

Prospectus



2023 – 2024



Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

Welcome



It is our pleasure to welcome you to St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England Primary School. We hope that this prospectus goes some way towards answering your questions about our school.

Our strong Christian ethos and values underpin all activities in this school (see our values on the next page). We seek to encourage children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils are positively encouraged to value themselves, respect each other and so contribute towards the Christian ethos of our school. We welcome all families of faith and no faith and have inclusion at the heart of all we do.



Each person who works and learns here is **loved** and valued and has a vital contribution to make to the life of the school. The partnership that we foster between parents, carers, Governors, the Church and the wider community is key. Everybody has their part to play in the nurture and education of our children. We are particularly keen to give parents the opportunity to give back to the school by offering their skills, expertise and time to improve the experiences for all our children.



We offer a positive learning environment which supports each individual within a sound structure of expectation. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which is **'Inspirational, Innovative and Inclusive'** and keeps the children at the heart of all we do. Opportunities are provided to enrich and extend the children's learning experiences as we promote creativity and enjoyment whilst having the **courage** to aim for excellence.



The school prides itself on offering a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities including music, dance and art. We have established an extensive range of sporting opportunities for children of all ages. The enthusiasm of staff and children has resulted in the school entering and winning tournaments in a wide range of sports with our individual sports people and teams competing at local, county and national level.



Standards at the school are very high and our End of Key Stage results are typically well above national averages. Children do very well at our school.

The school was inspected by the Diocese (SIAMS) in December 2016 and graded the school as 'outstanding' overall, with an outstanding judgement in all four areas.

Ofsted inspected the school in March 2017 and recognised that "the good quality of education in the school had been maintained and safeguarding continues to be effective."



We are excited to be able to offer a wide range of opportunities to come and visit the school on one of our tours and presentations. The dates for these and a huge amount of other information can be found on our website www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk so do have a look to find out what we are up to!

We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Andrew Lincoln
Headteacher

David Etherton
Executive Headteacher

Hannah Wing
Deputy Headteacher

Victoria Bishop
Deputy Headteacher

Hello!

Information for prospective
parents and carers



Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

Welcome

Welcome to 'BOAT'. We are delighted that you are considering joining a school in our trust!



Our Vision – Wisdom for Life

The Trust is aspirational for every child to achieve their potential and be equipped with 'Wisdom for life'. We aim to be a mutually supportive community where we strive for transformational educational excellence through effective partnership within and beyond the Trust.

Our three core aims are *Wisdom for Life*, *Educational Excellence* and *Community & Partnership*.

What is BOAT?

The Bishop Otter Academy Trust (BOAT) is a Church of England, school-led Academy Trust. Academy Trusts are education charities that are set up purely for the purpose of running schools and providing great education.



Governance

Our board of trustees is appointed by the Diocese of Chichester and works closely with the Local Governing Body.

Trustees are responsible for the overall vision of the trust, holding leaders to account for providing excellent education and ensuring that money is well spent.



Message

As a trust we seek to equip every child with 'Wisdom for Life' through an inspirational, innovative and inclusive education underpinned by Christian values. We aim to be a pioneering community where we strive for transformational educational excellence and pastoral care through effective partnership working within our schools and beyond our trust.

David Etherton CEO

Further Information

If you would like further information about our trust, please email: office@boat.academy or visit our website: www.boat.academy



Bishop Otter Academy Trust

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Registered Address: St Nicolas & St Mary CE Primary School, Eastern Avenue, Shoreham, W. Sussex BN43 6PE Tel: 01273 454470

What our parents are saying about St Nicolas and St Mary's

“My daughter’s teacher has been fantastic. Her reading, writing and maths skills have significantly improved!”

“A wonderful, nurturing environment”

“Thank you for your amazing work”

“Outstanding SEND support and inclusive ethos”

“This school has nurtured my son and he is more confident and happy since being here.”

“Excellent communication, understanding and always puts the children’s best interests first”

“Our son has really flourished this year, clearly benefiting from the nurturing and incentive based approach of his teachers.”

“My daughter’s teachers have been amazing this year.”

“Thank you to everyone at the school and for all you have done for our son.”

“Thank you for the wide range of learning experiences, topics and for the wonderful community of the school.”



OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES



Vision

Our vision statement

Be Courageous, In God's Faith, Hope and Love
empowered to be Inspirational, Innovative and
Inclusive

Our vision

Leaders in the school **'have the confidence of parents, carers pupils and staff. Parents 'were effusive in their praise of how well their children are understood and cared for by staff'.**

Ofsted 2017

Is to empower our children and adults to be courageous in all that they do. Whether that is being bold and trying something new, learning and growing from our mistakes or showing the courage to not simply 'follow the crowd' and be an independent thinker. Our faith and hope in God enables us to create a loving environment for our children where they are nurtured, supported, challenged and cared for. We endeavour to embrace Christian values in all that we do and demonstrate excellence in all areas. Working with families, we strive to ensure that each person is nurtured, happy and able to forge successful relationships. Our aim is to equip children with the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential, grow in independence and celebrate achievements. We aim to be a school that is sustainable, welcoming to all and continues to develop

strong links both within our local community and globally. Our children enjoy an inspirational, innovative and inclusive education, learning to be courageous, faith-filled, hopeful and loving of themselves and others. .

Our school badge

Our faith in God is central to all we do. On our badge the cross reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Bishop's mitre, shaped like a flame, represents the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church on the day of Pentecost. The wavy lines represent our maritime connections. The fish are reminders of Jesus' calling of his disciples to be 'fishers of men', and also of the early Christian fish symbol. The five letters of the Greek word for fish, ΙΧΘΥΣ, stand for 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'. The red symbolises victory and the gold generosity.

The English translation of our Latin motto *Nihil Sine Deo* is *Nothing without God*



Our environment

Facilities

The school was completed in 1970 and extended in 1991, 2013 and 2017. Our buildings are bright and airy with spacious classrooms, specialist teaching areas, practical areas and numerous rooms for small group work. The school has a Nursery and two Reception classes in our Early Years Foundation Stage in addition to a well-resourced outside area. Year 1 and 2 classes are based on the ground floor of The Ark, with Year 3 and 4 classes on the top floor of The Ark. Years 5 and 6 are situated in the original part of the building.

All classrooms, including the nursery, have interactive whiteboards, two or three computers with additional computers in shared areas and access to the dedicated IT Suite. The school has a range of other devices available to support learning such as laptops and iPads.

Additional facilities:

- A large well-stocked library.
- IT suite with 32 computers as well as mini-suites around the school. iPads in every classroom.
- Spacious art room with a kiln.
- Large number of small group rooms which are used to support and extend children's learning.
- Two halls – both are fully equipped with stage lighting, audio and visual equipment.
- The Rainbow Room – a multi-resource room with a cooking area for children, large TV and facilities for our Octopus Breakfast Club and Starfish After School Club.
- Medical room.
- Music room with keyboards.
- A kitchen which provides hot school meals.



The extensive outdoor areas provide facilities for sports, recreation and study:

- Two extended playgrounds called Cherry Tree and Fir Tree.
- Conservation area with varied habitats including a pond.
- Variety of trees, including fig and cherry.
- A very large field. (including 3 different sized football pitches)
- Outdoor play equipment which includes the Castle and Adventure Trail as well as a sandpit and picnic area. Plus our latest additions: a wooden play boat, wigwam, train, climbing frame and Tropical Climb Rope Adventure (July 2023)
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Covered bicycle store and scooter rack.
- An outdoor labyrinth and reflective tree circle.
- Climbing Wall and two outdoor table tennis tables.



Accessibility

The school is fully accessible to pupils and adults with physical disabilities. There are four disabled toilets, two disabled parking spaces and ramps at most doorways. The curriculum is personalised to meet the needs of children as appropriate.

School organisation

The school is a two-form entry school for children aged from 4 to 11 years. The nursery takes children aged 3 to 4.



The school has a strong well-established Senior Leadership Team:

- Headteacher;
- Executive Headteacher;
- Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion and SEND);
- Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning);
- Assistant Headteacher and
- School Business Manager.

There are currently 20 class-based teachers who are supported by our cover teachers, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, SENDO Assistant and Home School Link Worker.

The admin team ably supports all staff and the premises team do an amazing job of looking after our buildings and grounds.

The school has a large team of teaching assistants, some of whom have the Higher Level Teaching Assistant qualification or are qualified teachers. Many parents, volunteers and students help in school on a day-to-day basis with a wide range of activities.

Extended Services

The Octopus Breakfast Club and Starfish After School Club are run by school staff. They provide excellent child care and a fun, relaxed environment for children before and after school to suit the needs of busy, working parents and carers. Our **Octopus Breakfast Club runs from 8am (Monday - Friday)** and **Starfish After School Club from 3.15pm - 5.30pm (Mon - Thurs), 3.15pm - 5pm (Friday).**

Further information and fees are available upon request or click on this link: [Octopus and Starfish Clubs](#)

Clubs

In addition to our breakfast and afterschool clubs we offer a vast range of clubs for children from Early Years to Year 6. These clubs take place either before school, lunchtimes and after school with the vast majority run by our own staff at no charge to parents. In addition a number of external companies use our fantastic facilities to offer different experiences to our children. Just some of the clubs we offer are listed below, **36 currently**, and we are always keen to add new opportunities for the children:

Recorders, Harmonica, Happy Tunes, 'Toots and Doods', 'St Nic's Singers', Construction, Maths Games, Little Lingo's, 'Wiggle and Wriggle', School Newspaper, Library Club, Creative writing, Computer Coding Origami, Football (Girls, and Boys), Multi-Sports, Dance, Performing Arts, Basketball, Netball, Gymnastics, Marathon Kids, ...

The school continues to maintain a **'good quality of education'** for all children.

Parents praise the support the school gives the children and families: **'teachers go out of their way to engage at an individual level with their children's needs. Pupils feel listened to and cared for and enjoy coming to school'**

Ofsted 2017

School life

Starting school and settling in

Parents of pre-school children are invited to view the online tour on our website www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk (Our School > School Tours). There are opportunities for parents and children to meet the reception teacher, other staff connected with the life of the school and to participate in some school activities during the term preceding admission. At the beginning of the autumn term pre-arranged home visits/small group transition visits are made by the class teacher and teaching assistant for those children who have not already received a visit prior to starting at Little Fishes Nursery.

Home school links

The school highly values close home school links relating to all aspects of school life. Information can be accessed via our website, and we also use a texting service to contact parents as well as more traditional phone calls and letters! Parental help is much appreciated and valued in the school to assist in a variety of activities from hearing readers to cooking or from building go-carts to donating equipment or recycled materials.

There is a Home School Link Worker (HSLW) who works in partnership with parents/carers, school and other agencies to support families. The HSLW is available to discuss any concerns or worries that parents/carers or children have to ensure that all children enjoy school and feel happy and secure.

Working together

The views of the School Council, the Eco Council, assembly Dream Team, parents and local community are listened to and acted upon carefully with feedback to Governors. Regular questionnaires take place and staff always welcome suggestions to make the school a better place to learn and enjoy life.



Attendance

'The Christian ethos of the school is evident in the excellent inclusive and positive caring relationships across the school community and the exemplary behaviour seen around the school.'
SIAMS 2016

Attendance is outstanding because of strong parental support. The school does expect high levels of attendance and strongly discourages term time holidays. Attendance is monitored closely because of the strong link between absence and underachievement.

Worship

A daily act of Christian collective worship (assembly) is provided for all pupils, either whole school, key stage or in class and all are encouraged to take part. The clergy from local churches and charities regularly lead assemblies and we love having special visitors such as local musicians, fire

fighters and coastguards coming in to talk to the children. Parents are invited to attend assemblies when their child's class is leading it – either in person if available or online. Each term the Eucharist is celebrated in school and some services are held at St Mary de Haura and St Giles' at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. On these occasions children play an active part and parents, family, friends and Governors are warmly invited to join us. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship by written request.



Health, safety and security

The school takes the safety and security of children very seriously. Children are only allowed to leave with their carer except by arrangement for older pupils. The school takes a proactive approach to any form of bullying, taking immediate action and offering advice to parents on all reported incidents. The school is committed to safer recruitment and takes child protection issues very seriously. Volunteers and parents may need to undergo checks undertaken in line with our safeguarding policy. Any concerns regarding this should be addressed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (the Headteacher).

Sustainability

St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School aims to offer a dynamic and vibrant learning environment, drawing on real-life situations and issues as a context for learning. We aim to engage children in their learning through tapping into their interest and enthusiasm for sustainability issues. We seek to do this through our creative curriculum, caring for our campus and communicating with the community.



Healthy Schools

The school is committed to creating happier, healthier children who do better in learning and in life. The children learn about, and take part in activities related to PSHE, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional wellbeing. We aim to ensure that effective teaching and learning equip all children with the skills and knowledge to make informed health and life choices and to reach their full potential.

Special events

One of the fun features of the school is its themed events which provide colour, excitement, stimulus and interest.

Examples include: a street party for the Platinum Jubilee, Curriculum themed days or week, Talent Shows, Food and Fitness Weeks, British Values Weeks, Inclusion Weeks and World Book Day.

The school also supports a variety of charitable events as part of its Christian ethos e.g. the Sport Relief mile, Comic Relief, Jeans for Genes day, The Red Cross, Children in Need, Chestnut Tree House, Off the Fence, Martlets Hospice and Link to Hope. Our children often organise their own charity events to raise money for others.



Extra-curricular activities

Visits and visitors are arranged to support and enrich children's learning in the classroom. Recent trips include The Weald and Downland Museum, Drusillas, Arundel Castle, Preston Manor, Newhaven Fort and Anne of Cleves House. In addition, Year 5 visit Applesham Farm each term, they have an overnight residential to Truleigh Hill and there is a 5-day residential trip in Year 6 to Dalesdown Activity Centre. Visitors regularly come to the school including the emergency services, health professionals, charity representatives and the local MP. People from different communities also visit the school, whether they are local or from across the world such representatives from our African link.

Many children learn string, percussion and woodwind instruments in school with teachers from a range of music providers with either one to one or small group tuition. The school celebrates its strong musical tradition by running a school band, choir and recorder club. We have also recently set up a Samba Band, the 'Carnival Crew', which will be performing at a range of events later this year.

A wide and evolving range of extra-curricular activities and clubs are available in the lunch hour and after school under the supervision of a teacher or coach, including a variety of sports and arts clubs.

From time to time sports matches against other schools are organised as well as opportunities to participate in local tournaments and quizzes. Bikeability Training is undertaken by Year 6 pupils.

Parents have always been involved in the life and work of the school providing feedback and ideas. The Governing Body has elected Parent Governors and Foundation Parent Governors whose input is much valued. From time to time working parties are set up to review policies or undertake a practical activity to improve the school.



Parent Teacher Association

One of St Nicolas and St Mary's strengths is its active, hardworking and supportive Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA organises a number of events throughout the year, with firm favourites such as film shows and discos. There are Christmas and Summer events each year. Events tend to be based on social activities as well as fundraising. In previous years over £17,500 was raised and donated to the school for the Outdoor gym, kiln, art supplies, glockenspiels, Premises Team equipment, library books, playground markings and playground equipment. The school owes a lot to the enthusiastic and dedicated parents and staff that make up the PTA.

Early Years

There is **'exceptional care'** in the Early Years Foundation Stage and teachers promote **'supportive relationships extremely well'**.
Ofsted

Reception



Reception follows the EYFS curriculum which has seven main areas. These are all important and inter-connected. Three prime areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The prime areas are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

There are also four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied, which are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design



The Early Years sparks children's enthusiasm through real-life experience which help develop their curiosity and independence. We encourage Curiosity, Investigation and Discovery (CID) and teach children about how they learn.



Reception staff work very closely with parents and carers to ensure an excellent start at school and to meet the individual needs of children. Children have plenty of opportunities to develop their own personal interests, guided and supported by staff. Reception children are able to make very good use of the school's excellent facilities, including our outdoor areas, and enjoy access to their own EYFS garden which is full of different activities to extend their learning through play- this runs alongside the children's 'Forest School day'. The well-being and happiness of children remains paramount at all times and staff welcome the opportunity to discuss children with their parents.

Little Fishes Nursery



The school has a nursery class called "Little Fishes" which takes children from the term in which they have their third birthday. Little Fishes is very much part of the school and our ethos. The nursery and reception classes are both part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and they work very closely together. The nursery is open during the school terms only.



A separate prospectus is available about the nursery on request.

Curriculum

English



Speaking, listening, reading and writing are essential life skills which are embedded in all areas of the curriculum throughout the school. Through everyday classroom activities, interacting with adults and peers and performing to a range of audiences, children have a wide range of opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills. Reading and writing are taught in a way that enables children to become competent in these key skills and also nurtures a love of literature. This is complemented by the

school's use of the Accelerated Reader programme. The school has a well-resourced library and we follow the Read, Write Inc phonics programme. We develop and expect high standards of spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting throughout the key stages. In addition, children learn to write for real audiences and in a range of styles by accessing quality texts, drama, art and other hands-on experiences in both English lessons and across the curriculum.

Maths

Maths is FUN! Maths includes a wide range of topics such as: number and algebra, shape/space, measure, handling data and using and applying. This is integral and incorporated in all areas of mathematics. Maths is approached in a variety of ways, making use of investigative and real life situations with links across the curriculum and use of Number Gym (computer-based programme with educational games) and Mastery Maths. This is underpinned by a mastery approach, which strives to ensure that ALL children move forward together with their mathematical learning. We also have an annual 'Maths Week' involving the whole school. We encourage our children to think mathematically and so help them be prepared for opportunities to apply their mathematical knowledge in and out of the classroom.

***'Pupils leave the school in year 6 exceeding national averages.
Ofsted 2017***

Religious Education



RE provides children with the opportunities to explore different faiths and beliefs and to ask 'Big Questions, which cannot always be answered. As a church school, we teach the key concepts and values of Christianity, as well as units of work on other faiths and world views including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. This enables children to build respectful understanding of the different beliefs in the world around them and also to reflect on and develop their own faith or ideas. We have a creative approach to RE and like to work in a cross

curricular way where possible, incorporating themed days and enrichment activities including visits, visitors and workshops to aid children's understanding. The school follows the West Sussex Locally Agreed Syllabus and additional guidance from the Diocese of Chichester. The RE policy is available on the school website. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education.

Science

Science education should equip children for life in a world that may be very different from our own. We want to encourage children's natural curiosity about phenomena and events around them. Science links practical experience with ideas, thereby engaging learners at many different levels. The school practises 'hands on' learning as a spur to critical and creative thought with science week, experiments and real life science with butterflies and chickens! Children question and discuss scientific ideas that may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.



Design and Food technology

Design and technology helps prepare pupils to engage with tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. Children learn to think creatively and imaginatively to solve problems through designing, making and evaluating products. We give children the opportunity to work both individually and as a team to identify needs and discuss ideas. Children develop practical skills and use a wide range of tools, techniques and materials to make their products. We take supervised risks and children plan, build test and evaluate exciting models and machines. Social and environmental issues are considered, enabling children to become discriminating and informed users of products.



The Arts: Music, Drama, Art and Dance

The school places a high value on creativity as demonstrated in our outstanding provision for the Arts – we have previously gained the Artsmark Gold twice. The Arts help children to develop their intuition, creativity, sensitivity and manual dexterity, thereby enhancing their personal growth as expressive, feeling and practically capable individuals. Our Y6 pupils create a 'Living Wax Museum' and children are encouraged to evaluate their own and others' work in all stages of their development. The school regularly works alongside professional artists, actors, musicians and dancers. We take part in a wide range of community arts activities including The Adur Festival, Beach Dreams and art exhibitions.

In visual art, opportunities to explore skills, methods and techniques, in both 2 and 3 dimensional forms, are embedded in a well-developed art curriculum. Children are taught to develop processing skills through drawing, painting, printing, textiles, photography, ceramics and sculpture. All of these can be used to enrich their knowledge and understanding of other areas of the curriculum.

The emphasis in music is upon children creating and enjoying music. Through active involvement in composing and performing all types of music, children develop their understanding, knowledge and skills.

Children are encouraged to join the school band, Samba band and Singing group, to play in assemblies and to perform in the summer concert. Instrumental lessons and clubs are available for a range of instruments including violin, flute, saxophone, recorder, guitar, harmonica and drums. In some Key Stage 2 classes, the whole class learn an instrument together throughout the year such as the ukulele, clarinet, keyboard or drums.





Drama as a means of expression and communication is embedded throughout the curriculum and very much supports speaking and listening skills in English. Children are given regular opportunities to take part in assemblies, performances and shows throughout the year. Role play is essential in all levels and areas of learning, in particular as a vehicle to enhance self-

esteem and emotional confidence.

Dance is often taught as part of PE but with links into the topics that children are learning about. Children learn a range of dance styles and how to choreograph, perform, evaluate and improve their dances. Children have the opportunity to develop dance skills further in our dance and theatre craft clubs, annual performances and numerous community events and festivals.

Computing

Computing is embedded in teaching and learning across the curriculum but some aspects such as computing and coding are taught more specifically. Children study how to use up-to-date technology and tools to access a variety of information sources effectively. They learn how to use the information creatively, and to store it and retrieve it. We use interactive simulations and models in order to ask "what if" questions. They learn that machines must be controlled, how to control them, how they can use devices to sense and monitor events and how to be safe on the internet. All children learn how to share information in a variety of formats including video, DVD, film, internet and e-mail. There is also a coding club and children can use their new coding skills to create programmes and games. We also teach e-safety so that children can remain safe online.

History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages (French)



Children are fully immersed in History and Geography activities as part of wider cross-curricular topics. They develop the skills to sift through evidence, consider its implications and reach conclusions. Encountering different societies and cultures helps the pupils develop a respect and understanding of others. Children are inspired to think about their own place in the world, their values and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment. Children learn how to research, using primary and secondary sources and argue their point of view – skills that are prized in

adult life. This includes hands-on experiences such as field trips, visits and meeting experts.

The focus in history is to fire the children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like and what beliefs and cultures influenced their actions. They see the diversity of human experience so they can understand more about themselves as individuals and members of society.

The geography curriculum provokes and provides answers to questions about the natural and human worlds. The children develop knowledge of places and environments, together with an understanding of maps and a range of investigative and problem solving skills, both inside and outside the classroom. They also focus on understanding and resolving issues concerning the environment.

Children in Key Stage 2 have regular lessons on the French language, culture and customs. They also get the opportunity to explore other languages through extra-curricular clubs. Through learning to listen, speak, read and write in French, children are taught the basic language learning skills that can later be applied to other Modern Foreign Languages. They also learn other key skills such as communication and performance. The school has a link with a primary school in the south of France which gives the children the opportunity to practise language skills and build new friendships – children in upper KS2 exchange Christmas cards with them!

Physical Education



The school is fortunate in having two halls and extensive playing fields to help promote children's physical development. Through gymnastics, dance, athletics, outdoor adventure activities, swimming and games, children are taught the joy, value and benefits of physical activity. Children in years 3 – 5 take part in organised swimming lessons and there are opportunities for Key Stage 1 & 2 to enter inter/intra school tournaments in a wide range of sports.

The school has achieved unprecedented success in sporting competitions over the last 5 years. In the last academic year the school competed in 32 separate competitions at local, county and national level with our children winning an amazing 18 of these! This included our Year 5 and 6 children representing Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club at the National Premier League All Stars in London. Our success in sporting competitions alongside the physical activity opportunities we give our children has seen our school being awarded the School Games GOLD Mark Award for the third successive occasion; (this is a Government led award scheme facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community).



Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE is about preparing our pupils to live in our culturally diverse world and to be good citizens. In PSHE children explore their own feelings and their role and relationships with others. The approach taken at this school emphasises that we should learn to love and respect others and ourselves. The curriculum covers three main areas: health and well-being, living in the wider world and relationships. We also teach Relations and Sex Education (RSE) according to best practice, as stated by the DfE. Health Education and Relationships Education are now statutory subjects according to new Government guidance, however parents have the right to withdraw their child from RSE at Primary level.

Monitoring and reporting pupils' progress

The progress made by pupils in all areas of the curriculum is important to parents, teachers and the children themselves. Children's progress is monitored closely to ensure that they are fulfilling their potential or to identify how they can be given additional support, for example, a personalised learning plan.

All parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their children's progress by attending parent consultation meetings and viewing children's work. Parents are welcome to discuss their children's progress at other times as the need arises and should contact the school to arrange a convenient appointment. Parent-Teacher consultation meetings take place in the autumn and spring terms and a written report on each pupil is issued during the summer term. The senior leadership team are always willing to discuss areas of concern

Including all children

We include all children and help them to reach high levels of achievement according to their own personal needs. This may mean providing extra support in lessons or sometimes outside the classroom. Parents are invited to discuss their child's additional needs with their child's teacher and the SENDCO. Please see our school's Local Offer and SEND Information Report on our website for more information (Our School \ Inclusion). We also seek to extend learning through special projects, extension work and challenges.



Community Links

At St Nicolas and St Mary C.E. Primary School we seek to enable all of our learners to be aware of the world and people around them. This includes the school, the local community, the community of Britain and the global community. By promoting “British Values”, learners leave St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School being able to live in a world that is diverse in terms of culture, faith, ethnicity and social backgrounds – supporting, celebrating and understanding differences and similarities between people. We aim to do this through our teaching, learning and curriculum provision, ensuring equality of opportunity and by providing opportunities to engage with people from different backgrounds.

The school works closely with the local authority and local schools on a range of projects to support learning, pupil well-being and charity fundraising. There are strong community links in a range of areas including the arts, the environment, businesses, agriculture and so on. Links have also been formed with schools in London and France.



Our school proudly participated in the Martlet's Junior Snailway to raise money for the hospice. You can find Doodle, our snail, welcoming visitors at the front of the school. Doodle will soon be joined by Meadow, our new Martlet's Junior Sheep.

Governors

'Children's behaviour is good and they show excellent attitudes to learning.'

'Pupils are polite, friendly and confident'

Ofsted 2017

The Governing Body

St Nicolas and St Mary C.E. Primary School has a Governing Body which takes an overview of the school's direction and performance. The main roles of the governing body are to:

- Provide a strategic view.
- Be a supportive but critical friend.
- Monitor performance.

Governors are unpaid volunteers and, with the exception of Staff Governors, may not be education professionals. Each Governor serves for up to a four year term. A Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by the Governors once a year. The Governing Body is supported by a Clerk (not a Governor but someone who helps to organise its business). There are different types of Governors including Foundation Governors who are appointed by the churches of St Nicolas and St Mary as the school's founding body, Parent Governors, Local Authority Governors, Staff Governors and Sponsor Governors.

The Chair of Governors is currently Mrs Helen Harvey and our clerk is Mrs Alison Davies – both of whom can be contacted via the school office. A full list of current Governors is available on our website.

The full Governing Body meets twice every term and committees/working parties for Finance & Personnel, Quality of Education, Premises, Health & Safety issues, Worship & Ethos and Admissions meet termly. The minutes of meetings are publicly available. The Governing Body is directly responsible for Little Fishes Nursery. If you are ever interested in becoming a governor we would be delighted to hear from you. Please do ask a governor or the school office if you would like further information.

Admissions

Admissions Authority

The Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is responsible for all admissions to the school. The admission policy and oversubscription criteria are reviewed annually and are available on the website.

The school's official "Published Admissions Number" (PAN) is 60 which means up to 60 children should be admitted into the Reception class each year.

There are separate admissions arrangements for the school's nursery – Little Fishes. Please note that admission to the nursery does not guarantee a place in the Reception Class and parents with children in the school must not assume younger siblings will automatically gain a place. The school is heavily oversubscribed and parents and carers are advised to look carefully at the Admissions Policy and seek advice to ensure that forms are correctly and fully completed.

Contact

St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Eastern Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6PE

Tel: 01273 454470

Email: office@stnm.org.uk

Web: www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/

Headteacher Mr A Lincoln BA Hons

Executive Headteacher Mr D Etherton B.Ed Hons. NPQH

For all admission enquiries, please contact the school. Further information is available on request including the school's Admission Policy and Little Fishes Nursery Prospectus.

All details correct at time of printing.

October 2023

**Thank you for taking time to read this glimpse into our
Courageous, Faith filled, hopeful and loving school**

You are welcome to come and visit us and see the school in action.