



Enjoy, Achieve and
Celebrate Together in Faith

Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School

Prospectus



Welcome to Sissinghurst Primary School

It is our pleasure to introduce you to our wonderful village school here in Sissinghurst. We are truly proud of our enriching learning environment, high-quality teaching and broad curriculum which, together with support and engagement from parents, is providing our children with an excellent start to their education.

If you would like to visit the school outside of scheduled open days, please contact us to book an appointment. We would be delighted to answer your questions and for some of our pupils to show you around the school.

Our Vision

Through the education we provide, our aim is that our Sissinghurst children will:

- Enjoy thinking critically and creatively, relish the challenge of solving problems and acquire the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to continue learning as a lifelong process.
- Establish an independent and enquiring mind; have the ability to question, discuss and argue rationally; make informed decisions and be intrinsically motivated to achieve their very best.

- Celebrate their talents and achievements and those of others.
- Within the context of Christian Faith, have developed personal moral values, be outward looking, and grow into respectful global citizens.

School Values

Our four Christian values of Wisdom, Friendship, Endurance and Koinonia* were chosen by the children and are woven through all aspects of school life. These values help to create a learning environment that is both nurturing and aspirational.

*Koinonia is a Greek word meaning: togetherness, teamwork and partnership.

Starting your Sissinghurst School Journey

Most children start in Reception however we also welcome children in other year groups when spaces come available. Children starting in Reception have a phased timetable

in September and progressively work up to full days over a few weeks. All new children are formally welcomed to the school at our Beginners' Service and quickly settle in to school life.





Quality Teaching Enables Active Learning

At Sissinghurst Primary School we understand that the needs of each child are very different and we have developed a comprehensive framework to ensure that every child enjoys their learning and achieves their potential.

We do this through:

- Careful planning for learning, so that children of all abilities can have their needs met. This involves providing appropriate challenges so that all children move at the pace that suits them and develop independence and resilience.
- Providing a learning environment that teaches self-worth, tolerance and respect for others, and where the achievements of individuals are celebrated.
- Monitoring standards on a regular basis to effectively assess children's understanding and provide support and challenge as appropriate.
- Promoting equal opportunities for all children to fully participate in school life.

We are very fortunate to have a committed, experienced and highly skilled team of teachers and support staff who create excellent learning opportunities and a nurturing environment for all children.

Everyone is Welcome Here

As a Church of England Primary School, we promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils within a Christian framework. We are however an inclusive school which respects families of other faiths and of no faith, and work hard to ensure all children feel equally part of the school community, regardless of their background.

We employ an expert SEND co-ordinator who works closely with the class teachers and support staff to create tailored plans for children who have additional learning needs and regularly monitor their progress. We work hard to foster an inclusive environment where children who receive additional support feel valued and celebrated for who they are.



Building Confidence, Creativity and Well-being

At Sissinghurst Primary School we are committed to delivering a holistic and broad education where children have the opportunity to not just thrive academically, but also to grow their interpersonal skills, develop confidence and express their ideas creatively.



Sport

In addition to weekly PE lessons and the 'Daily Mile' run on our all-weather running track, children in years 3 – 6 enjoy a term of swimming each year. We encourage active participation in sports teams and local tournaments and events including: cricket, football, rugby, swimming, cross-country running, athletics, netball, basketball and new age curling. Our Year 5 and 6 sports leaders run clubs for the younger children and organise inter-house games throughout the year.

After-School Clubs

We are proud to offer a range of after-school clubs throughout the year which may include: netball, football, eco-club, chess, gardening, art, knitting, drama and more. Clubs are typically provided for KS1 and KS2 pupils separately and are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Many clubs are free while some have a small charge and most conclude by 4pm.

Forest Schools

We have a trained Forest Schools leader and a wonderful wildlife area. Children in all classes enjoy regular 'Forest School' afternoons which offer inspirational and challenging outdoor learning opportunities where pupils learn through self-directed play and exploration. They will have the opportunity to develop their curiosity, confidence, self-esteem, creativity, communication skills, knowledge of the environment and ability to assess risk. These deep-level learning experiences are well-loved and remembered by the children.



Music and Drama

In addition to regular music lessons, we run lunchtime music clubs and facilitate private tuition in various instruments on site. Children also love singing and performing in the annual Infant Nativity Play and Upper Key Stage 2 end of year performance. Every other year the school attends a large event at the O2, where choirs from around the country come together to perform.

Tomorrow's Leaders, Today

We encourage children to develop their leadership skills from an early age and our pupil-led School Council meets weekly. Year 5 and 6 children serve as 'buddies' for our reception children; we train children as school ambassadors for online safety and our year 6 pupils are all given responsibilities ranging from Head Boys and Girls

to House Captains, Library Monitors and Events Co-ordinators.

Sissinghurst Primary is also registered with the Eco-Schools programme which involves active participation from the children on issues around stewardship of the environment. The school currently holds the Eco-Schools' Green Flag award.



“Relationships between pupils and staff are very constructive. As a result, pupils are happy, work hard and are reflective learners.”

Ofsted report 2018

We Strive for Excellence

Keeping Children Safe

Sissinghurst Primary School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and staff, and expects that all staff, volunteers and visitors will share this commitment. We recognise the importance of creating a 'safe culture' and an ethos that helps children feel safe, secure and respected.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads receive regular training and the safeguarding procedures of the school are regularly monitored by an appointed Safeguarding Governor. We also teach age-appropriate online-safety principles to children.

What Inspectors Say About Sissinghurst Primary School

Ofsted, March 2018 (one day visit) – Overall effectiveness: Good

“The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.”

“Pupils feel safe and happy in school. They trust their teachers to help with any worries they may have.”

“Relationships between pupils and staff are very constructive. As a result, pupils are happy, work hard and are reflective learners.”

“There are many examples of rich, vibrant and exciting learning experiences enjoyed by pupils, such as the forest school and residential visits.”

Ofsted, June 2013 (two day visit) – Overall effectiveness: Good (Pupil Achievement was judged to be outstanding)

“Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning, work hard and want to do well.”

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), July 2018 (one day visit): Inspection grade – Outstanding

“All staff are motivated to do the best for each child, academically, emotionally and spiritually. A celebration of each child as a unique child of God is at the heart of decision making. As a result, pupil voice is central to the plans for the future direction of the school.”

Full copies of the Ofsted and SIAMS reports are on our website: www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk

School Times:

The length of the school day is 8:40am – 3:00pm.

8:40am – Gates open and children go straight to class to begin their learning.

After-school clubs vary but typically finish at 4pm.





Our Community

A strong community is at the heart of Sissinghurst Primary School and is one of our four core values (Koinonia). We appreciate that the rich learning experience we offer our pupils is only possible because of the many people who serve, volunteer and work together.

Friends of Sissinghurst School (otherwise known as 'FOSS')

We are incredibly fortunate to have an active PTA which embodies the very essence of Sissinghurst Primary School. FOSS brings the community together through a varied programme of events such as Easter celebrations, the infamous 'Quiz Night' and the outstanding May Fair. This kind and constantly evolving group of parents raise vital funds to enhance school life,

forming lasting friendships and having great fun in the process. FOSS also organise enriching and fun events for the children including discos, Christmas shopping days, film nights and more.

Trinity Church Sissinghurst

The school works closely with Trinity Church in the village of Sissinghurst. We hold Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end-of-year services in the Church building, and members of the church support children's learning in a variety of ways – including acting out Bible Stories in our weekly (and hugely popular) 'Open The Book' collective worship. The vicar is also a governor at the school and willingly supports the delivery of the RE curriculum.

Starfish Malawi

Sissinghurst Primary School is linked with Boma School, Kasungu in Malawi. The link has been facilitated by the organisation 'Starfish Malawi' which aims to promote global education. The main aim of the partnership is to raise pupils' awareness of global issues and to develop a greater understanding of our diverse world. There is however, a fundraising element to the link and the children enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate their enterprise skills in the process.

Home-School Partnership

We are an ambitious school; we want the best for each child, because they deserve no less. Parental involvement is essential and we encourage all parents

to be actively involved in their children's learning at home, and to support the school where they can. There are many opportunities to get involved and parents' time and expertise can be used in a variety of ways and is greatly valued.

Our Governing Board

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary school, our Governing Board is made up of: seven governors appointed by either the Diocesan Board of Education in Canterbury or the Parochial Church Council (including the local vicar); two governors elected by parents; one governor elected by the school's staff; the Headteacher; one governor appointed by the Local Authority and a clerk. Its main functions are to:

1. set the ethos and strategic direction of the school, along with core priorities for development;
2. hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
3. oversee financial performance and ensure money is well spent.

Being a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Board is also the employer of all staff, is responsible for capital works and is the school's admission authority. Our governors bring a diverse range of skills and valuable professional experience to the team and are regularly in school for meetings, events and

to monitor the progress of key areas identified in the School Improvement Plan.

Local School Collaboration

Sissinghurst Primary works collaboratively with a number of local primary and secondary schools, sharing expertise, joining for events and pooling resources where practical.

The Sissinghurst Child...

Understands the Power of Teamwork

"We can achieve more together than we can alone. We include everyone and know all have something different to offer."

Endures

"We give everything a go and don't give up. We have a growth mind-set."

Seeks Wisdom

"Making the right choices in our relationships and our learning makes a positive difference."

Is a Friend to All

"Everyone is precious and worthy of respect. We take care of each other and know we are all loved by God."



Need More Information?

On our website you can view policies covering admissions, homework, attendance, data protection, privacy, complaints and many more. You can also find information about school meals, SEND support, term dates, uniform requirements, medical needs, parking and recent school inspection reports. If you can't find the information you are looking for on the website, please email us and we will respond to your query as soon as we can.

Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School

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