excel
- search for and download information from the internet, and present it in their own format
- send and receive e-mail, with attachments
- use various software designed for specific curriculum areas, including Robolab control technology
- play games, and use graphics and photographs taken with the school's digital camera, particularly from school trips.

We ask parents and pupils to agree a code of practice for internet use.

We are able to accept homework via e-mail to homework@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk

History and Geography

Both these subjects have a great impact on children as they become more aware of the world around them and the mechanisms by which society operates. They learn to appreciate this through a structured programme linked to National Curriculum guidelines, and through the study of topical themes.



The work covered in the classroom is supplemented by exciting fieldwork at venues such as Butser Iron Age Farm, the Roman Palace at Fishbourne, the Rivers Thames and Wey, Somerset, the Isle of Wight and Godalming itself.

Currently Years 4, 5 and 6 go on residential trips which help develop a sense of independence as well as study and social skills in an unfamiliar environment. These trips are always a great success and a lot of fun for all.

Design Technology

We aim to teach DT in association with other subjects through activities which include:

- focused practical tasks, involving the safe and sensible use of tools
- designing and making models such as a Roman siege engine
- evaluating and improving a design to solve a problem
- investigating, disassembling and evaluating simple products.

The DT clubs in the upper school are very popular and are sponsored by a local consultant engineering firm.

Art and Design

We believe that all children are creative. We give them the opportunity to develop the imaginative and practical skills needed to record what they see, and to express ideas and feelings through a variety of media.

The children are asked to respond to the work of contemporary and historic artists in a range of genres. We include those who work locally as well as international artists.

Music

Pupils follow a programme of composition, performance, listening and appraising in their class lessons.

Surrey County Council instrumental tuition is available in school for a variety of instruments taught during lessons and out of school time.

We are very proud of our school choir, recorder and guitar ensembles. These musical groups perform in concerts, festivals and assemblies throughout the year.



French (Years 5 and 6)

Learning French allows children an opportunity to develop linguistically. We concentrate mainly on the oral form of the language with some reading and written work.

We use the Pilote and Developing French schemes with games, videos, songs and other active learning approaches. Above all we aim to make learning French an enjoyable experience.

Physical Education

Our PE programme aims to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. It includes learning, practising and improving skills in games, gymnastic activities, dance, athletics, outdoor and adventurous activities. Swimming is taught in Year 3.

This programme is well supported by a variety of out of school clubs.

Religious Education

A Christian approach and commitment to life is encouraged by our Religious Education policy and scheme of work. These involve the teaching and practice of Christianity within the context of our multi-faith society.

Personal, Social and Health Education & Citizenship

Through PSHE the children are encouraged to think and talk about issues which they encounter in their lives, in the lives of others and as depicted in the media. Citizenship helps children develop a sense of their place as members of a community. We focus on their responsibilities and experience of life as they grow.

Sex education is part of the National science and PHSE curricula. It is studied within the context of developing a caring and loving family environment. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any part of the sex education programme other than that required by the National Curriculum. A meeting to discuss the teaching of sex education is arranged for parents of Year 5 pupils.

Special Educational Needs

Our Special Educational Needs policy and the Code of Practice provide the framework for identifying and helping

children who have a specific educational need, whatever its nature. All staff, led by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, work within this. A team of teaching assistants supports the work of the teaching staff and we are able to call upon the expertise of outside agencies where necessary.

Anyone concerned that their child may have special needs is encouraged to talk to the SENCo or Headteacher before admission.

Homework

Homework is set to extend and supplement learning and should be a relevant and purposeful activity. We see homework as a shared responsibility between home and school and encourage parents to become involved by allowing children time, space and access to an interested adult. A diary is used to communicate with parents about homework and we encourage parents to check and sign this weekly.

Monitoring progress

Class teachers continually assess and monitor their pupils' progress while they are at Busbridge. Year 3 children are assessed on entry in the autumn term to supplement Key Stage 1 Standard Assessment Test results. Testing takes place through the Optional SATs in Years 3, 4 and 5. In Year 6 the statutory end of Key Stage 2 SATs take place.

School Council

The children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own environment and to have some input into decision-making. Each class votes for 2 representatives. The School Council meets every other week with a teacher to discuss whole school issues or events. The meetings, which are led by the children, are fun, lively and impact positively on the life of the school.

School Clubs

School clubs are held at lunchtime or after school. They are very popular and offer a greater breadth in learning, leading to a fuller school life. Clubs include a variety of music groups, sports, art and craft, gardening and a library club.

General information



Partnership with parents

The relationship between parents and the school is very important to us: we are partners in your child's education. We warmly welcome your involvement and value help with a variety of activities including school trips and after school clubs.

Interview evenings are arranged in the autumn and spring terms, giving parents the opportunity to discuss their child's work with the teacher. An annual Pupil Report is sent home in July. An open evening held in the summer term enables parents to view the work of the whole school.

School policies and the National Curriculum are available by arrangement with the school office.

Newsletters are sent home regularly to parents to keep everyone up to date with the life of the school.

Parent Teacher Association

All parents are automatically members of the PTA which undertakes invaluable work in support of the school. Its activities include regular events such as fêtes, bonfire night, social occasions, and helping with school developments.



Parental contributions

We aim to offer a rich and varied education for all our pupils. In this we rely significantly on voluntary contributions for such things as educational visits, swimming, the purchase of craft and other items.

Parents will be given details of the educational value of each event that requires funding. Insufficient support for an activity could render it liable to cancellation in which case refunds would be made. We do not wish any pupil to be excluded from activities for financial reasons. In cases of need, assistance may be available from the school and the church.

There is also a development fund which is a tax efficient way for parents to support us with additional resources.

Parents provide stationery and equipment and the pupils take responsibility for their personal belongings.

Data Protection

The school keeps a confidential record of children's addresses, telephone numbers etc. to enable us to contact a member of the family in an emergency. The school works within procedures laid down by the Data Protection Act.





Absence

The law requires us to record unauthorised absence.

We discourage family holidays in term time. The Governors feel that such absences disrupt the continuity of education for both the absent pupil and their classmates.

If such absence is unavoidable permission can be sought from the Headteacher for absences up to the government limit of 10 school days per year.

Behaviour and Discipline

As a Christian school high standards of behaviour, self-discipline and a caring attitude to others are encouraged. All children are expected to be polite and well behaved in

order to work and co-operate with others effectively. We operate a positive approach to discipline, with the emphasis on rewarding good behaviour and work. Recognition is given through our house point system, badges, certificates and whole class incentives.

Behaviour difficulties are dealt with by class teachers, the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher as appropriate. Parents will be invited to discuss problems if serious.

When all measures have failed to bring about an acceptable standard of behaviour the Governing Body may exclude a child as a final sanction.

Child Protection Policy

At this school we recognise our responsibility for the care and welfare of the children and have adopted a Child Protection Policy to reflect this. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Surrey Area Child Protection Committee.

Concerns and Complaints Procedure

If a parent has any worries or concerns about their child at school they should initially talk to the class teacher or a member of the school management team. Most concerns are resolved at this level.

If necessary a complaint will be dealt with by the Headteacher. If a problem is not resolved by the school, the Chairman of the Governors can investigate the issue. The matter can be pursued further by contacting the Local Authority and finally the Department for Education. Further details are available from the school.

Education Act 1981

The content of this prospectus represents the information required in Schedule 2 of the Education (School Information) Regulations 1981. The information was correct at the time of publication.

The information in this prospectus may be subject to change at any time during this school year or in the future.





Busbridge Church of England Junior School

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