



GREAT FINBOROUGH CHURCH PRIMARY

Prospectus



“Enriching young minds...”

Welcome to Great Finborough Church Primary. We are a small but fast growing village primary school with big aspirations for our pupils. We currently have over 140 children on roll, coming from both our catchment area (Great Finborough and Buxhall) and the wider local area.

We are committed to ensuring that every child meets their full potential both academically and socially. This is achieved through providing high quality, rigorous teaching, stimulating learning environments, an exciting curriculum and universal access to wider opportunities and experiences for all our children.

As a school, we place great emphasis on ensuring all our pupils make the most progress possible in the vital skills of reading, writing and maths. As a result, our youngest pupils achieve above average standards in their phonics screening and year on year our end of key stage results have also shown well above national average outcomes for our children.

At the core of our work is our skills based curriculum which was judged by OFSTED (November 2011) to be “OUTSTANDING”. Our curriculum is enriched by an array of carefully planned visits, visitors and residential and further enhanced by our commitment to investing in state of the art technology.

We are proud to encourage and promote outdoor learning through our Forest School Programme, run by our own trained staff and a complementary series of outdoor “survival skills” classes aimed specifically at our older children.

We also place great emphasis on the importance of personal well-being and fitness through our sports provision, enhanced by specialist coaches, use of local sports clubs, inter-school competitions and the offer of a wide and varied afterschool provision.

As a church school, we also enjoy close links with our local group of churches. We are proud to aid our pupil’s moral and spiritual development through our underpinning values, including tolerance, acceptance, responsibility and community.

Whether you are currently a member of our school community, a prospective parent or carer planning a visit, you will find a warm welcome and we hope that you find our prospectus both informative and useful. Our contact details are contained within the prospectus and you can also visit our school website www.finboroughprimary.co.uk

Stephen R Dodd

Stephen R Dodd
Headteacher / Leader of Learning



Our Vision

Our school will:

- Provide a caring and nurturing environment where all members of our school community feel valued and confident.
- Encourage all to co-operate together to become successful and enthusiastic life-long learners who can take their place in a constantly evolving world.
- Promote responsibility and tolerance to encourage our pupils to be responsible, respectful and caring citizens, who can make a positive contribution in today's diverse society.

Our Aims

- To create a caring, supportive environment that allows each child to develop the skills and confidence necessary to achieve their best.
- To help children grow in self esteem.
- To teach children to use language and number effectively, promoting good communication skills and the ability to access a full curriculum.
- To support children in acquiring the social skills necessary to meet challenges with confidence.
- To encourage critical awareness, the ability to judge, reason, select, reject and make choices.
- To respect the dignity of life and encourage the development of positive values.
- To encourage children to take an active role in their learning through the creation of an effective teaching and learning environment.
- To acknowledge the importance of the partnership between parents and carers, children and the school.
- To help children develop an awareness of self and sensitivity, respect and tolerance of others.
- To support children in developing the desire and skills to express themselves.
- To encourage and appreciation and understanding the Christian faith and school ethos.
- To enjoy the closeness of links with our church.
- To support children in appreciating and respecting other views and faiths.
- To help children to adopt healthy lifestyles.
- To promote respect, appreciation and an enjoyment of our countryside, heritage and environment around us.

Great Finborough Church Primary is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Since September 2010 we have operated a “Skills Based Curriculum”, underpinned by the work of Chris Quigley. OFSTED (2011) judged our curriculum to be “Outstanding”.

Our curriculum has been fully updated to ensure that it is in line with the new Curriculum 2014 introduced by the DfE.

Our school is currently organised into five classes. A foundation stage class (Green Class), a key stage 1 class (Red Class) and three key stage 2 classes (Blue, Purple and Silver Classes). Each class is taught by a qualified teacher and supported by skilled support staff. The younger children enjoy the provision of outside areas adjoining their classrooms, while the older children can access up to date computer technology including Microsoft Surface Pros and iPads.

Curriculum Enrichment

At Great Finborough Church Primary, we place great emphasis on curriculum enrichment both in and outside of the school day. Our key stage 2 pupils are all offered residential experiences, with each year group venturing further from home and for longer as they get older. These begin with trips within the Suffolk or Essex area, progressing to The Pennines, The Pembrokeshire Coast, finally culminating in an 8 day trip to experience the changing landscape and beautiful nature of the Outer Hebrides. These experiences offer the unique opportunity for our children to gain in confidence, independence and make lifelong memories with their friends.

Our upper key stage pupils also have the opportunity to travel to London, visit a West End show, ride on the London Eye and eat out with their class in a restaurant. This experience often feeds their desire to perform and we are able to fulfil this too, with annual Christmas performances and regularly contributing to the Snape Maltings Celebration of Schools Music.

Our sport provision, whilst covering the National Curriculum 2014, also offers a far wider range of activities, from sailing, kayaking, tennis at the Stowmarket Tennis Club, cricket at Battisford Cricket Club, access to a local sports hall for basketball, volleyball and bench-ball as well as disability sports. All our key stage 2 pupils also access swimming at the local pool, culminating in a swimming gala in year 6.

Our younger pupils enjoy regular trips to local places of interest, forest schools, welly walks and visitors.

All our educational visits rely on voluntary contributions by parents, most of them are subsidised to some degree by the school.



Collective Worship (School Assembly)

The school has a daily Collective Act of Worship, in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The school assembly is an important part of the day. It varies in format, benefitting from weekly acts of worship



with our local clergy, weekly worship through song, teacher led worship and a celebration assembly at the end of the week. We also hold termly collective worship in church and our families are welcome to join family services at St Andrews and St Mary's and the termly services involving the school on Sundays which are also held on special dates such as Mothering Sunday and Christingle. We are also pleased to host

Community Carols around our Christmas tree every year, a joint project between the church and community.

Our church community also run a children's club, "Splat", on certain Fridays after school.

In our 2011 inspection as a church school, we were described as "Outstanding".

Extended School Service

In order to support our working parents and those dropping other children off at Nurseries and High Schools, we offer a supervised Breakfast and After School Club. At Breakfast Club, pupils may book with an advance booking system to arrive from 8:15am, and have breakfast or a drink or snack as well as take part in organised activities. Our After School Club runs from the end of school until 5pm, offering snacks and a wide range of craft and more physical activities to entertain your children until you are able to pick them up.

We also run a variety of sports clubs run after school on a daily basis, these vary from term to term.

The Curriculum

Our school, along with all other state maintained schools in Suffolk, follows the 2014 National Curriculum and the Suffolk RE syllabus.

The Three Core Subjects:

English, Mathematics and Science.

The Foundation Subjects:

Art & Design, Citizenship (PSHE), Computing, Design & Technology, Languages, Geography, History, Music and PE.

We aim to provide an interesting, diverse and engaging curriculum which will enthuse and equip the children on their journey to High School, and beyond on their journey as life-long learners.



English

Areas covered by the National Curriculum include: Spoken Language, Reading & Writing and Vocabulary Development. English, or Literacy levels are the key to communication and the gateway to accessing the wider curriculum. Our children begin with a solid foundation in phonics in order to quickly gain the necessary skills for reading and early writing. Our reading materials are diverse and carefully selected to match the needs of each individual reader. Children are encouraged to become critical readers and participate in selecting their own reading materials, so that as they gain in confidence they become independent readers, reading a wide range of literature for pleasure.

All our children are read to at school and we actively encourage parents to continue to read to their children to further foster a love of books and to demonstrate the higher level reading skills of intonation, fluency, language development and expression.

Our children are encouraged to use their writing skills across the whole curriculum. They are taught the DofE (Department of Education) curriculum involving SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) as well as the tools they need to write in a variety of fiction and non-fiction genre. All pupils are introduced to joining their handwriting as soon as they are ready.

Mathematics

We teach a thorough grounding in number and an enjoyment of playing number games from an early age. We then follow our school calculation policy to teach the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Pupils are taught to use these skills in real life problem solving and investigation work. Following the national curriculum, our children learn to collect, present and analyse data, apply geometric and algebraic understanding, understand and use measures, make estimates and relate their understanding to the notions of risk and uncertainty.

Science

We encourage our children to be curious about the things they observe and experience.



They are able to build up a body of key foundational knowledge through their own research, investigation and our teaching of the essential aspects and concepts. They can then use this to explore theories and their curiosity about natural phenomena, make predictions and analyse cause.

Great Finborough Church Primary has a policy on relationship and sex education, a copy of which is available on our school website or on request from the school office.

Geography

We teach the children about their world using a wide variety of resources and materials, from digital global mapping, to compasses and atlases. Our children are taught about the diversity of our planet, its people, resources and the natural and human environments. They are encouraged to investigate the interrelation between the physical and human aspects and the formation and use of landscapes.

Our variety of residential trips offer the children first hand experience of a wide range of different British landscapes.

History

Following the National Curriculum, our children are taught about British history from



Stone Age through to the Norman conquest. They experience a variety of literature, artefacts and visits to bring their studies to life. As they move through the school their learning expands to include world history including the achievements of some early civilisations, such as The Egyptians, The Ancient Greeks or Mayan Civilisations as well as local history studies.

Music

At Great Finborough Church Primary, we have always invested heavily in the promotion of a wide range of opportunities for all our pupils, including in music. Our children can access high quality instruments from a young age, they are encouraged to sing and perform as their musical talents develop. Further up the school, as their music reading abilities develop, pupils are able to access professional whole class or group tuition. In the past, these instruments have included flute, brass and guitar. We are also regular contributors to the Celebration of School Music at Snape Maltings.

Art & Design

Our children work from a wide range of starting points. They are encouraged to study great artists and designers, then experiment, invent and create their own artwork – using collage, paint, charcoal, pencil and clay.

Design & Technology

Our pupils are encouraged to be creative and imaginative as they design a variety of products that solve real life problems or have a genuine use. They design using mock-ups, computer modelling, templates and drawings. Following this, they use a variety of tools to bring their design to life before evaluating their product against existing designs.

Cooking and nutrition also fall under D&T. We have invested in a range of equipment in order that our pupils are able to access this curriculum and all classes prepare or cook food regularly. Pupils are taught about a balanced nutritious diet here, but also in science and PSHE.

Religious Education



In line with the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, all our children should leave with a thorough grounding in all the main world faiths, including Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Children are also taught about the concepts of atheism and agnosticism.

Computing

The new computing curriculum has computer science at its core. Our children use a variety of platforms to discover how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. They write computer programs to solve problems and are taught to de-bug them. They are taught how to use the internet safely and become confident and competent users of information and communication technology.

Sport

At Great Finborough Primary School we like to offer our children a broad range of sports opportunities in order to inspire them to challenge themselves and their competitive nature.

During their time with us, our pupils are likely to be offered teaching, including professional coaching in football, rugby, cricket, tennis, hockey, dodge-ball, gymnastics, dance, volleyball, handball, athletics and swimming.

We have our own school hall and a school field adjacent to the school, as well as our school playground. Some of our coaching is off site at local venues including Battisford Cricket Club, Stowmarket Leisure Centre, Stowmarket Tennis Club and Pipers Vale Gymnasium. Many of our after school club activities reflect interest and enthusiasm shown during sport lessons.

We have full team kits for many sports, including rugby, football and cricket whites which we use when competing against other schools in leagues, tournaments and festivals.



Forest Schools

Forest schools allows our pupils to learn a wide range of skills in a woodland setting. Children are encouraged to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their choices, actions and for the world around them. They are taught to consider ways to reduce risks to themselves and others, to problem solve together and to persevere to achieve desired goals. As it takes place in all but the most extreme weather, children develop resilience and stamina!

Sessions include supported child initiated activities, the learning of practical skills and tool use. We often cook on campfires, whittle sticks, build dens, tie knots, investigate wildlife, sing songs, tell stories and always have fun!



Admissions Arrangements

We have an open admissions policy in accordance with the Local Authority guidelines, which are published on the school website. Our catchment area is Great Finborough and Buxhall, though many of our children travel from out of catchment areas. In case of oversubscription, due to the popularity of our school, it should be noted that the admissions are governed by the Local Authority.

All children can attend school full-time from September following their 4th birthday. Before starting school, pupils are invited to “Come and Join in” with Green Class so they familiarise themselves with our school and staff. Our staff also carry out home visits in order that they have a good understanding of each child before they start with us in the Autumn.

School Uniform and Clothing

Boys:

Grey trousers/shorts
Pale blue polo shirt with school logo
Navy blue v-neck sweatshirt with school logo
Grey socks
Black shoes

Girls:

Grey skirt/shorts/pinafore dress
Pale blue polo shirt with school logo
Navy blue v neck sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
White socks
Black shoes

Winter – girls may wish to wear grey tights or grey trousers.

Summer – navy blue gingham dress (optional)

Sports Kits

EYFS/KS1:

Navy blue t-shirt with school logo
Black shorts
Plimsolls (trainers Yr 2)
Black or navy joggers for colder weather

KS2:

As above, but children will require both indoor and outdoor trainers.

Please note – in-line with health and safety guidelines, no jewellery should be worn during sports lessons.

All badged school uniform items including PE bags, book bags, school hats and are available at reasonable prices through the school. Order forms are available on request. The remainder can be bought at local supermarkets or via the internet.

Staff

Mr Stephen Dodd	Headteacher and Leader of Learning, Teacher, Silver Class
Mrs Susan Baldry	Assistant Headteacher (KS1 and Foundation Stage)
Mrs Tessa Sait	Teacher, Red Class
Mrs Gemma Pollard	Assistant Headteacher (KS2), Teacher Purple and Silver Class
Mrs Jodie Bennett	Teacher, Purple Class
Mrs Siobhan Howson	Teacher, Blue Class
Mrs Katie Dalgouttie	Teacher, Green Class and SENDCo
Mrs Julie Hartley	Teacher, Red Class
Mrs Hillary Kemp	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Miss Carol Holmes	Teaching Assistant, Red Class & Breakfast Club
Mrs Jo Frogley	Teaching Assistant, Blue Class
Mrs Lesley Betts	Teaching Assistant, Purple Class
Mrs Kim Cotton	Teaching Assistant, Silver Class
Mrs Harriet Elliss	Teaching Assistant, Green Class & After School Club
Mr Matthew Cox	Business Manager
Mrs Mari Green	Clerical Assistant
Mrs Sarah Clark	Caretaker, Midday Supervisor
Mrs Julie Francis	Midday Supervisor
Mrs Nikki Crabb	Midday Supervisor
Mrs Diane Kenvin	Midday Supervisor
Mrs Michelle Thomas	Midday Supervisor

Governors

Chair of Governors	Mr Jamie Warner
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs Melony Mayhew
Foundation Governors	Rev Chris Childs Mr Jim Sansom Mrs Mary Williams
Parent Governors	Mrs Sally Burns Mr Ben Thomas Mr Anthony Mann
LA Governor	Mr Neil Watts
Headteacher	Mr Stephen Dodd
Teacher Governor	Mrs Susan Baldry
Associate Governor	Mrs Tessa Sait

Safeguarding Team

Mr Stephen Dodd	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Susan Baldry	Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Harriet Elliss	Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr Neil Watts	Safeguarding Governor