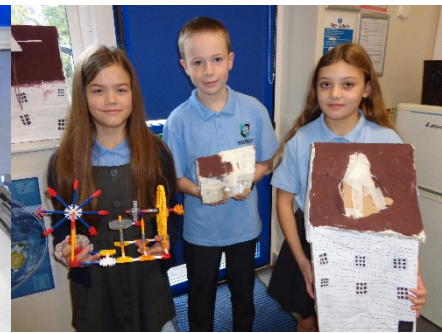


Prospectus 2025-26



**GREAT FINBOROUGH
CHURCH PRIMARY**

**Rooted in Faith;
Enriching Young Minds**



Matthew 13 verse 8:
*Still other seed fell on good soil,
where it produced a crop—a
hundred, sixty or thirty times what
was sown*



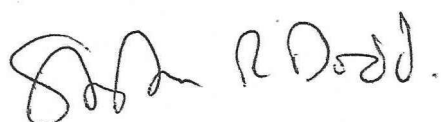
Welcome to Great Finborough Church Primary School. We are a popular and successful village church school that welcomes children from both our catchment area (Great Finborough and Buxhall) and from the wider local area.

We are committed to ensuring that every child meets their full potential both academically and socially. This is achieved through providing high quality teaching and stimulating learning environments that are safe and nurturing, while providing the appropriate level of challenge to enable our children to learn new skills.

As a school we put great emphasis on ensuring all our pupils develop strong core skills in the vital areas of reading, writing and maths, which are underpinned by enriched learning opportunities aimed at enabling every child to reach their potential. These opportunities include both in-house activities, use of specialist sports coaches and external sports facilities, workshops from external visitors such as music teachers and local artists, and carefully planned educational visits and residential trips. Please do visit the 'Recent Activities' section of our website to see some of the things children have experienced over the last year.

We are proud to encourage and promote outdoor learning, a love of the arts and personal well-being and fitness, and we are also proud to develop our pupils' spiritual and moral development through our underpinning values and strong links with the local Church and charities.

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
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 encourage an appreciation and understanding of 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 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 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.

Our school is currently organised into five classes:

- Willow Class (Foundation)
- Maple Class (Year 1/Year 2),
- Sycamore Class (Year 3/Year 4)
- Oak Class (Year 5/Year 6)

Each class is led by a qualified teacher. The curriculum is structured to take account of mixed year group teaching and teachers are supported by skilled support staff which enables children to be taught in year groups rather than classes where this is more appropriate (principally in core subjects). The younger children enjoy the provision of outside areas adjoining their classrooms. We ensure children can access up to date computer technology, and students in the top classes all have their own laptop to work on.

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, in the past these have included trips within the Suffolk or Essex area, the North York Moors and the Pembrokeshire Coast. These experiences offer the unique opportunity for our children to gain in confidence, independence and make lifelong memories with their friends.



We are firm believers in the value of the Arts. Music is taught in classes throughout the school and this is supported by external visitors providing musical workshops and our links to Band Academy. The latter allows us to offer individual music tuition in: guitar, keyboard and vocal skills. Older children also have the opportunity to demonstrate their performance skills in front of parents and at events such as the Big Sing at the Britten Peers Arts centre at Snape Maltings.

Children also enjoy developing their art and design skills in class, and have been under pinned by workshops held by a local artist, a visit from an architect and visits by the older children to annual Artworks exhibition at Blackthorpe Barn.





Our sport provision, whilst covering the National Curriculum, also offers a wider range of activities. Sport for the younger children is taught by class teachers and there is specialist coach provision for Years 3-6. Whenever possible we offer additional activities, such as tennis, cricket and gymnastics at external venues, taking part in tournaments, and the opportunity to see Ipswich Town play at home. All pupils also access two terms of swimming at the local pool during Key Stage 2.

Trips out are important to support learning. Our foundation pupils have trips to local places of interest, and welly walks.



Trips for the older children are linked to the curriculum. For example, last year Years 3 & 4 visited the School Farm & Country Fair to support their learning about food in Design Technology



Years 1-3 visited Orford Castle to support their history lessons.

Years 1-6 went to study the art and enjoy



Gainsborough's house to workshops.



Year 6 had a day trip to Paris to support their language studies.

In September 2024 year 4-6 children had a residential trip to Pembrokeshire where they enjoyed a range of water-based activities



All children enjoyed our Dance Workshops.



Although our enrichment opportunities are subsidised by the school, all of them rely on contributions from parents.



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 Great Finborough and St Mary's Buxhall and the termly services involving the school on Sundays, which are also held on special dates such as Mothering Sunday, and Christingle.

Our Collective Worship are inclusive and children of all faiths, and of none, enjoy the opportunities to gather as a school family. In the unlikely event of you wishing to withdraw your child, please make an appointment with the Headteacher.

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 8:00am, 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 clubs after school, 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, Computing, Design & Technology, Languages, Life Skills (RSE/PSHE), Geography, History, Music, PE and Religious Education.

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, underpinned by the DfE approved 'Jolly Phonics' scheme.



Our core reading materials are the 'Big Cat' reading books. This provides a diverse selection of reading material allowing us to carefully select books to match the needs of each individual reader.

Our top classes have class libraries and children are encouraged to become critical readers and participate in selecting their own reading materials, in addition to

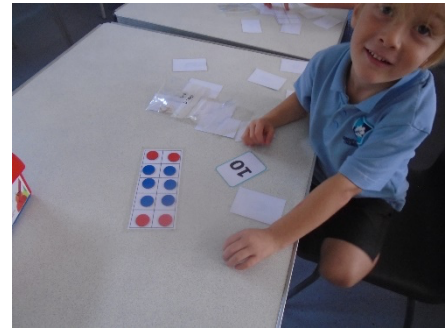
those from the reading scheme, so that as they gain in confidence they become independent readers, reading a wide range of literature for pleasure.

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 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.

Our policy on relationship and sex education 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 residential trips offer the children first hand experience 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. Individual music lessons are on offer as well as class tuition and workshops. Older children put on a musical production for parents each summer.



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. We regularly engage with the schools programme linked to the annual ArtWorks exhibition at Blackthorpe Barn and invite a local artist in to do workshops with the children.

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 learn their core skills using Purple Mash and develop those using a variety of tools to become confident and competent users of information and communication technology. Skills developed include writing and debugging computer programs to solve problems. Through both computing and PSHE they are taught how to keep themselves safe online.



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. We are members of the Gipping Valley & Thurston School Sports Partnership

which gives us access to specialist coaches and inter-school competitions.

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 Battsford Cricket Club, Stowmarket Leisure Centre and the Ipswich Gymnastic Centre. 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 & Outdoor Learning

We run a Forest Schools programme for children from Early Years to Years 6 run by our Forest Schools Leader.



Forest School provides holistic (whole child) learning opportunities which are focused on children's interests in a woodland environment.

These outdoor learning opportunities help children to:

- Improve confidence, resilience and creativity
- Improve physical wellbeing and motor development
- Improve empathy, social skills and build a sense of community
- Give an insight into the natural world and help children build connection with it
- Take risks in a supported way
- Learning opportunities are learner led, giving them opportunities to pursue their interests and develop a range of practical skills e.g. using tools for crafts
- Sessions are based on long-term observation & guidance from leaders

Children are encouraged to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their choices, actions and for the world around them. As it takes place in all but the most extreme weather, children develop resilience and stamina!



Admission 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 Willow 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 (school logo - optional)
Navy blue v-neck sweatshirt (school logo)
Grey socks
Black shoes

Girls:

Grey skirt/shorts/pinafore dress
Pale blue polo shirt (school logo - optional)
Navy blue v neck sweatshirt or cardigan (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 (school logo - optional)
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 school uniform items carrying our logo, including PE bags, book bags are available from **www.yourschoolwear.co.uk**. The remainder can be bought at local supermarkets or via the internet.

Our preference is for all children to wear a Sweatshirt or Cardigan with the school logo. We ask that they have one polo shirt carrying the logo for visitor and trip days, plain sky blue polo shirts are fine for day to day use.

To support parents and carers, our Friends Association also carries a stock of second hand uniform. Please ask about this at the school office.

Staff

Mr Stephen Dodd	Headteacher, Teacher – Oak Class
Miss Lesley Dickins	Assistant Headteacher, Teacher – Sycamore Class
Mrs Esther Hart	Part Time Teacher – Oak Class
Mrs Clare Horsley	Teacher – Maple Class
Ms Rebecca Firman	Teacher – Willow Class
Mrs Siobhan Howson	SENCo
Mrs Valerie Hyett	Teacher – Forest Schools & Supply Teacher
Mrs Carolyn Nelson	Supply Teacher
Mrs Tammy Tucker	Supply Teacher
Mrs Jayne Kingshott	Supply Teacher
Mrs Kim Cotton	Office Manager
Mrs Lindsey Richardson	Financial Officer
Miss Carol Holmes	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Hayley Thomas	Teaching Assistant, Breakfast & After School Club Lead
Mrs Jenny Jewers	Teaching Assistant,
Mrs Michelle Thomas	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Sam Bond	Teaching Assistant (casual)
Mr Ewan Cotton	Junior Caretaker, Midday Supervisor
Ms Melanie Ruffell	Midday Supervisor
Mrs Claire Ireland	Midday Supervisor
Mrs Priscilla Evans	Midday Supervisor
Miss Elin Cotton	Cleaner, Midday Supervisor
Miss Heidi Betts	Cleaner

Governors

Chair of Governors	Mr Liam Page
Foundation Governors	Rev Sarah Jenkins,
Parent Governors	Mrs Jude Kemp and Ms Angela Gray
Co-opted Governors	Mrs Harriet Elliss
LA Governor	Mr Liam Page
Headteacher	Mr Stephen Dodd
Teacher Governor	Miss Lesley Dickins
Associate Governor	Ms Becky Firman

Safeguarding Team

Ms Becky Firman	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Lesley Dickins	Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Harriet Elliss	Safeguarding Governor
Mr Stephen Dodd	Headteacher
Mr Liam Page	Chair of Governors