

PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Prospectus

2017-2018



Learn to love, love to learn



Purley Church of England (VC) Primary School

Welcome to Purley CE Primary School.

We hope that you enjoy your tour through our prospectus and find not only useful information about our school, but also get a feel for the learning and enjoyment our children experience.

We are very proud of our school and would invite prospective parents/carers to visit us in person so that you can see for yourself how happy and confident the children are at our school. We want them to enjoy learning and achieve their potential while having fun, making friends, gaining new interests and developing caring attitudes and enquiring minds in a safe environment.

Our high expectations encourage a positive attitude to learning and a responsible approach to all aspects of life.

Starting a new school is an exciting and important step. We want this to be positive for you and your child. Your interest and involvement in your child's progress and in the life of the school is positively encouraged. Between us, we can ensure that your child's time here is enjoyable and enriching and that they receive the best possible all-round preparation for the future.

K A Fakes

Mrs Karen Fakes
Headteacher

Catherine Hester

Mrs Catherine Hester
Chair of Governors

Mission Statement

Purley Church of England Primary School aims to meet the needs of all children as individuals, within a caring and happy community, which places Christian values at its heart and to lay foundations for children to develop skills and responsibilities for later life.

Aims

The governors aim:

- ❖ for the school to be a happy, caring and secure community
- ❖ a broad, rich and well-structured creative and challenging curriculum
- ❖ to ensure pupils are all equally valued and are given opportunities to access the curriculum at their own level, in order to achieve their full potential
- ❖ to allow each child to develop as an individual and have high self- expectations
- ❖ to promote personal, social, emotional, spiritual and cultural development and to develop self-discipline, tolerance and co-operation
- ❖ to encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience offered to all pupils
- ❖ to educate our children to take their place in a multi-cultural society
- ❖ to assess and record targets and attainment of each pupil and share information with parents and child
- ❖ to satisfy the requirements of Education Acts relating to The National Curriculum, Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- ❖ to place particular emphasis on creative and challenging learning both indoors and outdoors.

Background and history of the school

Purley School was built in 1873 as a Church of England School. It was taken over by Berkshire Education Authority in 1958 and is now a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School. Pupils have been attending Purley School for over one hundred and thirty years. In January 2006 we moved into the newly built parts of the school including a new hall, pupil toilets, office accommodation and a staffroom. In 2013 the school was granted primary status. In 2014, building work started to develop our school into a full primary school. The work finished in December 2015.

What others say about us

Parents say:

"We feel that Purley Primary School provides our daughters with an outstanding education. We cannot imagine a better place for their development both academically and in providing them with a sound moral compass. Our girls love going to school every day and this contributes to them being happy children who feel safe and valued in their learning environment. We cannot talk highly enough about the school and its staff who have given them such a solid grounding"

Parents from Foundation and Year 4, 2016

Throughout the time our son and daughter have attended Purley Primary School, we have never ceased to be amazed by the quality of the teaching and effort put in by all the staff to go the extra mile. Although the school is smaller than some others, the children have still been provided with fantastic opportunities and have been involved in extensive after school and extra-curricular activities including performing at the Anvil and Hexagon theatres. Our children have thrived at Purley, both academically and emotionally, and we feel extremely lucky to have such a fantastic school on our doorstep. We would not hesitate in recommending Purley Primary School to anyone considering it for their child.

Parents from Year 3 and Year 6, 2016

Children say:

"I love Purley because we are all friends with each other and we know everyone"

"My school is great because we learn lots of interesting facts"

Church School Status

Purley Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. As a church school we teach explicit shared Christian values to our children, we try to show them the importance of being committed to a set of values by which we live our lives. Our school specific values are Love, Joy, Hope, Perseverance and Responsibility.

We spend the majority of our Worship time teaching about the Christian faith, beliefs and traditions including: knowledge of the bible, Christian practices – celebrations in the church calendar and Christian hymns. We visit our local churches on special occasions like Harvest and Christmas and our local rector comes into school to work with the children every week. We also teach the children about people who have made an outstanding contribution to society.

Some of our assemblies teach the children about traditions and ceremonies in other faiths. The children are encouraged to have an understanding, sympathy and tolerance for cultures and societies other than their own and to respect the beliefs of others. During worship and at other times of the day the children are given the opportunity to reflect and, if they wish, to pray.

School Organisation

We have four classes going from Foundation Stage to Year 6. Classes are usually mixed year groups.

The doors open at 8.50. Registration is at 9.00 am prompt. The school day finishes at 3.00 pm.

School lunches are prepared at Pangbourne Primary School and served from our kitchen, then eaten in the school hall, under supervision.

Wraparound care

This is the childcare that is available at the beginning of the school day and at the end.

Breakfast Club

The club is open from 8am – 8.50am, Monday – Friday (term time only). All breakfast club members must arrive between 8.00 – 8.30am; this is when breakfast is being served. All sessions must be booked in advance.

Afterschool Club

This club is open from 3.00 until 6.00pm, Monday to Friday (term time only). The club will offer a wide range of recreational, social and creative activities, varying from day to day and being led by the children's own preferences. All sessions must be booked in advance.

For more information, please see the school's website:

www.purleyprimaryschool.co.uk/before-and-after-school-care-clubs.php

Clubs

In some of the school terms we run school clubs for the KS1 and KS2 children. These include gym, multi-sports and cheerleading.

The choice and duration of our after-school activities depends on the goodwill of both the teachers and parents. Some clubs are free if they are run by class teachers; others will be chargeable if they are run by other professional workers. If you would like to run a club, please speak to the Headteacher.

Music

Here at Purley Primary School, we believe that music plays an integral part of a child's education. Berkshire Maestros are currently coming weekly to do violin lessons for the children who have expressed an interest. (<http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/>)

Woodland School

The Forest School principles originated in Sweden in the 1950's and was introduced in Britain in the late 1990's. It is an inspirational process that offers regular opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors. Learning occurs in a relaxed environment using all of the senses. Choices can be made and risks understood and taken. Woodland School happens all year round and so children should wear warm, waterproof clothing. The ethos of Woodland School is that learners should be



allowed time and space to explore, develop skills and interests and understanding through practical, hands on experience. Woodland School promotes good health and fitness and an awareness of good hygiene. It helps children's social and communication development as they work together problem solving, developing motor-skills and coordination in a fun and relaxed environment. Children also learn a sense of personal responsibility and respect for their environment as well as developing their confidence, self-esteem and independence. The

children get the chance to do Woodland School several times during the year using both local woods and Basildon Park.

Swimming

Currently the Year 2 children have weekly swimming lessons at the Oratory Preparatory School in Woodcote.

Curriculum Aims

We will enable children to take their place in the world beyond the classroom by providing them with opportunities to be the best that they can be. We want children to achieve their full potential and be happy whilst enjoying learning and appreciating that it can be rewarding on many levels.

Teaching and Learning

We provide a variety of opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve by building on their strengths, interests and experiences and developing their ability to work independently and collaboratively. We promote enquiring minds and critical thinking, but we also develop physical and social skills and encourage children to recognise the importance of keeping themselves healthy and safe. We offer many activities to enhance learning including visits to places of interest linked to topics being taught.

From time to time, children may experience difficulties with their work and, for some, additional support is necessary. Our policy is to identify problems as early as possible to provide the appropriate help; progress is reviewed regularly and parents are involved and kept fully informed. We also have access to expert professional advice when necessary.

Behaviour



Purley Primary School is committed to creating a safe and secure environment in which children can learn. We want our children to take responsibility for their actions and to show care and concern for themselves, appreciate the needs of others, the school, its contents and the community around them. Our 'Good to be Green' behaviour system encourages the children to think carefully about their actions and the consequences.

The school rules are:

- 1) We try our best in everything we do.
- 2) We respect the school and everyone in it. (honest, helpful, look after property, move sensibly)
- 3) We are kind to everyone and we all feel safe. (polite, caring, appropriate language)
- 4) We enjoy our learning and let others learn too

Admissions

Admission Arrangements

If you live outside the area normally served by our school you are advised to visit your designated school first. You are of course most welcome to look around our school as well. Do feel free to make an appointment to be shown around by our Head teacher.

The Standard Number is the number of children who may be admitted to the first year of entry in any academic year. The Standard Number for our school is fifteen.

The Governors will accept children for full-time education as "rising fives" if both parents and teachers agree the child is ready and according to the admissions criteria set out below. These children will be taught the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Admissions Policy West Berkshire Council handles the whole admission process

- Children who are Looked After by West Berkshire Council.
- Children whose home address is in the area served by the school.
- Children who have brothers or sisters attending the school.
- Children whose parents choose the school on denominational grounds.
- Children whose parents have any other reason for their choice.

If we do not have enough places for all the children in one of the above categories, priority will be given to children who fulfil more than one of the admission criteria. If there are still insufficient places, a final decision will be made on the radial distance from home to school. Parents of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place will be informed in writing on the date laid down by the LA, and will be told of their right of appeal.

How to apply for a place?

During the Autumn term in the year before your child is due to start school, you will be able to get an application form from West Berkshire Council by visiting their Admissions web page (<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/primaryadmissions>). You can either apply online or print the form and send it to the Council. You will then be notified by the Council (usually around April) of your school allocation. The application process must be co-ordinated between all Local Authorities and this means that parents must apply to their home LA (i.e where they live), even if applying for schools in a different LA.

Our full Admission Policy is on our school website.

Working with Parents

We pride ourselves on being an approachable school and welcome contact with parents. We offer opportunities for you to see us at work through open mornings and we hold information meetings to explain new initiatives and to help you support your child at home. If you have any concerns however, that cannot be resolved through discussions; the Complaints Policy is available on our school website.

Parents/Teachers Association (PTA)

F.O.P.S. or Friends Of Purley School is the Parent/Teacher Association of Purley Primary School. All parents and guardians of pupils at the school are members of FOPS, as are the staff and governors. The object of the Association is to advance the education of the pupils in the school. To this end, the Association engages in activities to support the school:

- The Association organises and runs fund raising events such as fairs, cake stalls, sponsored activities etc.
- FOPS also organises social events for the children and adults, such as parties, discos, visits, Ladies Evenings.

FOPS is managed by a Committee of members who are elected at the FOPS AGM which is held in the Autumn Term. Your support is vitally important to FOPS. Please join the Committee or be an active "ordinary" member of FOPS. If you can help in any way, please do so – it is very easy to think that "someone else will do it" – in our small school that is not the case. FOPS provide the extras that mean so much in our small school. Remember – by supporting FOPS you will be supporting your child.

