



Stonegate Church of England Primary School



‘Love of Learning for Life’



Prospectus 2023 - 2024

Our School

Our School is a happy, church and family-orientated community school in the heart of the rural village of Stonegate. Our historic Victorian listed building is situated in attractive grounds where we love to learn and play on our field and beautiful garden areas. We have the most breathtaking view of the Great British countryside.

We are an excellent school where everyone matters, everyone works hard together, where we care very much about each other and enable everyone to flourish.

Welcome...

I would like to thank you for considering Stonegate Church of England School as the establishment to educate your child.



The school provides all children with wonderful teaching, exciting experiences and the social and moral understanding to become the best that they can be. Our beautiful setting offers the perfect canvas on which the start of life's journey can be drawn.

Through this prospectus, we hope that you gain an impression of what makes Stonegate a fantastic community in which to learn.

Jonathan Elms – Headteacher

School Vision - Love of Learning for Life

Stonegate Church of England Primary School and Little Acorns Pre-School is a community founded on Christian Values: Courage, Friendship, Respect and Trust embracing every child and their family. We provide a safe environment, where a lifetime love of learning begins, the whole child is nurtured and each child is valued and able to thrive.

Love of Learning for Life - I came to give life — life in all its fullness. John 10:10

We aim to offer an inspiring and interesting curriculum, which will encourage the children to develop a lifelong love of learning and an ambition to do well in everything they set out to do.



Motivated and achieving

Our Ethos

Our aim is for every child to be the best that they can be through:

- a love of reading, writing and number work
- a foundation of knowledge from a rich and creative curriculum and a set of skills with which to understand and question the world that we live in
- an enthusiasm for the world beyond the classroom - in particular, art, sport, music and the performing arts
- a respect for others and a recognition that the efforts and achievements of every individual in our community are valued equally
- a pathway that encourages initiative and develops self-confidence.

Links with the Church



Stonegate is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School, originally founded by the Church of England, but now funded by the County Council. The Church nominates governors for the school.

Services for the whole school are held in St. Peter's Church to celebrate Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. Parents and friends are invited to attend these services.

During our daily acts of worship, the school community comes together to consider how we treat each other and what is truly important in our lives. Collective Worship is based around a core set of values and important aspects of social and emotional learning, such as self-esteem, setting goals, getting on with others and charity.

Our key values are:

Trust
Courage
Friendship
Respect

Children are encouraged to look after, respect, support and care for each other.



In January 2020, the school was awarded the highest grading of 'excellent' in its Siams Church Inspection.

In March 2023, the school was inspected as a 'Good' school by Ofsted.

Thoughtful and reflective

Learning

We offer a creative, stimulating and challenging curriculum that inspires thinking and learning beyond the classroom. We enjoy our learning very much and this promotes our independence, confidence, spirituality and self-esteem. We achieve.

Our cross-curricular creative curriculum allows pupils to explore themes more thoroughly and enables teachers to make literacy tasks more relevant. As well as covering all aspects of the National Curriculum, we plan two or three special themed weeks a year.



At Stonegate, we work hard to build strong relationships between teachers and parents/carers so that home and school can support children together. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress and attitude to learning continuously through our website and text messaging communication system, our bi-monthly newsletters and regular parent afternoons and evenings.

Learning outside the classroom

We are extremely pleased to have established Forest School as part of our curriculum. Every child, throughout the year, has the opportunity to develop their techniques in forestry skills, teamwork and risk taking, as well as enhancing their understanding of, and passion towards, our local environment.

All of our Forest School sessions are led by a Level 3 trained practitioner, who is supported by Teachers, Teaching Assistants and volunteer parents.



In addition to making use of our school grounds, we also seek opportunities to enrich learning through visits and visitors. Learning from visitors including firefighters, the police, local authors, travelling historical enrichment groups and parents from the school. All of which give the children a real life context to the curriculum.



We pride ourselves on providing fantastic visits to enhance the classroom learning and develop an awareness of the wider world. In recent years, the children have visited PGL at Bawdsey Manor, the Museum of London, Shakespeare's Globe, Hastings Beach, The Sealife Centre, Battle Abbey, Newhaven Fort and the theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Happy and confident

Additional Curricular Activities

There is a wide range of out-of-school activities on offer to the children. We believe these clubs help broaden the children's experiences and develop a wide range of talents and interests. There is something for everyone – from Sports to French clubs for Key Stage 1 and 2 children. Other clubs recently on offer include story club, board games club, computing club, eco - club, gardening club and a science / STEM investigation group.



Clubs are advertised in the school newsletter at the beginning of term, with 90% of our children attending at least one club per week.

Sports at Stonegate

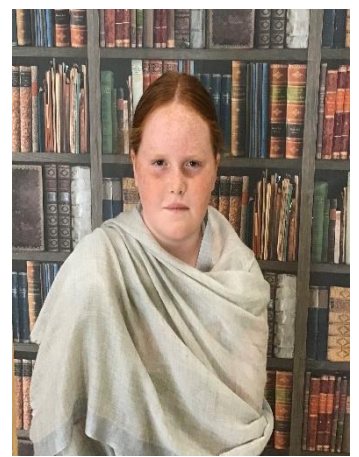
Our sports teams are a credit to the school and are excellent in demonstrating spirit, competitiveness and fairness. We take part in regular tournaments in Football, Netball, Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Cricket and Athletics.

Our Amazing Choir

One of the school's crown jewels is its choir. The commitment from the children and the standard of singing and performance at Stonegate School is second to none. Support from members of the village and wider community make our summer productions a must-see.

In addition to this out-of-school club, the school performs in Church Services and community events. We believe that through singing and performing, important life skills including teamwork, confidence, perseverance and enjoyment through achieving are developed.

In 2024, the school will be performing at the Young Voices Concert at the O2, London.



Working and succeeding

Achievements

We pride ourselves on encouraging pupils to achieve their best, whatever they are doing. Pupils are well supported by their parents and this, together with good teaching, helps them achieve well in national tests.

Headlines from 2023



The children in Reception Class attained 73.3% Good Level of Development (GLD). National average was 67.3%.

They also achieved an incredible average of 15.5 expected learning goals (National – 14.1). Our Reception Class provides every child with the building blocks they require for future success.

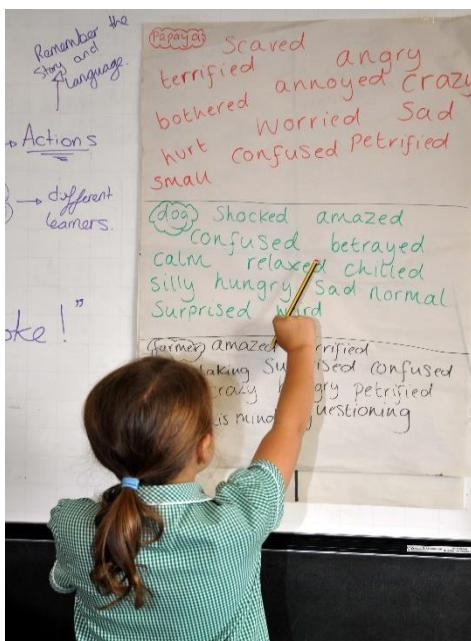
In Year 1, 83.3% of children passed their Phonics Screening Test. National average was 76.7%.

We were delighted with the progress our Year 2 pupils made in their Key Stage 1 assessments.

In the Key Stage 2 (Year 6) assessments, the outcomes for Reading, Writing and Maths were outstanding! 75% achieved expected standard with 8.3% attaining Greater Depth. This was significantly above the Local Authority average of 55.9% and 5.1%.



Special Educational Needs



The school aims to give all children, whatever their ability, equal access to a broad and balanced education. Many children will, at some time in their school career, have special educational needs, requiring support over and above that normally offered in the classroom. The special educational needs team of Mrs Mortimer and Mr Elms are responsible, in consultation with class teachers, for identifying children with special educational needs and the subsequent provision of appropriate help. This will initially be provided within class or small group work. If necessary, help and advice will be sought from outside agencies. Very occasionally, a statutory assessment will be made, leading to an Education, Health and Care Plan. All interventions are discussed with parents.

Perservering and attaining

Our learning exchanges

We foster, organise and develop a great number of links with the community in order to optimise the learning experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

- We run a large number of after school clubs and are always seeking to explore new ones to match our interests.
- We participate and compete in local events and competitions
- We make many school visits, which match our curriculum learning
- We share opportunities, learning experiences, and links with our partnership schools and local secondary schools
- We participate in our local Bikeability scheme
- We sing and perform in our local community
- We organise fundraising and social events with our PTA
- Our parents can be seen helping with reading, clubs, supporting children in sports events or at performances, or accompanying school outings.
- We support learning for children in our community from the ages of 2 – 11.



Enjoying and sharing

Our behaviour expectations

Our school is warm and welcoming and sends clear messages to the children about our high expectations. We aim to create an environment which always encourages and reinforces good behaviour and the fostering of positive attitudes.

Our consistent approach to behaviour at all times and by all members of the school leads to a very happy learning community. Real engagement with learning usually leads to little or no issues with behaviour.



Every child is challenged to see themselves as ambassadors for the school. Our children rise to this challenge and their politeness, articulation and general behaviour is always complimented by the people they encounter.



With the introduction of our Pre-School, pupils in Reception Class have the opportunity to share activities, work with younger pupils and have an early opportunity to act as role models and learning partners.



Kind and responsible

Our School Partnership with you

We work closely with parents and carers by:

- Inviting you into school to see what your child is achieving through class assemblies, open class sharing sessions and educational workshops.
- Organising Parents' Evenings, individual parent interview sessions and many educational / social events where you can share in your child's learning activities at school.
- Providing a 'Morning Clipboard' to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher at any other time or convey a concern.
- Regularly updating news and information on the school website.



It is always our highest priority to try and ensure that each child fulfils their potential and flourishes in a happy, safe and stimulating environment. By the same token, we expect that our parents seek to work in a supportive partnership with us to achieve the same ends.

Meals at Stonegate

At break times, the children are provided with a piece of fruit (there is no cost until the end of Year 2). They sometimes even eat vegetables they have grown themselves!



At lunchtimes, we can have a school lunch, which is prepared in our school kitchen, or a healthy packed lunch. Our meals are ordered in advance using the ParentPay system.

As part of the Government's Universal Free Meal Scheme, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

For further information about the menus for our lunches, please browse:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/download/>

Healthy and tolerant

Starting School with us

Starting a new school or Pre-School setting is an important and, at times, a difficult decision.

We ensure that the transition from home, nursery or another school is thorough and well managed, so that pupils can settle quickly and are very happy in their new 'family' environment.

We welcome you and your child to explore the school, so they get to know their new surroundings and all the people that will be important to them in making them feel secure and well cared for.

Every family starting Foundation Stage (Pre-School or Reception Class) will be offered a home visit to discuss, one to one, their child's special interests or needs. If home visits are not possible then, one to one, we will invite you into the classroom before your child starts school. These initial links form a firm foundation on which we build your child's future learning and progress.

Your child's individual strengths and talents will vary in all areas of the curriculum and in school life. We set out to give the children opportunities to shine where they can challenge themselves with new experiences and by questioning the world around them. We have a successful 'Buddy' system in place, where each Foundation Stage pupil is matched to a Year 6 child to act as their link to the school. This works extremely well and benefits both older and younger children in terms of building friendship, confidence, empathy, responsibility and trust.

We will always seek to employ the Stonegate TEAM motto in which Together Everyone Achieves More.



Thank you!

Thank you for reading our prospectus. For further information on why Stonegate Church of England Primary School is a great place to learn, please explore our website www.stonegate.e-sussex.sch.uk.

If you would like to visit the school, please arrange an appointment via Mr Elms (Headteacher) or Miss Heard (School Secretary) on 01580 200 415 or at office@stonegate.e-sussex.sch.uk.

Aspirational and loving life