

The Bishops' C of E & RC Primary School



*'Live Fully, Laugh Often, Learn Deeply,
Love as God Loves You and Let Your Light Shine!'*

Welcome to The Bishops' School



This leaflet is designed to give you a feel for The Bishops' because choosing the right school for your child is possibly one of the most important decisions you can make for them. As your children's educators we wish to work with you and for you, to support your children through their formative years.

'Bishops' is a place where a foundation for life is built...' Parent 2015

'Life in all its fullness' is an important phrase for us. As a joint church school we believe that education should be about the whole of life and should be rich in experiences and personal development. Life is a gift rich with wonder and opportunity, and we do our best to give our pupils experiences which will nurture their development academically, socially and spiritually.



The school is....'amazingly welcoming, warm and nurturing.....believe this is down to the Christian ethos' *Parent 2018*



Our pupils come from a **wide range of backgrounds and cultures**, and we value the diversity of faith (apart from Anglicans and Catholics we have many Christians of other denominations, Muslims, Hindus and welcome those with no faith background), culture (we have higher ethnic diversity than most Chelmsford schools) and locality (pupils come to our school from across Chelmsford and nearby villages, as well as those who live close to the school).

You will have to visit the school to get a proper feel for the atmosphere here and the friendliness of staff and pupils.

'It is our belief from our experience The Bishops' School is second to none.....(the staff) have instilled beliefs and passion in (my daughter) that will carry her a long way throughout her life...' Parent 2019

'Your mission statement of 'live fully, laugh often, learn deeply, love as God loves you and let your light shine' sits at the heart of your school community. You passionately and unreservedly believe that the children and pupils should thrive through a love and passion for learning.' OFSTED 2018



On the **academic** side, our pupils make good progress from whatever their starting points, and where they may struggle we work with parents to find the right support. Every year a number of pupils gain entrance to the selective grammar schools, although most go to Boswells, St. John Payne or Beaulieu (with some going to Chelmer, Sandon or other local schools). Class visits and special visitors to school happen every term so that the children's learning is enriched. We have special theme weeks and days to celebrate different aspects of the curriculum as a school, and the achievement of The Arts Mark, Healthy Schools Award, the Full

International Schools Award and the School Games Award are all testament to our commitment to a curriculum which develops children in a broad and healthy way. In addition to this, in 2017 we won the Chelmsford School Sports Partnership Award, and were awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the London College of Music for our music provision and our collaboration with the Stave House Music organisation.

'Bishops' is a place where my child gained her determination to achieve....' Parent 2015

As a joint church school we also benefit from the support of our local parish St. Augustine's as well as All Saint's Springfield and the Church of our Saviour in Chelmer Village. Our PTA work tirelessly to support the school's development (recently supporting the provision of our Multi-Use Games Area), and all our staff are wholly dedicated to serving the school and its community to enable us to be the best that we can be.

I look forward to welcoming you to our unique and special school. If you are interested, please contact us on 01245460107, or come and see us.

Greg Waters

Head Teacher



An Exciting and Challenging Curriculum



We follow a curriculum we have designed ourselves, based on the National Curriculum 2014 and the best elements of the International Primary Curriculum. Every topic starts with an 'Entry Point' and finishes with an 'Exit Point'. An example of this is Year 1 children studying Farming. Early on they dress up as farmers and visit the school chickens, learning all about how to care for chickens (which have been hatched out at school), and at the end of the topic they visit a nearby farm.

Year 6 children enjoying their 'Exit Point' at The Natural History Museum in London, following a topic on Volcanoes and Earthquakes.



We encourage parents to support the learning – these Roman shields were all made at home over a holiday.

Children excel in **art** – and we take our most enthusiastic artists to a gallery each year



Performing Arts are important to us, and here is '*Shush*', our Performing Arts teacher who teaches every class drama, and public speaking skills.



The Bishops' is a **Joint Church School** – our foundation is Church of England and Roman Catholic. Where there is faith we seek to nurture it, but we welcome children from all backgrounds and we celebrate the festivals of the Church's year with an open heart and in a way which includes everyone.

A '**Mothers' Day**' Service, held close to Mothering Sunday.



In a recent survey of parents' views, many parents noted the '**strong moral ethos** between staff and pupils' and 'the good guidance in morals, cultural, spiritual and social issues.' (2018)

A '**Service of Forgiveness**', held in Lent to help us prepare for Easter, in which children have the sign of the cross made on their forehead in water. Children are free to choose whether they want this or not – it is not forced.



We have a **school dog**, Luna. She is a cockapoo (a hypo-allergenic breed) and is trained to support children's learning and emotional well-being – and to bring something special to The Bishops'.

When we can, we have **fun**, children and staff.



Music is really important to us. All children in Foundation Stage receive specialist class music teaching, children in Year 2 learn the recorder and children in Year 3 learn a stringed instrument for a year. There are opportunities to have individual or small group teaching on strings, guitar, keyboard and percussion. There is also a choir which sings at the greatest venues in the country – here at The Royal Albert Hall.



'The school is awash with examples of pupils' high-quality work and successes.'
OFSTED 2018

'..... the Christian character of this joint school permeates all school life, underpinning all policy and practice. Pastoral care is a strength of this school, with teachers going above and beyond the call of duty.....' SIAMS inspection 2016



We believe that children who learn to **express themselves, work together and play together** will have the skills in later life to work well and live happily.



Sport is also important to us, and Specialist Teaching is provided for basketball, tag rugby, swimming (for the less confident), gymnastics, dance, cricket and football, as well as clubs for netball, basketball, football, table tennis, multi-sports, running and various forms of dance and musical theatre. We have been awarded the Gold School Games award for the past two years, and won the Chelmsford Football League for both years too.



We have an active and supportive **PTA**, run by parents for the benefit of all the children.

Above all, we want to children to have a memorable, fulfilling and enjoying education.



...and where our values run deep and make a difference to each member of our special community.



Thank you for taking an interest in our school, and we look forward to welcoming you in the future.