

St Christophers Academy Prospectus

2023/24





Welcome to St Christophers Academy. We are delighted that you are considering our school for your child's education. We are a long established school that has seen generations of the same family pass through our doors. We opened in 1958 and have gained a solid reputation for providing a good education whilst maintaining our caring and nurturing ethos. We believe that happy children thrive and this belief is at the centre of our learning.

We have a reputation for high standards of attainment and behaviour both of which were recognised in our latest Ofsted report. Whilst we maintain the fundamental values and principles that have built the foundations of a good school we are innovative and forward thinking and strive to provide a 21st century education that will equip your child for the next stage in their educational journey.

~Our Vision~

Our Vision encapsulates the core purpose, ethos and culture of St Christophers Academy.

We aspire to be a school

Where our children are keen to come and have an eagerness to learn.

Where children can develop their friendships and learn the social skills and independence that will support them as they learn and grow.

Which provides a nurturing and safe environment and where we understand that the physical and emotional wellbeing of our children is paramount if they are to learn effectively

Where we are good at identifying aptitudes and abilities in our children and do our best to develop them.

Where we put an emphasis on creativity, fun and enjoyment to inspire and motivate our children to learn.

Where we challenge and extend our children's thinking and have the very highest expectations of what they can achieve.

Where we enable children to develop their thinking skills, so they may use them in new learning situations.

Where we plan and deliver a curriculum that teaches children how to learn not just what to learn.

Where we prepare children well for the next steps in their learning and education.

Which is forward thinking, innovative and open to new ideas.

Which is well thought of and plays an active part in the local and wider community.

General Information

Introduction

I hope you find our information pack a useful introduction to our school and that it will answer some of the questions you may have as your child joins us.

We are a two form entry Primary school taking children in the September before their fifth birthday. In addition, we have our own nursery which takes children from 2 years old from which many transfer to main school when they become of statutory age. We also provide after school care from 7.45 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. which is extremely popular so please enquire for more details.

Visitors to the school often comment on the peaceful and positive atmosphere and we have been described as a 'village school within a town'. The school stands in extensive grounds which include sports field, playgrounds, climbing frames, children's garden and quiet areas. All classrooms are spacious and equipped with the latest technology. We provide a broad sports and music timetable and a range of extra- curricular activities to suit all tastes.

We are part of a larger Trust – The Bedfordshire Schools Trust - www.bestacademies.org.uk which also provides additional opportunities for our children. We take advantage of the expertise and opportunities provided by some of the larger high schools in the Trust to enable our children to have additional opportunities such as taking part in the Trust wide music and Arts festivals, visits to the Pendleton Sports Centre and watching the older children in the secondary teams compete in national sporting tournaments.

The school works in partnership with parents and holds a Parent's Forum, along with parent drop in sessions and workshops. We have a thriving 'Friends of St Christopher's' parents' group who work extremely hard to support the children at our school. Two of their recent donations to us have resulted in a brand new outside play area for our two year olds and a whole class set of Chromebooks. We are a community school and regularly hold events which we strongly encourage our families to get involved with. We are also pleased to announce that we have recently introduced the food share scheme, Fare Share.

We encourage visits to our school and look forward to seeing you at your own convenience.

Our Curriculum

All children follow the National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children have lessons in:-

- English
- Information, Communication, Technology
- Mathematics
- History
- Science
- Design and Technology
- Art
- Music
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Citizenship
- French
- Personal, Social, Cultural and Health Education



For more information on our curriculum please visit our website

<https://www.stchristophersacademy.org/>

Values-based Education

At St Christophers Academy, it is our aim to raise standards by promoting a school ethos which is underpinned by core values. These values are intended to support the personal, social and spiritual development of every pupil throughout the school. Values-based Education aims to encourage children to become reflective learners within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. The values are reflected in our school vision, with the whole staff team and all pupils being involved in promoting values and identifying others who are 'living the values'. The values-based approach aims to provide pupils with the self-esteem and confidence to explore and develop their full potential both in and out of school. The values will continue to play an important role throughout the children's lives. At St Christophers Academy, we currently have twelve values which are explored across a two-year rolling programme:

Year A

Autumn 1 – Friendship
Autumn 2 – Gratitude
Spring 1 – Patience
Spring 2 – Individuality
Summer 1 – Forgiveness
Summer 2 – Co-operation



Year B

Autumn 1 - Positivity
Autumn 2 - Respect
Spring 1 - Fairness
Spring 2 - Resilience
Summer 1 - Humour
Summer 2 - Tolerance

Amongst our school values listed above, we have identified four Key Values which always run alongside our additional half-termly values: Tolerance, Respect, Positivity and Resilience. Although we believe all of our school values contribute greatly to the development of our children as positive role models, our four Key Values are significant in relation to the context of our school.

- **Tolerance:** We are fortunate to have a pupil population with a diverse range of ethnicities, cultures, language and religions. It is important that our children are tolerant of these differences, taking what they have learnt about others into the wider world.
- **Respect:** A fundamental value which children must be taught; respect for themselves, each other and our environment.

- **Positivity:** Children need to be positive in order to succeed and achieve. We hope our pupils can spread messages of positivity as they move through our school and to those around them in their future lives.
- **Resilience:** We work hard and never, ever give up because this is essential if we are to achieve anything worthwhile.

Investors in Pupils

Here at SCA we run The Investors in Pupils programme which is an established national quality mark to recognise, develop and extend pupil/student voice and participation strategies in schools and educational settings building young people's life skills, character and resilience.

The programme offers schools a framework for involving pupils in decision making, and developing responsibility and leadership in relation to their learning, behaviour, attendance, classroom management and induction. It is powerful in developing a positive ethos where pupils learn about how the school is run, and, in turn, understand how they themselves can contribute to the running of the school. Pupils commit to common goals and teamwork – together with each other and with staff.

What does this look like at St Christophers?

Here at St Christophers we have a big focus on pupil voice, the pupils are encouraged to ask questions about the school. As staff we work hard to ensure that all questions and suggestions are answered comprehensively so that the children know we have listened and considered what they have to say.

- Our suggestion box is always full of fantastic ideas, we have meeting to discuss these ideas and then feed back to the children in assembly time.
- Our teachers will share with their classes what training they have done and how this will improve their learning.
- At the beginning of each school year the classes will set class rules and mission statements that the whole class will agree to follow and work towards enabling the children to regulate their own behaviour.
- Each class will decide who will be their school council members. These pupils will attend meetings with members of staff to share the ideas and concerns of the class. They are then given time by the class teacher to feed back to their class the decisions made by the council.
- Our children understand that all the resources within the school have a cost and that choices have to be made when making purchases. They are also careful with the school equipment and look after everything to ensure replacements do not need to be bought costing the school extra.
- At the end of year 5, children can apply to be House Captain, Prefects or Head Boy/Girl, when they will be in year 6. This prestigious role is awarded, based firstly on their application, and then their classmates vote on the shortlist of applicants.

As a result we have a school of confident pupils who know they are important. Each and every child knows they are listened to and are not afraid to make suggestions All our pupils know that they are valued equally and no one voice gets lost in a crowd.

Eco Schools

St Christophers Academy are proud to be part of the Eco Schools programme. This programme not only raises environmental awareness, but also empowers students to look after the world we live in. Our main aim is to become a Green Flag school and we are continually working towards this goal.

Our Eco Team

Our Eco team are all volunteers from Years 1-6 who are led by a team of dedicated staff. The Eco team meet on a weekly basis to discuss the next steps to reduce litter and waste within our school. In addition to this the Eco team host fundraising days for charities and raise money for Eco projects within school.

Bronze award

The Eco team have successfully gained their bronze award. They achieved this by completing a thorough environmental review of our school and were able to identify three key areas we need to improve. These were:

- Litter
- Healthy Living
- Waste

They helped to create an action plan based on these three key areas which are soon to be reviewed.

Well done Eco Team, we are now on our way to achieving the silver award!

Opportunities

We take a holistic view of education and believe that children should be provided with a wide range of activities and opportunities. To this end we offer the following as part of our everyday curriculum. We are constantly rethinking and revitalising our curriculum in order to cater to the ever changing needs and interests of the children in an ever changing world.

- Swimming
- Singing lessons, recorder, clarinet, violin, J sax, guitar, ukulele, ocarina, keyboard, electric guitar, (with more instruments planned for the new year). We work closely with the Inspire music service to offer as many opportunities as possible. We are always keen to nurture talent and offer individual and small group music lessons.
- Rock Steady, once a week sessions offered to Years 1 – 6. Children are given the opportunity to perform in a live event.
- French lessons with Madame Humphreys.
- Sports teaching led by sports specialists
- Inter school tournaments and matches across a range of sports.
- Local and county level athletic competitions
- The Daily Mile
- Gymnastics and Dance
- Bikeability
- Residential trips
- Visits to a variety of educational places that support learning.
- Visits to inspirational institutes and buildings – Houses of Parliament, universities, the Think Tank.
- Visitors that share experiences in school with the children. E.g. The Fire Service bringing their fire engine to school, the town mayor talking about his special clothes and chain and making links with a NASA scientist talking about space exploration.
- We believe in developing children's empathy and encourage them to think about those less fortunate than themselves. Therefore, we invite speakers from charities such as 'Water Aid', 'Shelter Box' and Mac Millan and many others. We frequently carry out fund raising events that the children enjoy getting involved with.
- Artists that work on creative projects with children.
- Gardening



- Cooking – Smart Raspberry
- After school clubs such as: Football, tennis, multi sports, art, science and many more.

Targets

We set end of year expectations that provide a guide to the standards expected of children at a given age. However, because all children are unique, we set individual targets against which children can measure their own progress.

Homework

All children are set homework and challenges which they are expected to complete. In KS2 much of this can be completed using our online programmes such as: My Maths, TT Rockstars and Purple Mash. In addition, we expect children to read regularly and if possible to share a book with someone at home. We promote a love of reading and encourage children to read from a variety of material. We use the Accelerated Reader programme to support reading and children are always keen to earn their next badge.

Special Educational Needs

Many children experience some difficulty during their time at school – whether in the long or short term. The school makes provision for children who have a special need in a variety of ways. The school has a special needs co-ordinator (SENDCo) who works with parents and outside agencies, for example, CHUMS, to offer the best possible provision and support for pupils.

Admission Policy

The admission number for the school is set by the Local Education Authority. Admission to the school will be on the basis of the school catchment area, but parents have the right to request an alternative school.

If the number of places in a year group exceeds the number of requests then the following will be applied (in the rank order shown)

- a) To all 'looked after children' or children who were previously 'looked after'.
- b) To children of permanent staff who have been employed for two years or more at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made or recruited to fill a skill-shortage area.

- c) To pupils with siblings at the school.
- d) To pupils living in the catchment
- e) To any other children

The majority of the children who attend St Christophers Nursery go on to continue their education at our school.

School Organisation

There are approximately 400 children attending the school and 50+ children in Reception, Pre school and Nursery. Classes are mixed ability.

The School Day

Morning Session: 8.40am – 12.00pm. After 8.55 is deemed 'late'. We open our gates at 8.40 am.

Afternoon Session: 1.00pm - 3.30pm

Before and after school club is available from 7- 45 am to 6.00 pm. Bookings and payments to be made via magic bookings.

Early years and Key stage 1 have a morning and afternoon break. Key stage 2 have a morning break only.

Communication

Good communication between home and school is essential. We are an approachable school and are always happy to speak to you about your child's education. You can come in to school to see if the teacher or Principal can see you immediately, if not you can make an appointment and you will be seen quickly.

We have a number of ways to contact you including text messaging through Parentmail, Facebook and Twitter. Please make sure we have all your up to date contact details.

General letters are sent home with the children so please check their bags regularly. Copies of all letters sent home can be found on the school website. We are striving to become a paperless school with most letters being sent via email on parentmail.

Parental Involvement

We know that children's education is greatly enhanced when their parents work in partnership with their teachers. We have a Parent's Forum that meets once every half term to discuss issues and provide a parent voice on matters that effect your children's education and well- being. We have a thriving 'Friends of St Christophers' association and welcome new members and new ideas to raise funds for our school. They can be contacted via their Face Book page.

Complaints procedure

If you have a complaint about anything in school, the first person to contact is the class teacher. They are aware of the needs of your child and can often give you information about a difficulty.

The Principal will intervene at your request or will refer you to the Governing Body. A copy of the complaints procedure is available in school.

School Equipment



Jewellery

For Health and Safety reasons all jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for P.E. lessons. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings. If your child wears earrings, only plain studs are acceptable.

Plain watches may be worn to school, other items of jewellery are not allowed. This includes bracelets and items around the neck and wrist.

Hair

Hair should be tied back with a plain red/white scrunchie or band.

Additional games sessions

Children need to bring a warm tracksuit for P.E. sessions during cold weather.

Sun Protection

In sunny weather please ensure your child brings a suitable hat to school. All day sun screen should be applied before school. If there are any particular health problems, office staff will be able to help.

Lost Property

Please make sure all your child's belongings are clearly named. Lost property is kept until the end of each term.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

As children move into Year 5 we encourage them to begin taking more responsibility for their belongings and school equipment. They will be allocated a locker and be responsible for the safe keeping of their belongings. They may bring their own pencil case and writing equipment into school. As these year groups are allowed to walk to and from school with parental permission, they are allowed to bring a phone which is kept in the teacher's desk until home time.

Keeping your Child Safe and Well

It is important that you know your child is happy in school, if we have concerns we will talk to you. Please let us know if you have any concerns or if there are changes at home, for instance the loss of a pet, changes in your child's behaviour or if they seem tired or upset. Class teachers are available each day at the end of the school day. Occasionally the school may have more serious concerns and would need, by law, to follow the Child Protection procedures. We would discuss the concerns with you first, where possible. The school has a legal duty to follow these procedures.

Security

Children enter the school, in the morning, through the gate at the front of the school. Visitors to the school after 8-55 am must use the front entrance.



What if my child has an accident at school?

School staff are trained in first aid. Children will be given a note to take home, after first aid is given. In the event of a more serious accident parents are contacted. It is important **that your contact details are up to date.**

Illness

Children who are fit to attend school will be expected to participate in the full curriculum, including P.E. and outdoor breaks. If children have been sick or had diarrhoea they must not return to school for at least 24 hours.

Medicines

The school has no legal duty to administer medicines. The school will consider a request, if the medicine has been prescribed by a doctor and needs to be taken at least **four times a day**. All medicines need to be delivered and collected by an adult. An indemnity form must be signed.

Behaviour

The children at St Christophers Academy have a reputation for having excellent behaviour. We believe in conflict resolution and restorative practices as our first approach.

(Behaviour and Safety are outstanding. Excellent behaviour in lessons and around the school reflects pupils' highly positive attitudes to learning') OFSTED

The school has rules which are agreed with the children, school council, staff and Governors, each year. We expect that all children will keep the school rules, and that parents will support the school in this matter.

We believe in rewarding good behaviour, and the school has a strong rewards system which the children respond well to.

Should we be experiencing any significant difficulties with your child's behaviour, the class teacher will contact you. Should the matter not be resolved then a meeting with the Principal will be arranged.

Awards

We have many reward systems including 'Houses' to which the children are allocated and House points which the children are awarded for good behaviour, excellent work, trying hard and other achievements. The winning Houses have a reward at the end of each term such as a trip to the cinema, bowling, picnic etc. The Houses after our seasons

Spring – Summer – Autumn – Winter

Children enjoy the sense of belonging and competition that this system encourages.

Each term we hold a 'prize giving' assembly where we present children with achievement awards, certificates and prizes they have earned both in and out of school and any other recognition of achievement earned that term.

Lunchtime

The school provides a high quality cooked lunch that is cooked on the premises by Dolce using all fresh ingredients. Children have wide choices of dishes; all food is ordered by the parent online through Dolce's School Grid app along with any payments.

Children may bring a packed lunch. In accordance with our healthy eating policy, chocolate or drinks other than fresh fruit juice or water should not be included. However, the children may have a chocolate covered biscuit. Water is available for all children at lunch time.

Your child could be entitled to free school meals, please enquire at the school office for more information. Currently all Reception,



Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals

Fruit

All children in Early Years, Nursery, Reception and years one and two receive free fruit.

Water

Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day. Children may bring a clear their own pop up bottle containing water, to school. The bottle must be clearly named. Alternatively water bottles can be purchased from the school for £1.50.

School Milk – all children are entitled to free milk until they turn 5, when they turn 5 they can still receive milk by joining the milk scheme run by Cool Milk, this is an online registering and payment service.

Sending money to school

Please send any money or notes to school in a named envelope. Children hand these in to the class teacher, each morning. For your convenience a locked post box is available by the main door. BAC payments are preferable.



School uniform: Early Years (Reception, Preschool, Nursery)

	Winter uniform	Summer uniform
Girls	<p>Grey skirt or pinafore. No embroidery. Trousers. Plain, straight cut school trousers. No boot cut, flared, fashion or stretch fabric. No embroidery. 'V' necked sweatshirt or cardigan, with school logo. Red 'polo' shirt with school logo White socks or red tights. Flat black school shoes. No boots or trainers.</p>	<p>Red and white gingham school dress. School cardigan. Red 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Sandals, flat not fabric or jelly.</p>
Boys	<p>Red 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Grey trousers. Plain school trousers. No cargo trousers with outside pockets. 'Red sweatshirt, with school logo. Plain white or grey socks. Black school shoes. No boots or trainers.</p>	<p>Red 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Grey shorts, optional, no cargo shorts with pockets. Sandals. Not fabric or jelly.</p>
PE/Games All children	<p>Red shadow stripe shorts. No markings or sports labels. Cotton T shirt with school logo</p> <p>Plain black or grey jogging bottoms</p> <p>Black Plimsolls</p> <p>Plain black or white trainers</p>	
Other items	<p>P.E kit is kept, in school, in a draw string bag</p> <p>Red school bag with logo</p> <p>Both bags are available from the school uniform supplier</p> <p>An overall or painting shirt is required for art</p>	

School uniform: Main school: Years 1 - 6

	Winter uniform	Summer uniform
Girls	Grey skirt or pinafore. No embroidery. Trousers. Plain, straight cut school trousers. No boot cut, flared, fashion or stretch fabric. No embroidery. 'V' necked sweatshirt or cardigan, with school logo. White 'polo' shirt with school logo White socks or red tights. Flat black school shoes. No boots or trainers.	Red and white gingham school dress. School cardigan. White 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Sandals, flat not fabric or jelly.
Boys	White 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Grey trousers. Plain school trousers. No cargo trousers with outside pockets. 'Red' sweatshirt, with school logo. Plain white or grey socks. Black school shoes. No boots or trainers.	White 'Polo' shirt with school logo. Grey shorts, optional, no cargo shorts with pockets. Sandals. Not fabric or jelly.
PE/Games All children	Red shadow stripe shorts. No markings or sports labels. Cotton T shirt with school logo Plain black or grey jogging bottoms Black Plimsolls Plain black or white trainers	
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School uniform may be bought from: Best Look, High Street North, Dunstable we also have a rail of donated items at the school reception available for a small donation.

We cannot hope to provide you with all the information you might require in this pack and things do change all the time in schools. Please look on the website and come into school if you require more information. Keep your eyes on the website, our own twitter page @stchristophersacademy and Facebook to keep you informed at all times.

