



Ofsted 2021:  
'A good  
school'



THE  
**CATHEDRAL SCHOOL**  
CHELMSFORD



A CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Confident, compassionate and successful

# Welcome to The Cathedral Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

## Foreword: Mrs L Wiskin, Headteacher, says...

I welcome you to our wonderful school.

### An enthusiastic and inclusive environment

Our vision for The Cathedral School is to ensure our children develop an enthusiasm for learning. We can only achieve this when our children feel happy, secure and supported in every aspect of school life. For this reason, our most important aim is to be an inclusive school that strives to meet the needs of all children.

### Confident and competent learners

Our aim is that when every child leaves us at the end of Year 6, they will be confident, responsible and competent members of society who are ready for secondary school.

### A Christian ethos for a modern world

As a Church of England school, we keep God and faith at the centre of all we do. We encourage all children to engage with their faith and provide opportunities for collective worship and celebration. We teach children how to put their beliefs into practice in a modern world, but as part of our inclusive nature, we recognise and celebrate religious and cultural diversity within our school. Christian faith is not compulsory, and we welcome families from all religious or non-religious backgrounds.

### Dedicated staff

Our dedicated and skilled staff are committed to creating a secure, friendly, happy atmosphere where children can thrive and reach their full potential. They aim to support all children to grow in confidence, academic excellence and spirituality through their time at The Cathedral School.

### Pastoral care

Whilst achieving academic success is an important part of life at our school, we believe that we should support and develop the whole child. Pastoral support and well-being are at the heart of our school ethos. It underpins everything we do, and along with the high standard of teaching and learning, it is what our school community is all about.

### Parent partnership

Partnership with parents is essential to our approach. We work closely with our families, guaranteeing school is supported by parents and parents are supported by the school, to enable children to thrive and become the best version of themselves.

### Get in touch

Our prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our school's culture and ethos, but this is just a start. We love to share our wonderful learning environment with others and would be so happy to organise a visit for you. Please get in touch with the school office to arrange one.



# School day: settling in

## School hours

Teaching time each week, including Religious Education but not including collective worship, registration and break times is 22 hours 40 minutes for Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) and 23 hours 55 minutes for Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6)

**8.50am** School starts.

**11.45am** Infants (Reception and Years 1-2) lunchtime.

**12.10pm** Juniors (Years 3-6) lunchtime.

**3.20pm** The School day ends.

## Breakfast Club

The Cathedral School breakfast club is a safe, secure and relaxed environment in which your child can start their day. Children can enjoy a range of activities and a healthy breakfast. Opening hours are 7.45am until 8.50am Monday to Friday.

## Cathedral After School provision (CASP)

We provide refreshments and activities to support children's wellbeing. CASP runs from 3.20pm - 6pm Monday to Friday, with a cold tea served from 4:30pm.

## Uniform

A school uniform gives children a sense of belonging and of taking pride in their appearance. It also reminds them we are ready for work! Our uniform consists of grey trousers/skirt/pinafore/shorts, white collared school shirts and a red school jumper or cardigan with our school logo. Boys should also wear a school tie.

For PE, children should wear a t-shirt in their house colour, black shorts or black jogging bottoms, and a red school sweatshirt. These should be kept in a drawstring bag on your child's peg.

All uniform items must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Logoed items can be purchased from our uniform supplier One Stop School Gear on Beehive Lane in Chelmsford.

## School meals and snacks

The Cathedral School has a Healthy Schools Award. This means lunchtime is a very important part of the school day. School meals are coordinated by our catering manager and cooked and prepared on-site. All food served comes from local suppliers wherever possible and is fresh, healthy and balanced. Our menus are planned with the children's input, so we know they enjoy them! Meals cost £2.30, payable in advance. Find out more from the school office.

### Packed lunches

If your child would prefer a packed lunch, this is fine, and your child can sit with their peers regardless of their meal choice. We ask that children do not bring in sweets, chocolate or glass bottles and cans. We promote healthy foods for lunches. We are also a nut-free school.

### Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are provided with a cooked meal free of charge through the Government Universal Free School Meals offer. Children in other year groups may be entitled to Free School Meals if they meet certain criteria. Please enquire with the office if you think you might be entitled to this.



### Break-time and drinks

Fruit is provided to be eaten at playtime for every child within Reception and Years 1 and 2. Children in other year groups may bring a piece of fruit or a healthy snack from home. Children should bring a plastic reusable bottle filled only with water to drink from throughout the day.

### Milk

All children under five are entitled to a free portion of milk each day at break time. If you wish for your child to receive milk beyond their fifth birthday, contact the school office.

# Inspiring and creative curriculum: foundations for success

## Broad and balanced education

Our latest Ofsted report describes our curriculum as “ambitious”. We believe it is both ambitious and achievable through the skilled teaching we provide. We ensure children have a broad range of opportunities to deepen and expand their knowledge in all subject areas. This means we can inspire a love of learning in all subjects and offer vibrant and innovative learning opportunities.

We concentrate on memorable and immersive learning using practical experiences as well as our Virtual Reality headsets to travel through time and place.

## Confidence, communication and physical development

We aim to develop fully-rounded individuals. This means that we ensure our curriculum enhances skills in all areas of development, including physical, academic, creative, social, spiritual and emotional. Our curriculum is underpinned by the following learning for life strands:

- Spiritual development.
- Personal, social and emotional skills.
- Communication.
- Communities of the world.
- Creativity.
- Health.
- British values and culture.

## Modern Foreign Languages (MfL)

All children learn French from Year 3, although we often introduce it informally from Key Stage 1. The children learn vocabulary and work to develop confidence in speaking and listening to French through a combination of games, songs, dances, worksheets, and TV and radio presentations in a clear scheme of work.

## Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship

We are a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. As such, our faith is central to our school ethos and philosophy. We aim to provide a fundamentally Christian community, so we interweave our Christian faith throughout our curriculum and school life. We encourage social and spiritual growth and foster considerate and responsible attitudes towards our peers.

**We welcome children of all faiths, and no faith**

At the same time as having a Christian identity and ethos, we are first and foremost an inclusive environment where all members of our school are welcomed and appreciated for their diversity. Children of all faiths and backgrounds are respected and included, and our RE curriculum is provided following the Local Educational Authority guidance and the Diocesan-agreed syllabi, including many different religions and world faiths.

We run a personal development program across the school including the Archbishop of York’s award in Years 2 and 5 and public speaking in Years 3 and 4 and real roles and responsibilities in Year 6.

## Sport and PE

We believe all children should have the opportunity to take part in regular, high-quality PE lessons. All classes take part in a minimum of two hours of PE per week. Children are also offered sports and fitness clubs every day of the week and can compete in intra- and inter-school competitions.

### Gold School Games Mark

We have achieved the Gold School Games Mark for our commitment to sport and physical activity both in terms of our curriculum and extra-curricular sporting fixtures and activities.



# Enriched curriculum: trips and visitors, music and clubs

## Trips

We firmly believe that children learn best from their own first-hand experiences and to this end we endeavour to take the children on trips that enhance and enrich topics from the curriculum. Examples of our trips include:

- Barleylands.
- Colchester zoo.
- Swan Lake at the Royal Ballet.
- Hyde Hall.
- Essex cricket ground.
- High Ropes.

### Local visits too!

Children often participate in local visits too. These could include simple walks around the locality looking at shops, transport and infrastructure, housing and hedgerows.

### Residential visits

In Year 5, our pupils have a residential outward bound course to develop confidence and resilience. In Year 6, they have a curriculum residential trip to the Isle of Wight.

## Visitors

As well as enriching experiences out of school, we welcome many visitors into our school throughout the year to provide exciting, dynamic learning experiences for the children. These have included:

- Owl handlers.
- Animal experience.
- Guide dogs.

## Music

High-quality music education should engage and inspire children to develop a love of music. This enhances their cognitive skills and language development and helps them develop their talent as musicians. In doing so, they also improve their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

### Music tuition

We can provide instrumental lessons in school, carried out by our team of music teachers from Essex Music Services. Essex Music Services offer small group or 1-to-1 lessons in a range of instruments, which can also be hired at a low cost. Find out more from the school office.

### Drama, dance and visual arts

We seek to inspire artistic expression through dance, drama and art. We aim to teach skills that enable children to express their creativity and imagination through a variety of methods. Our wide range of arts and craft activities and opportunities to get involved in school productions, performances, concerts and celebrations all facilitate artistic expression.

## Clubs

Our range of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs is so broad, we’re sure there will be something for every child. Our range of clubs includes:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Cricket.      | • Basketball.   |
| • Dodgeball.    | • Hockey.       |
| • Tri-golf.     | • Football.     |
| • Spanish.      | • Eco Team.     |
| • Multi-sports. | • Tag Rugby.    |
| • Choirs.       | • Running club. |
| • Netball.      | • Dance club.   |



# Inclusion: a curriculum for all

## Equality of opportunity

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential and that it's our job as educators to overcome challenges and barriers to learning. The governors and staff of The Cathedral School work hard to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) have access to a fully inclusive curriculum and can take part fully in school activities.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children with SEND will receive specific help from their class teachers, teaching assistants and the SENDCo. Where necessary, the school and parents will consult with and seek advice from various outside agencies. We review and assess the progress of children with additional needs and put appropriate interventions and educational plans in place.

## Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area, often at sessions run by local secondary schools.



# Admissions and getting involved

## Admissions arrangements

The Cathedral Church of England School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school that provides Christian education for all our pupils from Reception to Year 6. Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a Christian to attend our school, however, our admissions criteria give preference (amongst other criteria) to children whose parents are active members of an Anglican Church or affiliated church or who are practising members of another faith. An application for a place in Reception must be made online with the Local Authority, [essex.gov.uk](http://essex.gov.uk). A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be submitted directly to the school by the end of January in the year you wish your child to start school. The SIF asks for details of your Faith connections and enables the Governors to apply the School's admission criteria.

### In-year admissions

Sometimes children must transfer to The Cathedral School from other schools outside of the normal admissions process. Mid year applications should be made to the School Office who can guide you through the process.



## Getting involved

### PTA

We have a thriving and committed PTA, whose aim is to populate the school calendar with community-focused events like the summer fete and the summer ball, as well as child-focused activities. They aim to fundraise for equipment and opportunities for the children that would otherwise be impossible. If you would like to get involved with the PTA in any way, please email [pta@cathedralschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@cathedralschool.essex.sch.uk).

### Governorship

The governing board at The Cathedral School is made up of parents, school staff, the church and members of the local community who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. They use their diverse knowledge and experience to help the headteachers make the right decisions for the school and oversee the strategic direction and performance of the school and ensure accountability. When a parent governor position becomes available, we will notify you and allow you to apply.



## Our values

- **F**orgiveness.
- **A**spiration.
- **I**ntegrity.
- **T**rust.
- **H**onesty.



## Our vision

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

### 1 Thessalonians 5, verses 16-18

Our vision for our pupils and the whole school community is that they are enabled to:

- Rejoice in life and the love of God.
- Grow in prayer and faith.
- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of the world, themselves and others.
- Seek God's purpose for themselves as confident, compassionate citizens of the world.

Our vision for our school is to be recognised as a centre of excellence.



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