



St Paul's C of E
Primary School

Life in all its fullness



Welcome to St Paul's C of E Primary School

Foreword: Mrs Helen Darrell, Headteacher, says...

I am very pleased to welcome you to our wonderful school.

Happy place

We are very proud of our school. St Paul's is a happy place to learn, with a committed staff team, supportive families, church and community, and where life is lived in all its fullness.

Special location

St. Paul's is located in the heart of Cambridge. We are a Church of England School in the Diocese of Ely and one of four schools in the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust. We take full advantage of the fact that we are within walking distance of an incredible range of cultural, scientific and historic places to visit.

Welcoming and inclusive school community

At the core of everything we do for children and families is our safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment where every member of our community is valued and respected. As part of this, we develop strong relationships with parents to ensure that children reach their full potential. We believe happy children perform better in school and in life. Our small size means that children are known across the school.

Friends for life

At St. Paul's, our children forge deep friendships that last well beyond their primary school years.

Ambitions for our children

We have high aspirations for our children and continually strive to provide an exciting, relevant, challenging and rich curriculum. This includes events such as residential trips, topic-based learning and stimulating visitors to school. We champion a growth mindset, allowing each child to take ownership and pride in their individual learning journey throughout their time at school and after.

A well-rounded education

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical activities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Don't just take our word for it...please come for a look around!

Our door is always open to prospective parents if you would like to visit. I look forward to meeting you and showing you around our wonderful school. Please call us on 01223 568840 to arrange a visit.



St. Paul's Learners...

- Work together
- Make connections
- Are curious
- Share learning
- Are resilient
- Take risks
- Listen well

Jason and Sapphire have quickly felt at home in the caring community of St Paul's C of E Primary School

Carla lives in Cambridge with her children, Krystal, aged 15, Jason, aged 10, and Sapphire, aged 5.

Happy place

Carla loves the friendly atmosphere at St Paul's C of E Primary School where children from the different years mix together well and the parents are always keen to help each other. "St Paul's is a lovely school with a real community feel, which I think is rare to come by in a city," she says.

Inclusive environment

Sapphire, who is in Reception, will happily chat to children in Year 6 because she has got to know them from having been given the chance to read with them, Carla says. "Also, each year has its own WhatsApp group, which is brilliant for keeping parents in the loop and giving us a platform to communicate on. Sapphire and Jason have both been made to feel comfortable at St Paul's and made new friends easily."

Firm favourite

Jason has been to seven different schools over the past few years due to the family relocating, and in Carla's opinion St Paul's is the best school he has attended. "Sapphire had attended nursery elsewhere, but joined Reception at the beginning of the school year when she was four and she enjoyed it there straight away. Jason, who is in Year 5, is normally shyer and takes his time to get used to a new school, but he settled in quickly at St Paul's and says it is the favourite of all the schools he has been to," Carla says.

Enjoying learning

Sapphire is now learning to read and to work with numbers and she is picking everything up quickly, Carla says. "She enjoys junk modelling – making things out of cardboard boxes - and she loves bringing home the models she has made. She has got a lot of friends from the different year groups because the children all mingle with each other."

Making friends

Carla says Jason has also made some good friends and he gets invited to lots of birthday parties. "He enjoys History lessons and is fascinated with learning about the Mayans at the moment. He also enjoys going swimming with the school."

In the loop

St Paul's are very good at communicating with parents by sending out a regular newsletter to keep us informed, Carla says. She is particularly grateful for the WhatsApp groups for parents. "We can share information and support one another by reminding each other about different things, and sharing any dressing up costumes we may have. People can ask questions on the forum at any time and someone will always answer them. Everyone is very supportive of each other. The groups are brilliant for keeping parents in the loop and giving us a platform to communicate on.

It benefits us with things such as those little reminders for PE days and cake breaks, and gives parents a vehicle for sharing ideas and items of costume for dress up days," she says.

Helpful Headteacher

"I feel we have fitted in at the school very well as a family. Even my eldest daughter, Krystal, who is at secondary school, is going to be doing her work experience at St Paul's, and the Headteacher has been very helpful to her," Carla says.

Sociable pupils

"Sapphire and Jason are very happy at St Paul's and they have both settled in easily. The staff and other parents have all been very welcoming to us and I am pleased that all the children walk home together and meet up for play dates out of school time."

Children say

Jason says: "At the moment my favourite things are swimming and art. We are making a set design."

Sapphire says: "My favourite things at school are probably making things, art, and seeing my friends."



School day: settling in

School hours

- Our school day runs from 8.55am – 3.30pm.
- Gates open for entry at 8.45am.

Breakfast and After School Club

An external provider runs a breakfast club from 7.30am until the start of the school day. After school club runs until 6pm. A fee is payable for the clubs.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear the school uniform, which is Royal Blue. Branded uniform with our logo can be purchased online but non-branded uniform is also widely available. We also have a stock of second-hand uniform.

Food in school

Our school meals are supplied by a local outside provider and are healthy and delicious. The menu has a variety of meals, including at least one daily vegetarian option and meet-free Mondays. Menus can be viewed in advance and allergy-free options are also available.

Free school meals

School meals are free for children in Key Stage 1. The Local Authority provides a facility for free school meals for children in Key Stage 2. Details are available at school if you feel that you may be eligible.

Packed lunches

Children are also welcome to bring their own healthy lunch and break time snacks from home.

We are a nut and sesame free school.

Snacks

Key Stage 1 children are provided with a healthy piece of fruit. Key Stage 2 children are encouraged to bring their own fruit snack.

Drinks

Only water is allowed in school, except for children who have registered for our School Milk Scheme. Parents may apply for this through the school office.



Our Vision:

At St. Paul's CE VA Primary School, we are committed to nurturing every child to live "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). Rooted in our Christian values of love, wisdom, and a welcoming community, our mission is to help each child to thrive and reach their full potential.

Our vision is to be a beacon of love where all are valued equally. We aim to empower our children to make positive choices, and seek to welcome and embrace the diversity of our local and global communities.



Nuwan and Rohan have enjoyed excellent teaching and fun activities in the friendly surroundings of St Paul's C of E Primary School

Suranga and Gemma live in Cambridge with their sons, Nuwan, aged 15, and Rohan, aged 11.

Quality teaching

Suranga and Gemma are delighted with the standard of teaching at St Paul's C of E Primary School and the variety of interesting extracurricular activities they offer. Suranga says: "Nuwan is now thriving at secondary school, where the former St Paul's students achieve top grades each year, thanks to the good start they had at primary school. Rohan has also enjoyed his time at St Paul's, particularly playing in the school football team and being part of the Computer Programming Club."

Making friends

The family chose St Paul's because they wanted Nuwan to go to a school close to their home and it was just a short walk away. "We had come to live in Cambridge after living abroad and we went to have a look at the school and liked it," Suranga says. "Nuwan started in Reception at the age of five and made friends quickly, and one of them is still his best friend now."

Choice of clubs

The school provide great lunchtime and afterschool clubs and Nuwan particularly liked the Minimus Club, run by students from the Classics department at Cambridge University, Suranga says. "They learnt Latin, and some Greek and Roman history. Nuwan is still interested in this and chose Latin as one of his optional subjects at secondary school. He also enjoyed going to the chess club after school."

Good preparation

Like many pupils from St Paul's, Nuwan started at secondary school as a confident student, Suranga recalls. "St Paul's is a small school and Nuwan got to know everybody. His confidence was built up and he was well prepared academically for the challenge of secondary school, which is a testament to the good teaching he received."

Football and computing

Suranga says Rohan has also enjoyed his time at St Paul's and made lots of friends that he sees outside school. "He loves playing for the school football team and has enjoyed the Computer Programming Club, which recently came first in a computer programming competition in Cambridge."

Replacement Monster

One of Rohan's highlights at St Paul's has been playing on the new climbing frame, known as The Monster. Suranga says: "The old Monster had been in the playground for 30 years and needed replacing, so some of the parents got together and built a new wooden climbing frame that was even bigger."

Supportive Governors

Suranga, who is a Governor of St Paul's, says: "There is a strong governing body made up of parents, and local people interested in the school, and they all have something different to contribute. St Paul's has had a challenging time financially, although they are lucky to have had support from the church linked to the school. As I work in the financial sector, I have been able to offer advice while serving as a Governor."

Wraparound care

For many families, the amazing breakfast and after school clubs at St Paul's are a big bonus, Suranga says. "They help parents who have to drop children early, or pick them up late, because of work commitments. The current Headteacher realised how much they were needed and since they were established, they have been a lifesaver for families. The school provide children with breakfast, and snacks after school, and the children play across the year groups and make new friends."

Children say

Rohan says: "What I like about my school is that even though it is small and I know everyone, I have friends from all over the world."



Curriculum: taking ownership of their learning journey

Evidence based

Our curriculum is grounded in the latest educational research and informed by best practice. We strive for our classroom environment to be relaxed, open and accepting; instilling a spirit of ambition without unnecessary pressure, rooted in a growth mind-set.

Termly themes

Each term or half-term, every class's learning will be built around a theme, which is usually based on the history or geography topic. Many subjects will be linked to this theme (for example, Year 3 children studying the Stone Age in history lessons might have Ug: *Boy Genius of the Stone Age* as their class text in English, whilst also learning about cave paintings in art lessons). This will help the children to put their learning into a variety of contexts, in order to better understand it as a whole.

Reception Class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Music

Children are encouraged to develop their listening skills, to sing and to use a wide range of pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments in composition and performance. St Paul's has a tradition of encouraging children to learn an instrument. One-to-one music tuition is currently available in piano, violin and recorder during the school day, delivered by visiting teachers.

Sport and P.E.

P.E. plays an important part in the school curriculum and in the life of the school. All classes deliver two hours of P.E. every week and the children are encouraged to enjoy games and are taught to improve individual performance. In Key Stage 1 the children participate in a range of multi-sports activities, which includes gymnastics, dance and cricket. They are introduced to more competitive sporting activities like tag rugby, tennis and netball in Key Stage 2. St Paul's, in partnership with Youth Dreams Project, also offers a range of sports clubs throughout the year.

Enrichment: clubs, trips and activities

We offer a wide range of clubs including Code Club, Football Club, Chess Club, Eco Club, Poetry Club, Youth Dreams Project Sports Club, Worship Club and Newspaper Club. We further enrich our children's learning through regular use of specialist speakers, music and dance performances, drama workshops and educational visits. Recent visits include a trip to Duxford, West Road Concert Hall and West Stow.

Residential

Each year, our Year 6 children go to PGL. It's about having fun while taking part in all sorts of adventurous activities. The program is designed to help your child learn and develop new skills and really shine as an individual and also as part of a team.



Special educational needs

Our aims for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are the same as for all our pupils: to provide a broad and balanced curriculum within which children can reach their full potential. We believe that all children, no matter their needs or barriers, should live life in all its fullness. This vision for pupils is demonstrated through our approach to teaching, our curriculum, enrichment opportunities and the adaptations we make for pupils with SEND.



Justine and Tilda enjoy St Paul's school's strong community spirit and it is their supportive learning that makes life at school feel special

Justine's older children Lola and Jasper are at high school and her youngest daughter Tilda is in Year 2.

Extra support

"Tilda is doing well, she's young for her year as her birthday is in July. She is getting extra support for her reading and learning Phonics. School run additional Phonics sessions and three times a week Tilda goes in early to school, for 8.20am, and has extra reading sessions. School also reinforces her learning in small group work throughout the day. It very much feels like part of everyday school routine, rather than something special so she doesn't feel different from her classmates," says Justine.

Individual success plans

"School have been great in providing the additional support and making it feel a seamless part of Tilda's day. She has been given her own targets, so she has her own plan to work to which is great for her sense of achievement. I've been really impressed with how they look after and identify what Tilda needs, and it's all very similar to what I experienced with my other children. They are very consistent and thorough with their approach, every child is looked after uniquely," says Justine.

Brilliant team

"The teachers are all lovely and caring and I've seen all my children improve with their learning, in their own ways; St Paul's helps them as individuals. There have been changes at the school over the years and now thanks to the team of teachers and staff, everything is brilliant," says Justine.

Supportive environment

"I've been impressed with the standard of teaching at St Paul's and I'd say to any parent, especially if your child needs extra support with their learning, that you should strongly consider St Paul's. It has been such a positive place for Tilda. She doesn't feel any different to the other children in her class, no one mentions the extra help she receives as it's all just seen as part of their school and how they work. It's a lovely supportive environment," says Justine.

Sense of belonging

"Tilda always wants to go to school and that's a good sign as far as I'm concerned. She is always happy to head off to school. Tilda enjoys DT and PE and she does Worship and Poetry Club on a lunch time. She really enjoys those activities and she feels part of the clubs which is lovely to see," said Justine.

Excellent communication

"I think the values of the school come across as being caring and supportive. They create a nurturing environment where they look for opportunities for every child.

My son needed extra support when making the move to high school and St Paul's were brilliant at communicating what he needed to help with that transition. I've always found communication with school to be very good," says Justine.

Community spirit

"St Paul's has a strong sense of community. We have a parent's association which I'm part of and we organize things like quiz nights and cake sales. There's a great sense of community spirit at school and for a small school I think it feels much stronger than perhaps what you'd find in a larger school. There's always something going on and if you're new to the area it's a great way to meet people and get involved. If you're looking for a small, friendly, supportive, community school with good pastoral care then you need to come and see St Paul's," says Justine.

Children say

Tilda says: "I love going to my clubs at lunch times and seeing my friends."



Getting involved

Getting involved

Voluntary helpers

We welcome volunteers to come into St Paul's to work within the classrooms or to support children to access a range of additional educational activities and events. We value the contribution that all our volunteers make. If you would like to find out more about volunteering at St Paul's, please contact the School Office on 01223 568840.

Parent, Teacher, Friends' Association (PTFA)

Parents/carers become a member of our PTFA when their child joins our school. The PTFA run a range of fund-raising activities for the school. Evidence of their past success is to be seen not only in the extra resources they have provided for the school, but also in the amount of co-operation and support that exists between staff and parents.



St Paul's C of E Primary School

Life in all its fullness

The PTFA always need extra hands at events or to help with ongoing programs. Simply turn up at a meeting or contact ptfa@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk.

Governors

The primary purpose of our school's Governing Body is to ensure the quality of the education provision. When carrying out their responsibilities, our governing body acts in the interests of the children and young people in the school and in the wider community. We are always looking for people to add to the expertise of our Governing Body. If you would like to find out more about the role, please check our Governors page on our website or email the office office@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk or the Governing Body direct at Chair@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk



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Juliette and Sophia are making rapid progress in the supportive surroundings of St Paul's C of E Primary School

Wilmien and Erick live in Cambridge with their children, Juliette, aged eight, Sophia, aged 6, and Emma, aged 11 weeks.

Happy at school

Wilmien and Erick are thrilled with the way Juliette and Sophia are flourishing in the happy atmosphere of St Paul's C of E Primary School. "We have moved about a lot for work reasons in the past and Juliette has attended a school in the Netherlands, where she spoke Dutch, and a school in South Africa, where she spoke Afrikaans. Most of her learning had been through play, rather than formal education before that," Wilmien says.

New language

When the family moved from South Africa to Cambridge so that Wilmien could take up a post with Microsoft, they spoke Afrikaans at home. "When Juliette started in Year 1, she was among English speaking peers who could also read in English, so she had a lot of catching up to do educationally," her Mum says.

Kind staff

Wilmien and Erick were grateful that the teachers were very helpful and kind to Juliette and did not put a lot of pressure on her. "She caught up quickly and by the end of Year 2 she was speaking English fluently and reading well in English.

Now she is in Year 3 she is doing well academically and particularly enjoys History. When Juliette's class did a Christmas play last year, she even taught the class a Christmas song in Afrikaans to perform, and she was perfectly confident teaching her peers."

Closing the gap

Wilmien says it was only when Sophia started in Reception at St Paul's that they realised how much learning Juliette had actually missed before she went into Year 1, and she thinks the staff have done well to bring her up to the level of the other children so quickly.

Children say

Juliette says: "I like my friends at school and have learned about kindness. I love activities like bikeability, and swimming."

Sophia says: "My favourite activity is the wiggle dance in the Fox Class, and I like writing in school."