



Welcome to
**St Nicholas Church of England
Voluntary Controlled
Infant School**
Established 1849

School Prospectus 2020-2021

Welcome to St Nicholas Infant School, a highly respected, thriving school in which every pupil is nurtured and treasured as a child of God.

Our aim is to prepare children for life-long learning and to provide education of the highest quality to all within the context of Christian belief and practice.

We are committed to high academic standards, high expectations and high aspirations for all which drives our belief in “Excellence for all, excellence from all.”

We encourage and promote our core Christian values of Friendship, Respect, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Compassion through the rich experience we offer all of our pupils.

*‘Our values **are lived out all day, every day throughout our school**’*
Church School inspection, 2018.

‘The school has instilled values that will remain with our children beyond their school lives’. – quote from parent, March 2018

Our school first came into existence in 1849 and the building became known as ‘the school on the hill’, as mentioned by Charles Dickens. We were the first Church of England School in the Medway area and one of the earliest in Kent.

We are a school that has a sharp focus on Safeguarding and keeping our children safe. We actively promote our Christian Values and British Values throughout our curriculum.

We are judged to be an ‘Outstanding’ school by both Ofsted and The Church of England (SIAMS).

Administrative Information

St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infants School
London Road, Strood
Rochester, Kent ME2 3HU

Telephone: 01634 717120
Email: office@st-nicholas.medway.sch.uk
Web Site: www.st-nicholas.medway.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs G Johnson BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

School Sessions:

Morning: 9 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. Afternoon: 1.00 p.m. - 3.05 p.m.

Children should be brought onto the playground for the morning session and can be collected from there at the end of the day. Staff will be available and on the playground to speak to and give messages from 8.50 a.m.

THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing body is made up of a cross-section of people who bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to support and challenge how effectively the school is working to improve the learning and outcomes for all our children.

Our latest Ofsted reported that 'The governing body is highly effective in both challenging and supporting the school. Staff and governors work very closely together to check how well the school is doing and plan actions to make teaching even better.'

Our Governing Body has been constituted to include: 3 foundation governors, 1 local authority governor, 1 staff governor plus the Head teacher, 2 parent governors and 3 co-opted governors. Throughout each academic year members meet all together as the full governing body.

Chair of Governors: Mrs J. Smith,

Vice Chair: Dr B. Davis

Staff Governor: Mrs R. Gooch,

Head teacher: Mrs G. Johnson

Foundation Governors: Rev. D. Green and Mrs P. Jennings,

Local Authority Governor: Mrs S. Griffin,

Parent Governors: Two vacancies,

Co-opted Governors: Mrs L. Prudence and Mrs A. Tippins

Teaching Staff:

Mrs R. Gooch Deputy Headteacher
Mrs A. Watts Early Years Lead
Mrs J. Fitton Senco
Mrs J. Harris
Mrs C. Bennett
Mrs Y. Beaver

Administration

Mrs M. Wells
Mrs G. Burch

Cleaner in Charge

Mr K. Gates

Teaching Assistants

Mrs P. Jennings HLTA
Mrs A. Bruford
Mrs H. Noonan
Mrs T Norman
Miss G. Dean
Mrs C. Marshman
Mrs M. Walkinshaw
Mrs K Stephenson
Mrs Shepherd

Midday Supervisors/Play leaders

Mrs C. Wooding
Mrs J Miller
Mrs N. Ward
Miss G. Dean

Breakfast Club

Miss G. Dean

Family partnerships

We endeavour to nurture our children, to enable them to grow in their faith, become high academic achievers, develop enquiring minds and take responsibility by being global citizens. Our role, in partnership with parents, is to build the foundations for a successful education, to enable each child to discover the joy of learning, to help them to fulfil every aspect of their potential and to encourage their growth into effective citizens, ready to play their part in the world and their community.



‘The school runs numerous workshops and supplies resource packs to equip parents to support their children’s learning’

‘parents volunteer to support with reading or special events, like den building. They appreciate the opportunity to be involved in school life saying,

‘You feel part of something good’.

Church School inspection, 2018

Admissions and Transfer

Admissions

All children who reach the age of 5 years between September 1st and 31st August are admitted during September, initially on a part-time basis as we have found this an effective induction into school. They then attend full time if they are settled. Parents have the option of continuing with a part time placement for part of or all of the first term, if they so wish.

Parents also have the right to defer entry until January, without affecting their right to a place at the school.

Medway Local Authority is responsible for allocating all school places. In the event of over subscription, admissions criteria will be applied according to LA requirements:-

- i) Children in public care for whom the school is the nearest appropriate;
- ii) Attendance at the 'paired' infant school or schools (for those junior schools marked with an asterisk on the schools' list in the 'Medway Primary Education' brochure);
- iii) Denominational preference (for church controlled schools);
- iv) Current family association (a brother or sister in the school or 'paired' school(s) at the time of application);
- v) Child's health reasons. Medical evidence must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason which requires a child to attend the preferred school;
- vi) Nearness of children's homes and ease of access to schools. (see note in the Medway Primary Education brochure)

Admissions Policy

This school follows the Medway admissions policy.

Admissions are made in accordance with LA policy.

Admissions at other times are considered if places are available and the same authority admission criteria apply.

Disabled pupils and staff

Where disabled pupils or staff join the school they will be treated favourably and in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 SEN and Disability Act 2001. Reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that disabled pupils and staff are not disadvantaged in comparison to other pupils and staff. For further information, the school's Accessibility Action Plan is available on request from the office.

Transfer at age 7

There are allocated places for all children to attend Gordon School at year 3 and parents are automatically sent application forms. Parents may wish to apply for places at other schools but admission elsewhere may not be guaranteed.

Teaching and Learning

The school is organised into 4 classes and each has a maximum of 30 children. Our priority in each class is to know each child well and provide them with the best opportunities. Children may be taught in small groups and individually to ensure that teaching meets all learning needs.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in the Early Years Foundation stage follow The Early Years Foundation Curriculum. This encompasses three prime areas of learning. Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social, Emotional Development and four specific areas of learning: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Opportunities are provided to learn through practical activities and structured play and for the children to learn to work together and develop confidence and independence.

During their EYFS Year children's abilities are closely tracked and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is completed as a record, at the end of the year.

National Curriculum

In Year 1 and Year 2 the children are taught according to the National Curriculum and programmes are delivered through topics. Term 1: Ourselves, Term 2: Toys, Term 3: Let's build, Term 4: Explore Medway, Term 5: Our World – Plants & Animals and Term 6: Our World – People & Places

Subjects taught are:

Mathematics	English	Science
Computing	History	Personal, Social, Health & Relationship Education (PSHRE)
Design Technology (D.T)	Art & Design	Geography
Physical Education (P.E)	Music	

Religious Education

Religious education is provided in accordance with the Medway Agreed Syllabus and The Understanding Christianity Project. The syllabus is broadly Christian in content.

The school provides:

'rich, creative experiences that are highly appropriate for these young pupils and enable them to flourish in their learning and relationships.'

'Pupils make very good progress from their starting points'

Church School inspection, 2018.

Physical Activity

Physical exercise is essential to help growing children develop fitness, stamina and co-ordination and in encouraging pupils to adopt an active healthy lifestyle in the future. Gymnastic activities develop control and balance. Work with small apparatus builds skills such as throwing, catching and aiming needed when playing team games. Through dance children learn to express imaginative ideas and to interpret music. Children also have the opportunity to join after school clubs, such as Scottish Country Dancing, Football Club and Dance Club. All classes have three PE sessions a week including an outdoor session.



Able Children

Children who are identified as being able in one or more area of the curriculum are supported through an individual learning programme. Withdrawal from class with a small group of children allows work to be set at an appropriate level. The school has a policy for supporting these children.

Equal Opportunities

At St Nicholas School we aim to offer equal opportunities for all of our pupils whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, ability and background. In order to achieve this aim we endeavor to ensure that progress and attainment are equal for all. As a Christian School we believe that every child has unique characteristics, abilities and learning needs. Every child has a fundamental right to an education system designed to value and take into account a wide diversity of need and culture. We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind against our pupils, parents or staff.

‘The school goes to impressive lengths to adapt provision to meet the needs of each new intake.

Pupils are treated as individuals and the curriculum is tailored accordingly’

Church School inspection, 2018.

Child Protection

Mrs Johnson, Mrs Gooch and Mrs Fitton are the designated child Protection Co-ordinators (DCPC). They ensure that the school's procedures for safeguarding children are in line with Medway Child Protection Procedures. The Child Protection Policy is available on our website. St Nicholas CE Infants School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Internet Safety

Computers are used as part of our daily teaching. Children are always supervised by an adult if they are using the internet in school. The school's internet provision is protected by a firewall and ensures that children cannot access inappropriate sites. For further information about e-safety please see our website.

Special Educational Needs Policy

At St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infants School we will endeavour to meet the needs of all of our children. Some children will enter school having been identified by outside specialists as having Special Educational Needs (SEN), other children may be identified through our school approach to monitoring the progress and development of all children.

A pupil is identified as having SEN if their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision; that is provision different from, or additional to, that which is normally available to pupils of the same age. Following discussion with parents we may draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professions.

We follow the guidance of the revised SEN code of practice and continually review our expertise and resources to address SEN. Information about SEN can be found within our SEN policy and Local Offer, both of which are available on our website.

Policies

Our policies are available on our website www.st-nicholas.medway.sch.uk. If you require a paper copy please enquire at the school office and you will be supplied with one free of charge.





Church and Christian Links

Every day we have an act of worship and the weekly programme is led by the staff and children, clergy and visitors from the local church and other Christian groups such as the Family Trust.

**‘Collective worship is valued by the whole community.
Parents warmly welcome invitations to join worship and
appreciate the positive impact that promoting pupil leadership
has had on their children’s confidence.’**

Church School Inspection 2018

Special services take place several times a year both at school and at St Nicholas church and the year 2 children regularly visit Rochester Cathedral for workshops and worship.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The school has strong links with the local community. At Harvest time the parents send in donations of food which are delivered to Care in the Community Projects.

During the year the school participates in charitable events for the wider community. These events raise money for charities such as The Children’s Society, Christian Aid, MacMillan, Mary’s Meals, Jeans for Genes and the UNICEF Day For Change. The children also make links with schools from other continents to learn about similarities and differences between cultures.

Opportunities for children to develop spiritually are built into many aspects of school life. Children are provided with time and space for quiet reflection. Teachers use the arts subjects and the environment to develop in children a sense of awe and wonder. Through these experiences our pupils learn about and grow nearer to God.

**‘The whole curriculum is imaginatively designed to support pupils’ spiritual,
moral, social and cultural development. Topics actively promote the arts and
global awareness.’**

Church School Inspection 2018

