



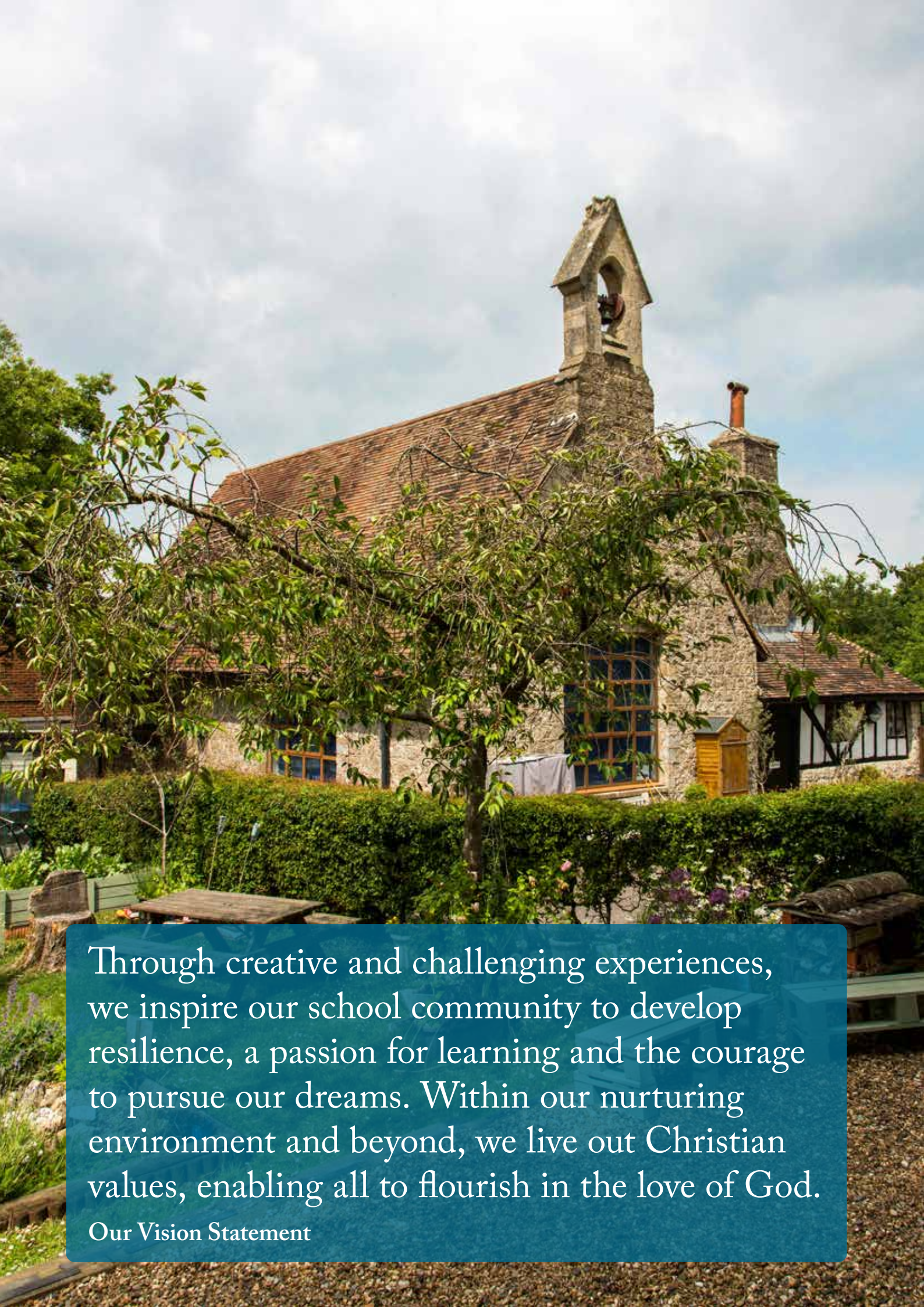
Brabourne
CofE Primary School



Prospectus

Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage





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.

Our Vision Statement



Welcome to Brabourne CEP School

It gives me great pride to introduce you to our wonderful school—a place of calm and peace, nestled in the beautiful North Downs. We are a small, village Church of England primary school for children aged 4 to 11.

Our vision is for every child to grow and flourish during their time with us—developing a lifelong love of learning, becoming the best they can be, and stepping confidently into the world with compassion and purpose.

Brabourne is a close-knit, warm, and friendly community where pupils and staff genuinely support and uplift one another. Our caring, nurturing, and welcoming ethos lies at the heart of everything we do. We strive to ensure every child feels safe, valued, and listened to—empowered to express themselves with confidence, embrace new challenges, stand up for what's right, and understand their unique place within both our school and the wider world.

Our dedicated and passionate staff are committed to ongoing professional development, ensuring that teaching remains innovative, evidence-informed, and rooted in best practice. This approach inspires excellence in every pupil and helps each child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Global citizenship is fundamental to life at Brabourne. We encourage pupils to think beyond themselves, make a positive difference, and understand their responsibility as stewards of our planet. This commitment was nationally recognised in 2024, when we were named the **Association for Citizenship Teaching's Primary School of the Year**—an honour celebrating our pupils' leadership, empathy, and engagement with global and local issues.

Hester Fenwick
Chair of Governors





Overview of our school

Our curriculum prepares pupils not only academically but also morally, socially, and spiritually. It is broad and rich, designed to develop the whole child—encouraging deep thinking, exploration of talents, and well-rounded learning. The national curriculum is enhanced through a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, outdoor learning, and meaningful trips. Whether it's rocket building, coding, video editing, historical re-enactments, or pond dipping and woodland exploration, every day offers new ways to discover and grow.

We are academically ambitious: 60–80% of our pupils typically progress to grammar school. But we are also a place where every talent is valued, where happiness and curiosity fuel achievement, and where children love to come to school.

As a small school, we take pride in knowing every child personally. Our experienced and dedicated team of skilled teachers, teaching assistants and staff deliver high-quality teaching within a nurturing and supportive environment. Our Reception Class provides a highly personalised and gentle introduction to school life, with a class size of no more than 15 children.

In Years 1 and 2, Brabourne has led in promoting continuous provision—a creative and independent approach that smoothly bridges Early Years and Key Stage 1. This innovative style continues into Years 3 and 4, allowing pupils to build confidence and explore ideas at their own pace. In Years 5 and 6, pupils are

challenged through a broad, engaging, and inspiring curriculum, enriched with leadership opportunities that help develop skills and confidence.

Pastoral care and wellbeing are central to our ethos, with dedicated in-house support ensuring every child feels safe, happy, and valued. We work closely with families to nurture emotional health and support any additional learning needs, helping every pupil thrive.

We are proud to offer particular strengths and specialisms in PE & Sports, The Arts and Outdoor Learning—all of which are woven into the fabric of school life.

Beyond the classroom, our vibrant school life includes clubs, performances, trips, and community partnerships that enrich learning and foster lasting friendships.



We nurture tomorrow's leaders by providing meaningful opportunities for responsibility and positive impact, both locally and globally.

At Brabourne, our Christian values of Respect, Responsibility, Hope, and Courage shape everything we do. Our emblem—a conker—beautifully symbolises our belief in every child's potential: just as a small seed can grow into a towering tree, so too can each pupil develop into a confident, compassionate, and capable young person.

We strive for every child to be a happy, healthy, and kind-hearted lifelong learner who looks back on their time with us with joy and pride.

Brabourne CEP School is not just a place to learn—it's a place to belong. Our families are true partners in education, joining us in celebrations, community events, and school life, creating a warm and inclusive environment where every voice matters.

We warmly invite you to visit and discover first-hand the warmth, joy, and excellence that make Brabourne CEP School a truly special place.

Andrew Stapley

Headteacher



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The perfect place for families looking for a school that feels like home, where your child will be known, heard, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Brabourne School parent





Welcome to Venus class: where school begins with wonder

At Brabourne CEP School, Venus Class is where children begin their exciting school journey in a nurturing, inspiring environment. Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting is small and personal, with just 15 children, allowing each child to be known, valued, and supported every step of the way. They benefit from the close attention of both a dedicated class teacher and a full-time teaching assistant – a unique and personalised start to primary education.

Our approach is active, hands-on, and play-based. Children are given extended periods of Independent Learning time, where they follow their interests within a rich and dynamic continuous provision. During these times, staff observe closely, join in play, model language and skills, and subtly extend learning through thoughtful questioning or enhancements to the environment.

At Brabourne, we believe curiosity and creativity are the birth rights of every child. Our EYFS team embraces this philosophy wholeheartedly. One moment might find a child retelling a favourite story with props and costumes, while the next sees them examining giant land snails or exploring the texture of slime. These experiences evolve naturally—perhaps into mixing their own slime using measuring tools and chosen

The classroom is bright, spacious, and carefully organised to spark curiosity and promote independent exploration. Resources are thoughtfully chosen and presented in an inviting, accessible way to stimulate learning through play. Large windows flood

the space with natural light, while direct access to the outdoors allows children to move freely between the indoor and outdoor environments - connecting them with nature and expanding learning opportunities.

colours or scents or heading outdoors with magnifying glasses and clipboards to explore the mini-beasts in our wild spaces.

This rich, exploratory approach enables us to meet all areas of the statutory EYFS curriculum, ensuring that children are not only meeting Early Learning Goals but thriving—emotionally, socially, and intellectually. Our teaching is deeply child-centred, tailored to the interests and needs of each unique learner.

Complementing child-led learning are carefully planned adult-led sessions throughout the day. These might include whole-class teaching or smaller group work, focusing on skill development, critical thinking, and collaborative learning. Daily phonics sessions provide the foundation for early reading, helping children decode words



and build fluency. These are reinforced through regular one-to-one reading, storytelling, and linked activities across the curriculum.

Throughout the Reception year, children engage in a wide range of learning across the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum:

Prime Areas

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

Specific Areas

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

Children also benefit from dedicated weekly sessions in PE, music, RE, and Outdoor Learning. They develop gross motor skills through a variety of movement activities—balancing, climbing, throwing and catching—and fine-tune coordination using smaller equipment like bats and beanbags.

Learning extends beyond the classroom through a variety of enriching experiences. Our school minibus takes pupils on exciting trips to places like Wingham Wildlife Park and Brockhill Park, while special visits from Father Christmas and his reindeer create lasting memories. We regularly welcome visitors from diverse professions—including emergency service workers—bringing real-world connections to life. Each spring, the magic of hatching ducklings or chicks in our classroom delights and inspires the children.

We also celebrate the rich diversity of our world through cultural festivals and shared experiences. Children learn songs for our Harvest celebration, take part in a joyful Nativity performance, enjoy a Diwali light party with music and crafts, and celebrate Chinese New Year with a colourful dragon parade and a delicious feast.

In Venus Class, every day is a chance to explore, imagine, and grow. It's a place where children's ideas are valued, their interests are nurtured, and their learning is thoughtfully guided as they take their first steps on their school adventure.

Mrs Brown-Harris

Early Years Teacher





PE and Sports at Brabourne: opportunities for all

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.

Sport and physical activity are a vital part of life at Brabourne CEP School. While we take great pride in our many competitive successes, our primary focus is inclusivity—ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate, build confidence, and enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and exercise.

Nearly all of our junior pupils represent the school in at least one sporting fixture, and our younger pupils frequently engage in friendly competitions with local schools and wider sporting events such as cross-country and indoor athletics. We believe sport teaches much more than physical skills—it fosters teamwork, resilience, leadership, and respect.

Our pupil sports captains lead their teams with pride, setting a positive example for others through their commitment, sportsmanship, and leadership both on and off the field.

We are delighted to celebrate several recent achievements: in 2024, Brabourne was crowned **Ashford District Hockey Champions**, and in 2025, our girls' team became **Ashford and District Girls' Football Champions**. These honours reflect

the dedication of our pupils and staff, alongside the high-quality coaching that helps every child reach their potential. Our football, hockey, and netball teams regularly compete across Ashford and Shepway, with pupils receiving bespoke training in preparation for fixtures.

Our sporting opportunities go beyond team games and trophies. Pupils take part in a rich variety of activities which have included athletics, swimming, curling, archery, skateboarding, army-style training, dodgeball, handball, speed stacking, dance, cricket, rafting, and more. Notably, we offer climbing wall sessions and biathlon challenges, encouraging physical fitness and mental focus. Several of our pupils compete county-wide and nationally in football, hockey, gymnastics, and cricket, showcasing the talent nurtured here at Brabourne.

At Brabourne, our aim is for every child to leave with a lifelong love of movement, sport, and the natural world—ready to embrace new challenges, maintain healthy bodies and minds, and find joy in teamwork, leadership, and personal achievement.



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Each child is respected as an individual and encouraged to be their best.

Brabourne School parent



Sports Captains

Harry S

“At Brabourne School, we take part in a wide range of sports and games, including football, netball and hockey. No matter the score, we always show great sportsmanship and support one another. Even if we’re losing, we keep our heads held high and stay positive. We make sure everyone has a fair chance to play, and we always include others by rotating teams and offering everyone the opportunity to join in future matches or tournaments. Inclusion and teamwork are really important to us.”

Bella R

“At Brabourne School, we’re lucky to have lots of opportunities to enjoy different sports, such as netball, football, swimming, tag rugby, and more. I’m proud to be the hockey captain because I’ve loved the sport ever since I first learned to play. As captain, I make sure that everyone gets the chance to join in and enjoy the game. We take part in a league each year, and there’s always a brilliant group of volunteers supporting us. That’s what makes Brabourne such a great sporting school—we all play together and support each other.”

Josh B

“At Brabourne School, we always show respect and sportsmanship—win or lose. After every game, we shake hands with our opponents to thank them for a good match. Even if things don’t go our way, we keep our heads up and focus on the positives. We make sure everyone who wants to take part in sport is included, and we respect our opponents whether we win a trophy or not—because showing our school values matters more than just winning. As all-sports captain, I make sure teams are fair and that everyone gets a chance to play. At Brabourne, we’ll even form a new team if someone asks to try a sport we haven’t played before. Everyone belongs.”

Chloe M

“At Brabourne School, we love taking part in lots of different sports, like football, hockey, swimming, tag rugby, dance, and netball. As the netball captain, I make sure that everyone is included and enjoying themselves when they play. We compete in a netball league and play several matches each Friday, which is always exciting. What makes Brabourne special is how much we enjoy being part of a team—there’s a real sense of fun, friendship, and teamwork at every event.”





Outdoor Education: Finding adventure in a rural setting

Nestled in the heart of the Kent countryside, outdoor learning and environmental education are at the core of life at Brabourne.

Our unique setting at the foot of the North Downs—an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)—offers a wealth of opportunities for pupils to learn, play, and grow through their connection with nature. When the weather allows, our playing field buzzes with activity at lunchtime as pupils take full advantage of the open space to run, play, and explore.

We are surrounded by natural richness, including woodland, wildflower meadows, a bridleway, and a large pond teeming with wildlife—perfect for pond dipping, nature trails, and environmental study. These varied landscapes bring our curriculum to life and help pupils develop a deep appreciation for the world around them.

Within our own extensive school grounds, children enjoy access to:

- ▶ A large play area with a climbing frame, slide, monkey bars, and outdoor gym equipment
- ▶ Several playhouses for imaginative play
- ▶ Wobbly Wood—a dedicated nature zone complete with a wooden obstacle course
- ▶ The Lodge—an external classroom for outdoor teaching
- ▶ A tranquil garden with vegetable planters
- ▶ A spacious playing field adjoining the school

Just beyond the playground lies our school pond—set on neighbouring farmland and surrounded by natural habitat. It's a hub for scientific exploration, pond dipping, mini-beast hunts, and seasonal nature walks, fully integrated into our science and Outdoor Learning curriculum.

Brabourne is also proud to have its very own school farm, where pupils care for rescued chickens and maintain thriving beehives. Children harvest fresh eggs and honey, selling these alongside home-grown produce at our popular school farm stall to the local community. This hands-on experience teaches responsibility, animal welfare, and sustainability in a real-world context.



Our outdoor classrooms provide sheltered, all-weather spaces where pupils can learn beyond traditional walls. Forest School and Outdoor Learning sessions are embedded across all age groups, giving pupils unforgettable hands-on experiences: building Mesolithic-style dwellings from natural materials, counting insects, practising mindfulness in the garden, and whittling sticks to toast marshmallows over a fire pit. These sessions complement our physical education programme by nurturing confidence, curiosity, and resilience in a natural environment.


As part of our wider curriculum, pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility for the environment. In science lessons and through our Gardening Club, they grow flowers and vegetables, many of which are harvested and served by our kitchen staff as part of the school's meals.

Our Gardening Club has won national recognition from both the Royal Horticultural Society and The Tree Council, reflecting the passion and dedication of the children involved.

A short walk from the school, a local farm provides further learning opportunities, from poultry breeding and beekeeping to crop management and wildlife observation. Each summer, our Reception children hatch chicks or ducklings from the farm—an eagerly awaited tradition enjoyed by all.

We are proud recipients of two Wilder Kent Gold Awards and the prestigious RHS Five-Star Gardening School Award, recognising the outstanding leadership and commitment of our pupil-led gardening Team. From meeting the Mayor of Ashford and local MPs to discuss pressing environmental issues to planting trees and tending to school grounds, our pupils are actively shaping a greener, fairer future.

At Brabourne, children develop more than just an understanding of the environment—they build a lifelong appreciation for the natural world. Through hands-on experiences and meaningful stewardship, they become thoughtful, responsible individuals who value and protect the planet we share.

“ Outdoor learning and continuous provision offer fantastic, hands-on education. 

Brabourne School parent



The Arts at Brabourne: confidence, creativity, and collaboration

At Brabourne, we celebrate the arts in all their forms. We are proud to place the creative subjects at the heart of our curriculum, knowing how vital they are for building confidence, self-esteem, and a lifelong love of learning.

Our pupils are supported by specialist art teachers and teaching assistants who nurture their individual talents and guide them through a rich, carefully planned progression of artistic skills. Every corridor and classroom tells a story—bright displays of artwork and design technology projects are a regular sight, reflecting the creativity that flows through our school..

Music plays an equally vibrant role in life at Brabourne. Our specialist music teacher delivers high-quality music lessons to every class, developing creativity and musical expression through regular performances, both in school and at church services throughout the year. In addition, we offer a wide range of peripatetic music tuition, including piano, guitar, violin, singing and more. Through our partnership with iRock,

pupils can even join their very own rock band—giving every child a chance to find their rhythm, their instrument, and their voice.

The arts are not limited to the classroom. Brabourne children regularly take part in a wide range of performances, church services, workshops, and national events. From singing at the O2 as part of the Young Voices concert, to entering dance competitions and participating in collaborative art installations with local schools, our pupils are given exciting opportunities to shine and express themselves.

We also enjoy close partnerships with other schools, offering our children the chance to work together on inter-school projects—sharing ideas, developing new skills, and forming lasting friendships.

“The huge range of enrichment activities means the school truly feels like a family.

Brabourne School parent

Whether it's our Christmas Nativities, inter-school choir events at the Ashford International Hotel, or drama and debate, the arts play a central role in the Brabourne experience. With the support of our specialist music and dance teachers and a strong commitment to enrichment across the curriculum, we ensure that every child has the chance to step into the spotlight and flourish.

Reaching beyond Brabourne: community links and the wider world

As cosy and comforting as it is to be part of our small school community, we know that our pupils also need to begin exploring the wider world—preparing for life beyond primary school and learning what it means to contribute meaningfully to society.



We actively welcome visitors from the local community into school life. For our youngest pupils, this begins with inviting parents and relatives to join us for special occasions. Across the school, we regularly host local professionals who come to speak about their work, while a village artist leads art sessions for older children. Members of the local gardening society run our gardening club, with plants donated by the village allotment association. The vicar and members of the church community lead interactive sessions that bring Bible stories to life through pupil-led performances. The Women's Institute has taught pupils to knit, with their squares sewn into blankets for the homeless. Former pupils are often invited back to share tea and their memories of Brabourne in years gone by. School news is shared in the Parish Newsletter to keep the wider community informed—and this often inspires even more offers of support and involvement.

We also benefit from a dedicated and enthusiastic PTA, which organises events throughout the year that bring our school community together. Their fundraising efforts help to support trips and purchase resources that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Older pupils often take part in helping to run stalls at school fairs or organise their own charity events during the school day—giving them valuable experience in leadership, teamwork and service.

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Great opportunities beyond the classroom, with a broad and exciting curriculum.



Brabourne School parent



We regularly welcome volunteers into school to work with pupils during Continuous Provision. These volunteers enrich learning by teaching new skills, sparking curiosity, and helping pupils to explore their interests through hands-on, independent activities such as knitting, engineering projects and making items to sell at the school fairs.

Our pupils often venture beyond the school to engage with the world around them. These visits go beyond curriculum enrichment—they help children understand their place in society and how they can make a difference. Recent trips have included visiting a local care home, helping at a food bank, planting bulbs around the village, attending events at Canterbury Cathedral, and even visiting the Houses of Parliament for a tour hosted by our local MP.

At Brabourne, we also place great value on celebrating cultural diversity and being outward-looking in everything we do. We are fortunate to have two specialist teachers with degrees in languages, which enables us to promote multicultural learning and international friendships across the school. From Reception onwards, pupils are immersed in a rich variety of languages through rhymes, stories, songs, and cultural exploration.

Languages studied have included Chinese, French, Spanish, and Italian, and these are taught not only as spoken languages but through the music, traditions, and values of the cultures they represent. Across the curriculum, children encounter other cultures in meaningful ways—from books set in faraway places to topic-based learning that explores customs, beliefs, and festivals from around the world.

This commitment to global awareness has earned Brabourne full accreditation with the British Council's International School Award, which we proudly received during a special ceremony at the Houses of Parliament. Our international work includes partnerships with schools in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Germany, giving our pupils the chance to connect, collaborate, and learn directly from children in other countries.



Throughout the year, we also hold themed events that celebrate our global focus—such as Chinese New Year celebrations, International Cooking Week, and Languages Days. These enriching experiences encourage pupils to see themselves as global citizens, with a curiosity for the world and a respect for its diversity.

Ultimately, we want our pupils to leave Brabourne with open minds, generous hearts, and a deep desire to make a positive contribution to the world around them. This ethos has been nationally recognised, with Brabourne proudly awarded Primary School of the Year 2024 for Citizenship—a testament to our pupils' compassion, global awareness, and commitment to community.

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Pupils are rightly proud of their small village school. They benefit from the involvement they have in community life. Careful thought has gone into making sure pupils develop and flourish into positive role models.

Expectations of behaviour are high, clear and consistent. Pupils recognise the importance of doing the right thing to make the school a positive place for all those who visit and attend.

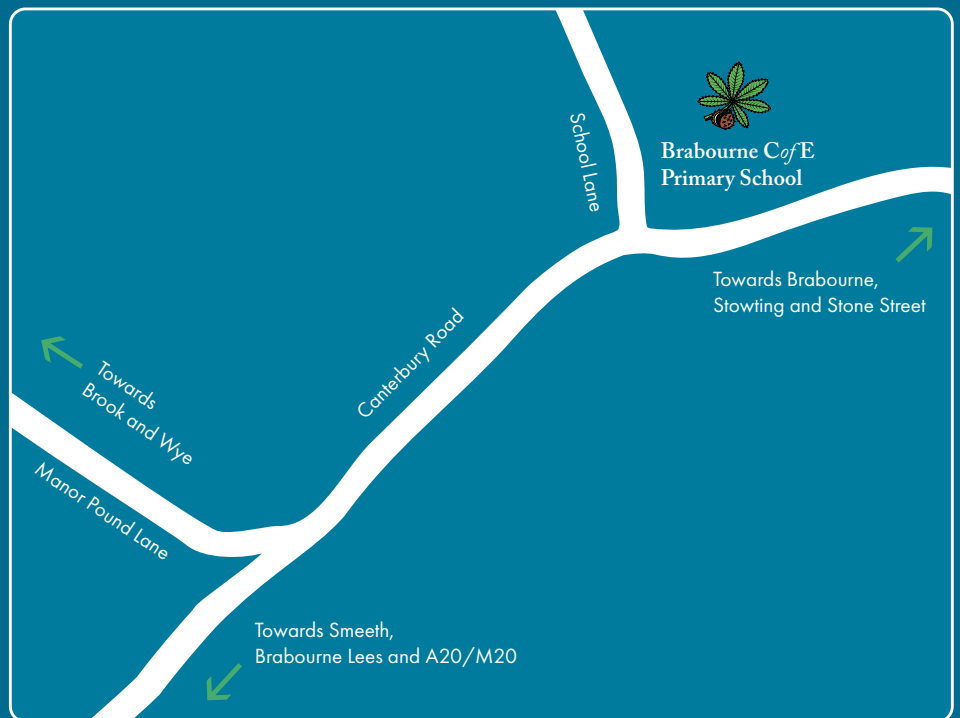
The school offers a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their leadership skills. The school's revised curriculum is strong and ambitious for all pupils. It is comprehensive and provides pupils with memorable learning experiences. Staff design learning to promote awe and wonder through exploration.

Pupils are very respectful towards each other and staff. They greet visitors kindly with a cheery wave, saying, "Welcome to Brabourne." Pupils attend school regularly because they really enjoy learning here.



Ofsted 2024





To arrange to visit our school
please contact us

Brabourne School

School Lane

Brabourne

Nr. Ashford

Kent

TN25 5LQ

01303 813276

brabourne.kent.sch.uk

