



# Prospectus



*“Doing all the good we can, through  
faith, love and excellence”*

Saint Peter's Grove Canterbury Kent CT1 2DH  
Tel: 01227 464392  
Email: [office@st-peters-canterbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-peters-canterbury.kent.sch.uk)  
[www.st-peters-canterbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters-canterbury.kent.sch.uk)  
Facebook: /stpeters Twitter: @stpetersupdates



# SAINT PETER'S METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Doing all the good we can, through faith, love and excellence"

Executive Headteacher Mr Simon Way  
Head of School Mrs Nikki Duffy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St Peter's Methodist Primary School. We hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse of life at our school and answers any questions you may have about our aims and ethos as well as the curriculum and wider learning opportunities we offer.

We are sure that when you visit us you will recognise the positive, caring ethos in which we encourage all children and adults to develop into confident, reflective individuals, with a strong sense of belonging to and maintaining our school community. As a Methodist school we value our strong links with the church community and promote Christian values.

We offer a broad, balanced and creative curriculum combining the demands of the National Curriculum with cross-curricular work in the local environment. We expect high standards of work and behaviour and encourage our children to give their best in all areas of school life. Most importantly we aim to motivate and encourage them to develop into independent, enquiring children who are prepared and ready to enter the next phase of their lives.

In order to be successful, it is important for school and parents to work in partnership and we value your support and interest. We are always willing to listen to your concerns and to share the successes of your children with you both informally and at parent consultation evenings. Please remember that every child is different and develops at a different rate. The most effective incentives that you can give are praise, encouragement and recognition.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Way  
Executive Headteacher

Nikki Duffy  
Head of School

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## Our Mission Statement

Our school will promote the highest quality of education within a challenging, stimulating learning environment and within the context of Christian values. We will provide a caring, supportive, evaluative and outward looking school community, in which each individual feels safe, valued and respected.

Our aims express the fundamental principles underlying the learning experience provided here. They are reflected in all aspects of school life.

## Our Aims

- To provide a broad, balanced, challenging curriculum which inspires our children and encourages in them a love of learning.
- To develop self-esteem, confidence and social skills, building on individual strengths and celebrating personal achievement.
- To promote and value an independent approach to learning, encouraging children to take risks and be evaluative within a secure environment.
- To provide every possible opportunity for pupils to reach their academic, creative, spiritual, physical and personal potential.
- To encourage children to enjoy exercise, lead healthy lives and stay safe.
- To ensure that every child is literate, numerate and has effective ICT capabilities to continue their learning journey.
- To foster respect and good manners and promote individual responsibility for maintaining the school as a safe and happy community.
- To nurture positive relationships within our school community, with St. Peter's Methodist Church and with our local community.
- To encourage children to be thankful and to strive to help others.
- To create a sense of global citizenship, introducing pupils to world issues.



## Our Christian Values

Love and Compassion  
Hope  
Friendship  
Respect  
Joy

Forgiveness  
Truth and Trust  
Thankfulness  
Tolerance  
Reverence

## *Our School*



The number of children on roll is generally 210. We are a one form entry school with 7 classes – one per year group – and are housed in a Victorian building with a lovely extension which was completed in December 2000.

Our unique location allows us to regularly explore the rich heritage of Canterbury through field study work in the city and history and drama activities in the cathedral.

## *Parents as Partners*

We value enormously the support of parents/carers which is vital to the well-being of our children and the school. Parent consultation appointments are offered in Autumn and Spring and we are keen to have the opportunity to discuss children's progress and targets. A written learning journey report is shared with all parents during the consultations and sent home in term 6.

If parents have any concerns at other times they are encouraged to come and discuss these with class teachers, the Key Stage Leaders, the Head of School or the Executive Headteacher. Teachers are available on the playground every morning from 8.40 to meet with parents and are often available after school for a brief chat. It is advisable to make an appointment if longer time is needed. We would prefer you to come to the school office if you have a query or concern at the beginning of the day as this is a very busy time for teachers as they prepare for the school day.

Parents are encouraged to make use of our Home Connect facility. This allows parents to register their email account and receive all important school letters via email thus avoiding the dreaded lost letter or newsletter. Parents may also register to receive important messages by text.

When your child starts school you automatically become a member of the PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association.) This thriving organisation helps to raise funds for the school as well as organise social events for children and adults such as fetes, discos and games evenings and we are extremely grateful for all the hard work of the dedicated committee. The PTFA Annual General Meeting is held in September.

## *St Peter's as a Methodist School*

Although the school was founded as a Wesleyan School, it now has 'controlled' status and is administered and financed by the Local Authority. Links with the Methodist Church, however, are strong and remain important. The church provides a number of foundation governors and actively supports the work of the school through advice, resources, volunteer helpers and the interest that church members take in the school.

The Reverend of St Peter's Methodist Church regularly comes into school to lead worship and support with the teaching of RE.

We have a daily act of collective worship at St Peter's which plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our Christian values and ethos, strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and reinforce the respect and care we have for each other.

Through collective worship we help our children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith as well as contributing to their religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We want all our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

## *The Whole Child*

We believe in an all round education in order that the children can become respected and responsible members of the community. Children are encouraged to be polite and thoughtful in their dealings with others. They learn to take responsibility for their actions and to take part in decision making related to their classrooms and the whole school. Children are also given responsibilities on a regular basis and act as monitors for a variety of tasks within and across classes.

At St Peter's we have a Head Boy, Head Girl and deputies. They form our Junior Leadership Team and help to shape various aspects of life in school. Twelve further children, two from each of classes 1 – 6, are voted onto our School Council each year. This gives them the opportunity to voice their opinions and represent their classmate's views. The Council meets around twice a term to discuss issues and plan developments. They have a budget and work together to plan improvements.

We believe it is very important for children to see themselves as global citizens and to develop an understanding of other cultures. This helps them to value and celebrate difference as well as similarities and to learn about the wider world. We make use of opportunities across the curriculum to develop our children as global citizens.

We are proud to welcome families from a diverse community and we are dedicated to ensuring that no child or adult at our school is subject to discrimination of any sort.

## Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are committed to maintaining and promoting safeguarding at St Peter's. The welfare and safety of all our children is the highest priority for staff and governors and every effort is taken to ensure that our school site is secure and safe, recruitment procedures are rigorous, policies and procedures are up to date and relevant and children are taught safe practices and how to manage risk. This focus, alongside our warm, supportive ethos, helps children to feel safe within school.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads at St Peter's are the Executive Headteacher, the Head of School, the Assistant Headteacher and the Family Liaison Officer. Staff and parents can talk to them about any welfare or child safety concerns.

## Family Support

The school is able to offer confidential support to children and families experiencing difficult times. We have a full time Family Liaison Officer (FLO)/Pupil Mentor who will support parents, carers and children through times of need. This can be anything from relationship breakdown, bereavement, mental well-being, financial hardship, school attendance, behaviour management and school transition.

In consultation with parents or carers, the FLO/Pupil Mentor can support children on a 1:1 basis as well as refer and signpost to other services available within Kent. This can be for short or longer term support.

## The School Day

Our school day runs from 8.45am to 3.15pm and is currently organised as follows:

	Start of School	Morning Break	Lunch Break	Afternoon Break	End of School
FS/KS1 Rainbow - Class 2	8.45am	10.30am - 10.45am	12.10pm - 1.10pm	2.25pm - 2.40pm	3.15pm
KS2 Classes 3-6	8.45am	10.55am - 11.10am	12.10pm - 1.10pm		3.15pm

There are always school staff on the playground from 8.30am to welcome families as they arrive. At the end of the day KS1 and KS2 children are brought to the playground to be collected.

## Breakfast and After School Clubs

We understand that for working parents, you may require childcare beyond the hours of the school day, and so we offer out of ours care from 7.30am until 6pm daily.

We offer a breakfast club which runs daily from 7.30am. The children will have time to play, enjoy a healthy breakfast and also an opportunity to brush their teeth before the school day begins. Breakfast club is run by school staff who know the children well.

We also have a thriving After School Club which runs daily from 3.15 – 6pm. The aim of both of the clubs is to provide high quality child care based on learning through play. Children are encouraged to take part in a range of activities and relaxation and social play is highly valued.

## School Uniform

We believe that a feeling of school unity is achieved by wearing a uniform and ask you to send children to school in our school uniform.

- *Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school crest (only available from Tesco uniform online, Your School Uniform or Barnum's Schoolwear)*
- *White polo shirt – plain or bearing school crest (available as above)*
- *Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress*
- *Black school shoes or plain black flat boots*
- *White or grey socks or tights*
- *In the summer term, girls may wear royal blue and white checked summer dresses*

In order to make life easier we ask you to dress children in Rainbow class in shoes with velcro and clothes with as few buttons as possible.

It is vital that all belongings are labelled so that we can return the mountains of lost property at the end of each week.

For safety reasons children may wear only stud earrings and these must be removed by the child for PE lessons. (No other jewellery is permitted). We ask that children with long hair tie it back whilst in school.

All children need a PE kit, which should be clearly marked with their name and kept in a named shoe-bag. The kit should comprise of:

- slip-on or velcro plimsolls
- plain navy shorts
- Blue, green red or yellow T-shirt depending on the child's school team

Children are asked to have their PE equipment in school all week and take it home regularly or during school holidays, to be washed.

## Admissions

St. Peter's is a Voluntary Controlled Methodist School. We follow the Local Authority's (LA's) admission criteria to the letter.

- ❖ Children in the care of the Local Education Authority and children previously in the care of the Local Authority
- ❖ Current family association (sibling)
- ❖ Health and special access reasons
- ❖ Nearness of home

Dates for applying for entry to an Early Years Foundation class are set by the LA and vary each year. Primary admission books and a Common Application Form can be obtained from us and the form must be returned to us or the LA by the specified date.

Open mornings/afternoons are held for parents of new entrants into our Reception class when they are able to look around the school, see classes in action and ask questions. Parents who wish to visit the school prior to applying for a place at any other times are asked to telephone the school office to make an appointment.

## Our Curriculum

We aim to provide a quiet, purposeful working environment where children follow a creative curriculum whilst making the fullest possible use of our school's central location in Canterbury.

Our curriculum comprises of all learning and other experiences that we plan with our pupils. At St Peter's we organise our curriculum into areas of learning for planning, teaching and monitoring purposes: English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Creative Arts (Art, Music and Design Technology), Health and Wellbeing (PE, PSHE and Citizenship), Humanities (Geography and History), Computing and Languages.

In all areas of the curriculum we prioritise creativity to motivate and enthuse children and provide them with the team skills which will prepare them to make the fullest contribution in life. At the beginning of each topic, the children and their teacher work together to plan their topics, deciding together on their learning journey. All classes go for frequent outings within the city and further afield with their class teacher to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities. Class teachers send out a termly letter outlining the areas of work which the children will be involved in during the coming term.

## *Teaching and Learning*

Teachers plan carefully and creatively in order to deliver a curriculum that meets children's needs. Our reception class (Rainbow) follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, Years 1 and 2 form Key Stage 1 and Years 3 to 6 make up Key Stage 2. Within each class, teachers may group children for different activities. Groups may be mixed ability or according to ability in the subject at this time.

Teachers assess children regularly and review grouping, teaching strategies and learning opportunities as appropriate. At three assessment pause points during the year, teachers assess the children using our steps system. This information is used to help us monitor both attainment and progress, to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all our children. In Year 1 all children take the statutory Phonics Screening Check, as well as end of Key Stage assessments in Years 2 and 6.

Marking children's learning helps us to give feedback to improve learning and help them to understand their progress and targets. We always mark work so that children are aware that their efforts are valued and important. On occasions we may show this with a tick or a sticker. We will use marking for improvement strategies to develop children's learning. This involves careful marking highlighting successes against the learning objectives. Comments will reinforce the learning and prompt further improvement.

## *Home Learning*

All children are asked to undertake work at home in support of their learning. Parents can help by listening to and reading with their child - this is vital at all ages. Weekly homework tasks are set with the aim of consolidating the learning in class.

We hold a range of information meetings led by key staff to guide parents with supporting learning at home, particularly when the children first join us.

## *Special and Additional Educational Needs*

At St. Peter's Methodist Primary School, we seek to remove barriers to learning and participation. This means that every child is treated as a special child and is entitled to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum.

Many pupils will, at some time or another need extra help at school. This may be because they are experiencing problems ranging from slight difficulties that do not take long to rectify, to more severe learning difficulties which require a longer-term plan of action. Children who are exceptionally able in any area also need to be identified and catered for.

The class teacher is aware of the particular individual needs of each child and will provide differentiated work that is tailored to them. We also have an excellent team of trained teaching assistants who will help individuals or groups within the classroom along with the class teacher.

We greatly value information from parents and seek to work together to provide the best opportunities for every child.

Throughout the year we review the needs of all children in our school. A provision map may be written if appropriate and all aspects of special needs support will be discussed with parents or carers.

The school is committed to compliance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, the Disability Discrimination Act and the 2014 SEND Code of Practice. We have a disability access plan which aims to ensure that we do not treat disabled pupils or parents less favourably for a reason related to disability and we take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage. The school's commitment to inclusion ensures that we actively seek to accommodate those with disabilities. The school is currently accessible to all children, including those in wheelchairs, and we have a disabled toilet on the ground floor.

All staff receive appropriate support and guidance to meet their duties to their pupils.

## *Our Behaviour for Learning Policy and Pastoral Care*

We believe it is important for children to have a clear idea of what is expected of them in terms of behaviour and their behaviours for learning. We follow John Wesley's rule, which all children will learn from their first days in school:

*Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can*

We expect high standards of discipline and aim to maintain this by being consistent in our expectations. Emphasis is always on drawing attention to good learning behaviours and on using positive reinforcement and encouragement.

However, children are encouraged to report unkind behaviour immediately and any complaint will be followed up. If a child is consistently found to use worrying behaviour or to hurt other children they will be reported to parents and their behaviour and sanctions discussed. Children's concerns are taken very seriously. All reports of unkindness or threatening behaviour will be dealt with firmly but fairly. All adults employed by the school share the school's philosophy on behaviour.

School and class Behaviour for Learning Reward Schemes are in operation in the school. Certificates are also used to celebrate progress, achievement and effort in all areas of school life and are awarded in worship on Fridays.

In addition, all children are organised into 4 mixed age teams and earn team points for politeness, helpfulness etc.

## *Transition*

Induction visits for our new reception aged children take place during Term 6 and children are invited into school with their parents to familiarise themselves with staff and the school environment. An induction pack containing important information and forms is supplied for parents at this time.

The reception class staff team visit as many of the children as possible in their pre-school and nursery settings as well as carrying out home visits prior to the children starting with us, as this allows them to discuss the child's strengths and any areas of concern and ensures that the teacher and assistants are well placed to meet each child's needs.

When our children are preparing to move on to secondary school, we work closely with local schools to ensure that there is a smooth transition at this significant point in their education.

## *Healthy Schools*

We are part of the East Kent Healthy Schools Scheme and ask parents to support us as we implement this important initiative. Children may bring fruit, raw carrots or other healthy snacks to eat during morning break. Children in Classes 1-6 may also bring up to 20p to buy items from our Healthy Tuckshop, which is run by our pupils.

Hot school meals are cooked on site by Caterlink Ltd and these healthy, balanced meals are enjoyed by many children.

We try to promote a polite, family dining atmosphere whilst children are eating and encourage good table manners. Our dedicated team of midday supervisors care for the children at this time and in the playground over the lunch break.

## *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Many extra activities take place at lunchtime and after school. Teachers, friends and parents run a range of sport, music and activity clubs, details of which are shared at the beginning of each seasonal term.

We are fortunate to have access to various music teachers and lessons in piano, guitar, violin and brass. These can be paid for and taken during the school day and are in addition to class music lessons.

## *School Sport / Physical Activity*

It is our aim at St. Peter's to provide all our pupils with opportunities to participate and succeed in a wide range of activities. While we place great emphasis on academic achievement, we also believe that children should be given a wide range of opportunities to succeed in non-academic areas such as P.E. and Sport.

As a result, you will see us celebrating participation, promoting excellence and, most importantly, enjoying all forms of P.E. and sport at St. Peter's. We have an annual Sports Day, which involves all children in enjoyable sporting activities where co-operation and team spirit are emphasised. There are opportunities to participate in clubs and interschool events and competitions. In addition, pupils are invited to attend a number of extra-curricular clubs throughout the year. The aim of the clubs is to develop a love of sport and physical activity. Children of all abilities are invited to attend and are taught the key skills of each sport.

**Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus.**

**If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office and we would be happy to help.**

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