



Brabourne
CofE Primary School



Prospectus

Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage

“

You are passionately committed to ensuring that every pupil has something they can be proud of and fantastic in. This vision drives the ethos of the school and creates a happy, harmonious place where pupils thrive.”

Ofsted, 2018





Introduction

Choosing the best school for your child can feel like an enormous responsibility – but it really is about finding the right fit. We hope you'll get an idea of the spirit of Brabourne from this prospectus – enough for you to understand whether this is a school in which your child will thrive.

As a small school, every pupil at Brabourne is valued and nurtured. New pupils are welcomed with excitement and the smallest find older pupils keen to help and support them. All staff know all pupils – not just by name but who they are, who they play with, what they're interested in.

Our aim is to ensure that every child finds areas that they're passionate about, things that they love to do and are good at doing. We try to kindle an enthusiasm for education which lasts into secondary school and beyond. Whilst undoubtedly being a strongly performing academic school, our education emphasises a wide curriculum: pupils learn how to learn and how to teach, how to lead and how to follow, how to care and how to be cared for, how to fail and how to turn failure into success.

Much of our ethos comes from being a Church of England school. Even in times when Ofsted and the government have valued academic achievement above all else, the Church of England philosophy has emphasised the need for preparation for life, not just for tests. Our pupils are encouraged to ask questions, challenge, develop their own beliefs and understand those of others. This is not about teaching a religious doctrine, but about learning and practising human values within the context of a church school.

I hope that you find this prospectus answers any questions you may have, but nothing can replace seeing the school in action, so do arrange to visit if you haven't already!

Most of all, good luck with your decision.

Hester Fenwick
Chair of Governors





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Our curriculum is designed to inspire a love of learning which will stay with our pupils forever.”

Andrew Stapley

Overview of our school

Welcome to Brabourne CEP School. We are a small, village, Church of England school for children from 4 years to 11 years of age. Our vision is that children will grow and flourish in their time with us, developing a life-long love of learning and becoming the best they can be.

Our school is a close-knit, warm and friendly community where everyone supports each other. It is this caring, nurturing and welcoming ethos that underpins everything that this school is and everything it does. Our aim is for every child to feel valued, where they can feel safe to express themselves, take on a challenge, speak out for others and recognise their contribution to school life and the world around them.

Our curriculum is designed to prepare our pupils for the life ahead of them, academically, morally, socially and spiritually. It is broad and allows the children to think deeply about the world around them. The national curriculum is enriched at Brabourne by a range of extra-curricular activities and trips, allowing the children to discover new talents and skills and gain new life interests.

Our curriculum is designed to be challenging, creative and inspirational. On a typical day, you will see pupils studiously engaged in their work and barely a sound can be heard. Other times, you will see a hive of activity and feel the buzz and excitement in the air:

rocket building, computer programming, video editing, and historical battle re-enactments. Sometimes, the classrooms are empty, everyone is outdoors: pond dipping, foraging for berries, learning about different species of plant and animal, building bivouacs, painting, writing, building obstacle courses.

There is no doubt that Brabourne is an academic school: over 60% of our children usually go on to grammar school. However, academic achievement is underpinned by the breadth and interest of our curriculum – leaving room for any talent to shine and creating happy children who love coming to school.

We are proud to be a small school, where your child will be encouraged, inspired, empowered, nurtured and taught by an experienced and dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants and office staff. Our Reception Class offers a personalised foundation to school life, with a maximum class size of 15 pupils. They will start to learn very quickly at school, building on the valuable experiences you will have already provided for them at home.



Upon starting school, children do not distinguish between work and play and neither should we as adults. In the Foundation Stage, learning takes place through play, some of which is child-initiated and some of which is adult-led.

In Years 1 to 2, we are one of the few schools in Kent to continue the Continuous Provision model. Continuous Provision builds on the learning style of the Early Years Foundation Stage, providing pupils with a fluid transition to Year 1, whilst continuing to promote creativity, independence and imagination. In Years 3 to 6, children are further challenged academically, through the study of a wide range of topics and more in-depth subject areas. They are encouraged to take on leadership roles across the school: House Captains, Digital Leaders, Collective Worship Leaders, Sports Leaders, to name but a few.

As an accredited British Council International and Gold Sports Mark school, we are proud to specialise in areas such as PE, Languages and Music, allowing the children to excel in these fields.

Outside the classroom, our playground is enriched with opportunities for creative play and we are fortunate to have a large playing field, pond and woodland, all on the doorstep of the North Downs. The children experience weekly Outdoor Learning, undertaking orienteering, making fires, building shelters and making outdoor sculptures – all contributing to their positive mental and physical well-being.

Performing Arts are strongly valued, with Christmas plays for both Infants and Juniors, one-to one music lessons available and individual and class performances at concerts and church services. With a number of talented artists amongst staff, the pupils are able to explore many different artistic styles throughout their time at the school. A visit will give you the chance to



see the great variety on display around the school.

Our aim is for every one of our pupils to be happy, healthy, compassionate, life-long learners, who enjoy every minute of their time with us. Our logo is a conker, because of the huge horse chestnut tree at the front of the school, and it reminds us of how an insignificant seed can grow as tall as a tree, so too can a young child grow to become a confident, independent and well-rounded individual.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Brabourne School.

Andrew Stapley
Headteacher



Our Vision Statement

Through creative and challenging experiences, we inspire our school community to develop resilience, a passion for learning and the courage to pursue our dreams. Within our nurturing environment and beyond, we live out Christian values, enabling all to flourish in the love of God.





Sport

Sport and exercise is an important part of the school curriculum and, although we are determined to win, our priority for Brabourne School is that we are inclusive and that every child at the school is given the opportunity to participate in competitive sport.

Almost all junior pupils have competed against other schools in at least one sport and many of our infants have taken part in competitions with other schools. The school football, hockey and netball teams have regular fixtures against other schools, as well as participating in Ashford and Shepway tournaments. Pupils are offered bespoke training in preparation for matches, to equip them with the skills and knowledge (and sportsmanship) they need to excel.

Although we are justifiably proud of our achievements in terms of trophies, sport at Brabourne School is not just about 'mainstream' sport. During the last academic year, pupils had the chance to participate in athletics, swimming, skateboarding, curling, Army training, archery, hockey, dodge ball, handball, speed stacking, dancing, cricket, rafting and many more besides.

We are lucky to have a dedicated field next to the school and the highlight of a dry lunchtime is when all pupils can go and play on the grass in acres of space.

Pupils are given every opportunity to foster a love of sport and exercise, which they can take through to secondary school and onwards into adult life. Our aim is that they will learn to keep healthy, work as a team, motivate each other, show sportsmanship and, most importantly, have fun.

Harry Nunn

Sports Coach





Sports Captains

George

"Sport at Brabourne is enjoyable because I love working as a team and I love motivating others to succeed. I really enjoy watching my team put all their effort into the game."

Ariel

"The best thing about being a sports captain is when your team wins a match, the pride you feel for them is enormous! Even when we don't win, I am really proud that my team puts everything into trying."

Jake P

"I like working as a team using skills and movement. I love seeing my team score goals and having fun. I am passionate about working as a team, connecting with my friends and the competitiveness of the game."

Evelyn

"I love that sport at Brabourne exercises your body and keeps you fit. I really enjoy helping my team mates and encouraging them to keep going and never give up."

Ryan

"I love running because it uses your energy in a positive way. I am passionate about football because it is fun and I can use my skills."





Early Years Foundation Stage

Our EYFS is small in terms of pupils, with a class size of just 15. However, these 15 are supported in their learning, play and development by the class teacher and a full-time teaching assistant.

The classroom itself is spacious, with lots of carefully selected resources to promote curiosity and stimulate learning. An external door promotes free-flow movement into the outdoor environment and large windows allow natural light to cascade through.

Brabourne CEP School stimulates learning with its youngest pupils, through an active, play-based and hands-on approach. Throughout the day, the children enjoy periods of Independent Learning. During this time, they learn to follow their own interests in the Continuous Provision setup of the learning environment.

The adults carefully and closely observe the children at play. They pose questions to promote deeper thinking, model language and skills alongside the children and

provide extended opportunities to move the children's learning forward.

Curiosity and creativity are at the centre of our classroom environment. The layout stimulates the children's imagination: from being engrossed in the book corner with their favourite story about bugs, to observing giant land snails in the nature zone, delving into 'slime' in a messy play tray or venturing outside armed with goggles and a clipboard to explore 'Wobbly Wood'. Such an approach to learning allows us to cover the requirements of the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and ensures children are able to reach their full potential, with each and every child's interests being catered for.

Carefully interspersed throughout the day are adult-led sessions, which can vary from whole class to smaller group work. These focus on the teaching of knowledge and skills and promote language development and discussion. Daily phonics sessions provide children with the keys to unlocking a whole new pathway, as they learn to recognise phonemes, decode words and then sentences and become fluent readers. These skills are then reinforced through frequent one-to-one reading sessions and other aspects of the curriculum each day. These directed sessions, alongside the Independent Learning sessions, will develop and embed the skills needed by the children to reach the Early Learning Goals, across the following seven areas of the EYFS curriculum, by the end of the Reception Year:

Prime Areas

- ▶ Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- ▶ Physical Development
- ▶ Communication and Language

Specific Areas

- ▶ Literacy
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Understanding the World
- ▶ Expressive Arts and Design

Each week, the children will develop their physical skills during directed PE sessions, using a range of apparatus to climb over, travel and balance on, as well as using smaller equipment, such as bats and beanbags, to develop the gross motor skills needed for throwing and catching. Music, RE and Outdoor Learning sessions happen each week too.

We regularly enjoy trips out, such as Wingham Wildlife Park, Brockhill Park and even Father Christmas and his Reindeer. We have visitors who come in to tell us about their jobs, including those from the 999 services, who often bring their vehicles along too. We also have fluffy visitors and hatch our own ducklings or chicks each spring.

As we learn about the wider world and its diversity, we enjoy celebrating different Festivals. We learn a short song for our Harvest celebration and then get ready for our magnificent Nativity Christmas production. A light party is held to celebrate Diwali, with a musical dragon parade, followed by a delicious Chinese New Year Feast, which is always a success.

Susie Winchester

Early Years Teacher

“
At Brabourne,
Venus class is
where children
begin their
exciting school
journey.”





Rural education and nature

We are very fortunate that our school is located at the foot of the North Downs – a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Our children benefit greatly from our rural setting, both in and out of the classroom.



Within our school grounds, our children have access to: a large play area including a climbing frame and slide, several play houses to support imaginative play, Wobbly Wood (a nature area including a wooden obstacle course), outdoor gym equipment, the Lodge (an external classroom), the school garden and vegetable planters (a tranquil place) and a large playing field which adjoins the school. Slightly further afield, on the neighbouring farmland, is our school pond – an environment full of wildlife and the perfect setting for pond dipping activities, nature trails and mini beast exploration as part of our curriculum.

External classroom facilities, adjoining the playground, provide covered outdoor learning environments which ensure that children can access learning beyond the classroom walls. Outdoor Learning, as part of our curriculum, ensures the children



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In the heart of the Kent countryside, being outside and learning about our environment is an important part of our school curriculum.”

experience opportunities which take their learning beyond the pages of a book and into the world around them. For example, creating Mesolithic dwellings from natural resources found on our school field, counting mini-beasts in our environment or practising mindfulness techniques in our garden.

As part of our broader curriculum, children are encouraged to care for their environment; including growing plants in science and, as part of our gardening club, vegetables which, once harvested, are prepared and served by our kitchen staff as part of our lunches.

A short walk away, a local farm allows children first-hand experience of poultry breeding, bee keeping, crop management and further opportunities to observe wildlife. During the summer term, Reception children

are the envy of the school as they hatch chicks and ducklings from the farm.

Through their experiences during their time at our school, Brabourne children develop a good understanding of the value, and complexities, of our precious environment, are encouraged to care for the world in which they live and develop into well-rounded, responsible individuals who treasure nature and our environment.

We are a proud winner of the Wilder Kent awards, in recognition of our pupils' leadership and commitment to the natural world around them, and our student led eco-team has met with the Mayor of Ashford to discuss environmental issues affecting us all.

Debbie Unsworth
Assistant Headteacher
and Year 5/6 teacher





Community links and the wider world

Cosy as it is to be part of such a small community, we also know that our pupils all need to start to understand a bigger world outside – before they move on to larger secondary schools and beyond – and the importance of being part of, and contributing to, the community.

We welcome visitors in from the local community. For the very youngest pupils, this starts with hosting parents and other relatives for special occasions. Throughout the school, people come in to talk about their jobs, a village artist runs art classes for older pupils, members of the local gardening society lead the gardening club and the local allotment society donates plants for the school garden. The vicar, and members of the church community, run sessions with pupils bringing bible stories to life. The WI has taught pupils to knit to contribute squares for blankets for the homeless and ex-pupils have been invited in for tea to share their memories of the school in days gone past. News from the school is included in the Parish Newsletter to try and let others in the village know what pupils have been doing. This always prompts more offers of help.

Children also go out on trips, not just to enhance their academic learning, but to help and learn about their world. This includes trips to a local care home, helping at a soup kitchen/food bank, planting bulbs around the village, attending events at Canterbury Cathedral and visiting the Houses of Parliament to be shown around by the local MP.

To understand communities that are further afield, the school has a number of partnerships with schools around the world (currently Pakistan, Bangladesh and Germany), so the children can find out more about how children live and learn in other countries. As a result of this, the school has received the British Council's International School Award.

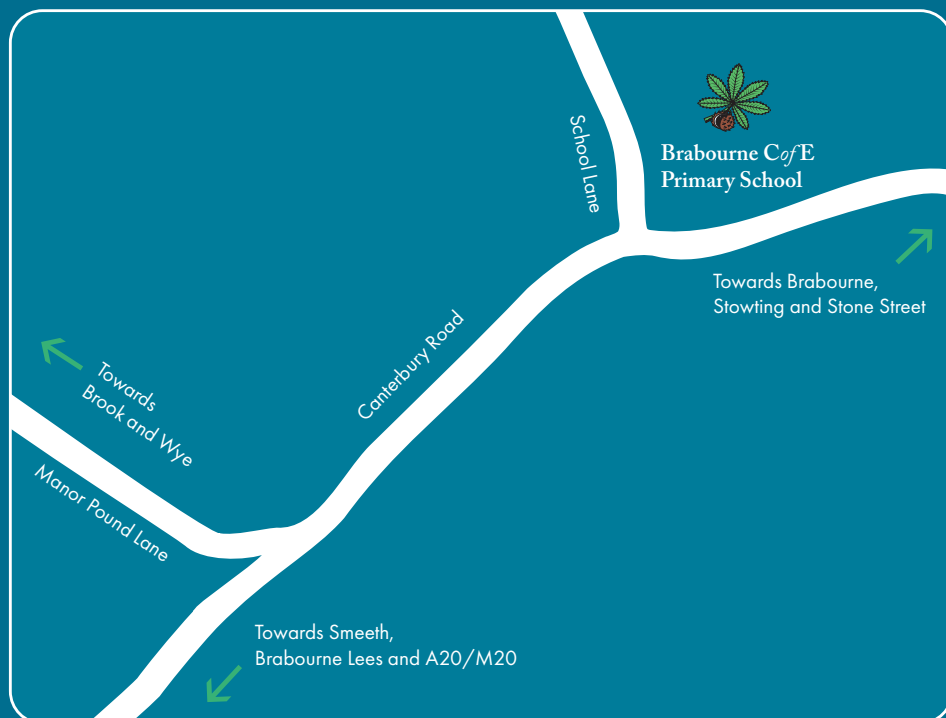
We also have a very active PTA who organise events throughout the school year, bringing the school community together and raising funds that can help subsidise school events and buy equipment that the school would not otherwise be able to afford. The older pupils are often involved in helping to run stalls for fairs, or organising charity fundraising events in school time.

We hope that our pupils leave the school with an open mind about the world and a desire to contribute to society.

Lucie Edmed

Governor, Grandparent and Gardening Club co-leader





To arrange to visit our school
please contact us

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