



School Prospectus 2019–20

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Welcome letter from the Headteacher

We believe a great school overflows with the sound of cheerful children playing and learning with their friends. Yes, academic standards are important and learning is at the heart of all that we do, and, like other schools, we want every child to achieve their academic potential. But, at Christ Church, we believe a first-class education should value excellent character (being kind, friendly and honest) every bit as much as academic effort (hard work, progress and attainment). Equally importantly: we believe school should be fun.

We understand that children's social skills and emotional intelligence develop best when classrooms are places of laughter and good-humoured conversation as well as stimulating work and thoughtful discussion. We know that children who are happy at school work better and achieve more than children who feel stressed and unhappy. We believe a great curriculum nurtures curiosity, creativity, ambition and resilience. Hence, we do all that we can to make every day inspiring, engaging and joyful – filled with moments of awe, wonder and wow; with lots of sticky, messy, gooey, glittery, painty, muddy activities.

In a nutshell: at Christ Church we believe children should be allowed and encouraged to be children! We don't want or need children to grow up too quickly; we want them to savour their childhood. With this in mind, we work in partnership with parents to ensure every child makes friends, enjoys learning, experiences success and loves school. We want children to be motivated to try new things and achieve the best that they can, encouraged all the while to grow in confidence and self-esteem with enthusiasm and perseverance. After all, when children feel happy, safe and secure at school they are much more likely to accept new challenges, bounce back from difficulties and achieve their learning goals.

As a Christian learning community, we want every child and adult to "live life in all its fullness" (John 10:10, the Bible), to discover their strengths and interests, and to make the most of their gifts and talents within Christ Church and beyond. Parents tell us they love the way their children develop a moral compass based on Christian values, which will allow them to flourish and achieve as caring, respectful, tolerant, active citizens, equipped for life in modern Britain and a rapidly changing world.

A telephone call to the school office on 01373 463781 is all that is needed to arrange a visit to Christ Church. We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

Yours sincerely,

Rupert Kaye,
Headteacher

What Ofsted inspectors say about Christ Church

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Ofsted inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Ofsted report, June 2017

“Parents are very positive about the time children spend in Nursery and in the Reception classes and have great confidence in the care their children receive.”

“The school's work to engage parents is good.”

“The most able pupils from all backgrounds make good progress.”

“Attainment is rising and governors have high aspirations for pupils' progress.”

“The children's achievement is a reflection of the close analysis of their progress and attention to their welfare.”

“The teaching of writing is good in KS1 and KS2.”

“Support programmes and progress for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are good.”

**“The school's commitment to keeping pupils safe is exemplary.
The headteacher leads by example and all staff are highly vigilant.”**

“Bullying is very rare and any concerns are quickly and effectively dealt with.”

“The behaviour of pupils is good. The school is orderly and pupils are polite to adults and visitors.”

“Social development is good, and pupils are keen to ... take responsibility seriously and enjoy contributing to the school's act of worship.”

“Pupils' SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development is good and enhanced by the strong Christian ethos of the school.”

What SIAMS inspectors say about Christ Church

SIAMS refers to the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. All Anglican (Church of England) schools are inspected every five years by a SIAMS inspector.

SIAMS report, April 2015

“The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church First School as a Church of England school are outstanding.”

“The school maxim, ‘Children don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care’ is lived out.”

“The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.”

“The dedicated headteacher and active, well-informed cohesive leadership team are eager to improve standards and promote Christian values.”

“The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding.”

“The school’s Christian ethos is demonstrated in the trust the children have in their teachers and the faith that the staff have in children’s abilities.”

“The school is excellent at providing for all its learners; academically, socially and spiritually.”

“Groups of children are effectively supported through nurture groups, parent support, academic intervention, grouping and differentiation. As a result, children achieve their best and make good progress.”

“In accordance with its Christian values, the school works in harmony with parents and the local community; therefore, learners, staff, governors and parents

Why choose Christ Church?

Christ Church: a beautiful place to learn

Christ Church C of E First School is a Somerset County Council co-educational day school and nursery for children aged two to nine. Situated in inspiring and spacious school grounds in the south of the market town of Frome, less than ten miles from Longleat Park, Christ Church provides an idyllic environment for children's early physical, intellectual, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our expansive grounds provide the children with a wide range of outdoor learning and recreational activities including playtimes, Forest School activities, sporting events and fairs. In addition to two playgrounds and a large playing field, Christ Church has its own mini-allotment area, an "Enchanted Forest" and an orchard of plum, pear and apple trees.

Christ Church: a great school in a great town

Frome is within easy reach of Bath, Bristol and Glastonbury. It also happens to be the coolest, greenest, most progressive, up-and-coming youth-friendly town in Somerset with plenty of awards to prove it:

- 2018 ... Frome is voted "Best Place to Live in the South West" (*Sunday Times*)
- 2017 ... Frome opens a "community larder" in October.
- 2017 ... Frome Town Council unanimously agrees to become a 'single-use' plastic-free council in December.
- 2016 ... Frome is winner of a "Great Town" award (Urbanism Awards)
- 2016 ... Frome opens the first "community fridge" in the country in May.
- 2015 ... Frome Town Council is winner of "Council of the Year" (National Association of Local Councils' first ever Star Council Awards)
- 2014 ... Frome Town Council is winner of "most proactive public sector body" for putting sustainability at the top of their agenda and working towards zero carbon as part of their new Neighbourhood Plan
- 2013 ... Frome makes it into the "30 coolest places to live" list (*Sunday Times Travel Guide*)

Christ Church: firing up hearts and minds

We aim to prepare children for happiness and success in the next stage of their education, so that, ultimately, they will be happy, successful citizens of the world. In fact, we want to fire young hearts and minds with enough ambition and resilience to achieve great things and change the world!

Christ Church: inspiring future leaders

Because we know that the young people of today will be the leaders of the future, we teach them how to serve one another by taking on leadership roles. Some children are Play Leaders, while others are Worship Leaders, House Captains and elected School Councillors.

Christ Church: high standards and amazing opportunities

Our 2015 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and 2017 Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) inspection reports confirm what parents and pupils have been saying for a long time: Christ Church is a wonderful warm welcoming school characterised by high standards of teaching and learning, pastoral care and extracurricular opportunities. (See quotes on pages 4 and 5 of this prospectus.)

Christ Church: successful children buzzing with activity

At Christ Church every lesson matters. Classrooms buzz with activity as adults and children work together to encourage, challenge, question and support one another on a shared learning journey. Children's work is showcased on vibrant displays in classrooms and corridors. Children's effort and hard work are recognised and rewarded ...

Daily with verbal and written praise, stickers and an opportunity for children to move their name "up to the Rainbow" on the class reward chart

Weekly with certificates in our Friday act of celebratory worship and class Golden Time

Half-termly ... with a Headteacher Commendation Assembly (to which parents and carers are invited), which is followed by a specially themed Golden Time Party hosted by the Headteacher

Christ Church: home-school partnership

Communication should be a two-way street between home and school, and we understand that parents, carers and families appreciate honest, clear, timely communication from school. And, as far as is possible in the day-to-day busyness of life in a school, the headteacher's door is always open – and whenever it is not, an appointment can easily be made.

Christ Church: clear and ambitious value-focused aims

At Christ Church, we aim to:

- Create a safe, happy, caring and stimulating learning community where, day-by-day, children and adults live out the school's core Christian values: **Respect, Thankfulness, Perseverance, Forgiveness** and **Responsibility**.
- Encourage aesthetic, spiritual and moral awareness in a Christian atmosphere.
- Develop within each child a moral compass based on Christian values, allowing every pupil to grow in character – able to discern right from wrong and to make good choices, allowing them to flourish and achieve as caring, respectful, tolerant, active citizens, equipped for life in modern Britain.
- Foster a growth mindset in children and adults alike, so that school life is characterised by a joyful love of learning, an enthusiasm for hard work and the humility, patience and tenacity necessary to try new things and learn from one's own mistakes and the mistakes of others.

Christ Church: committed to human dignity, equality and inclusion

At Christ Church, we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here. We promote a positive culture of inclusion, in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

We are committed to ensuring quality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, religion, sexuality or socio-economic background. As a school, we aim to tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes, and creating an environment which champions respect for all. In fact, we are proud that Christ Church is one of only a handful of first/primary schools outside London to have been certified by the equality charity Stonewall (www.stonewall.org.uk) as a "School Champion" in recognition of our ongoing work to promote dignity, diversity, respect and tolerance.

Christ Church: promoting courageous advocacy

We wish every child to develop both as an individual with their own personality and sense of identity, and as a moral being capable of discerning right from wrong and having the courage to stand up for what they believe to be right and true – and to stand up for the rights of others, too. The Church of England calls this "courageous advocacy". Hence, at Christ Church, we aim to produce well-rounded young people who are achieving well, in and out of the classroom; who are at all times confident, hard-working, respectful, tolerant and kind.

Christ Church: building community and encouraging teamwork

We aim to promote the best habits of self-discipline and independent thought and learning in the pursuit of excellence. However, we also emphasise the importance of teamwork and the contribution that each child makes to the life of the school and the local community.

PE and sport have an important part to play in this respect. Children are encouraged to take part in sport for fitness, fun and competition, and their tremendous determination, team spirit and talent is on show every sports day. At all times we strive to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat; we celebrate the gifts, talents, efforts and successes of other people; we are sensitive and responsive to the needs of the world around us. With this positive mindset, our pupils are well prepared for the next phase of their education and for life beyond.

Christ Church: strong parish and community links

At Christ Church we enjoy working with our friends and neighbours at the parish church and in the wider community. School Harvest, Christmas and Easter services are held at Christ Church parish church and are always well attended by parents. The parish vicar also comes into school to lead worship in the hall on a regular basis. In recent years, Christ Church pupils have also attended the annual Frome Remembrance Sunday service in the town and have sung Christmas carols to elderly people in the Key Centre community building adjacent to the school and at a local retirement home.

Various charities have benefited from the compassion, care and generosity of our school community. In recent years Christ Church has raised thousands of pounds for different causes – local, national and international – including:

- Children in Need
- Children's Society (Christingle Appeal)
- Comic Relief/Sport Relief
- Christian Aid
- Dorothy House Hospice Care
- Fair Frome (providing food, help and support to struggling local families)
- Positive Action on Cancer
- Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal)
- Sport Relief
- WHY (a free counselling service for people affected by a diagnosis of cancer or other life-threatening conditions)

The school opened its doors on Christmas Day 2018 as a venue for serving hot three-course Christmas meals and providing hospitality and entertainment to elderly, lonely and vulnerable people in the neighbourhood.

Christ Church: bold international links

A link between Christ Church and its Zambian partner school works on various levels, celebrating difference and cherishing diversity whilst acknowledging shared values, beliefs, hopes and aspirations:

- providing a fabulous opportunity for teachers and children to learn about (and care about) children in a contrasting locality. We compare and contrast special events and celebrations with our African partners, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest. We share our favourite stories and songs with each other. We share recipes and describe our favourite foods.
- helping both schools raise awareness of issues that relate to the impact of human activity and climate change on the UK and Zambia in terms of wildlife and the environment. We have learned about rhino conservation in Zambia.
- as a link between two Christian worshipping communities, we offer encouragement and pray for one another, and we share ideas for collective worship with our Zambian friends.

Christ Church: high quality PE and sport for all

The extensive grounds and wonderful outdoor play equipment at Christ Church are made full use of by children at playtimes. Every child enjoys at least two hours of sport each week, sometimes supported by specialist sports coaches who use our school field for track and field sports.

In addition to our annual sports day, we hold regular inter-house competitions within school. We also play friendly matches with neighbouring schools and enter district sporting festivals and county tournaments.

Christ Church: valuing Music, Art, Drama and Dance

At Christ Church we educate each child as a “whole human” (with a body, mind, spirit and soul). This means the whole curriculum matters – not just the three Rs: reading, ’riting and ’rithmetic. Music, Art, Drama and Dance have their place in the timetabled taught curriculum.

Aesthetic and performing arts are used to therapeutically help children who have particular social and/or emotional needs. They also have an important place in collective worship, especially in our Harvest, Christmas and Easter services.

Christ Church: a dazzling array of after-school clubs and activities

Each year, we provide more than 20 clubs and extracurricular activities to our pupils; everything from archery, rugby and tennis, to Lego, cooking, and French. Some clubs are run by school staff, others are led by sports coaches and outside providers. Whilst some clubs (e.g. Science Bugs) cost up to £6 per session, most are provided for as little as £1 per session and others are FREE to all participants.

What do we stand for?

Our vision

We want every child and adult to “live life in all its fullness” (John 10:10, the Bible).

Our mission

Our values-based Anglican school nurtures curiosity, creativity, ambition and resilience through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Our children develop a moral compass based on Christian values, which allows them to flourish and achieve as caring, respectful, tolerant, active citizens equipped for life in modern Britain.

Our maxim

Children don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

Our motto

To be the best that you can be.

Our ethos

The school, founded by the Parish of Christ Church, will maintain and develop its character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church in parish and diocese. The school will serve the community by providing an education of the highest possible quality whilst upholding Christian belief and practice. It will encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers every child.

As a Church School, we have a responsibility to nurture and encourage an exploration of religious faith. Children are provided with opportunities to reflect on their own life and what is special to them as a stepping stone to learning about faith, religion and spirituality, and developing mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs. We aim to provide all members of our school community with opportunities to reach their full potential in body, mind and spirit.

Our five core Christian values (***Respect, Thankfulness, Perseverance, Forgiveness*** and ***Responsibility***) were selected because they are pertinent to the vision and mission of our school as it serves the local community and wider Frome in a spirit of love and warmth, sensitivity and compassion, ambition and aspiration, hope and peace.

Our Golden Rules are based on our five core Christian values

Perseverance – we work hard and keep trying until we succeed.

*we challenge ourselves and learn from our mistakes
we praise, encourage and admire the determination of other people
we don't give up, we ask for help*

Forgiveness – we forgive other people and make friends again.

*we tell the truth and say sorry when we have done the wrong thing
we believe in fresh starts, good choices and new beginnings
we say the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us"*

Respect – we are respectful and kind to other people.

*we cherish diversity and are tolerant of different ideas and beliefs
we serve one another and help people who are in need
we remember Jesus' Golden Rules: "Love God" and "Love your neighbour"*

Thankfulness – we are grateful for all the good things in our lives.

*we are always polite and thank other people when they help us
we celebrate our own successes and the achievements of others
we say thank you prayers to God*

Responsibility – we care for one another and look after our school.

*we take responsibility for our own thoughts, words and actions
we contribute to our team's success, remembering that "Together Everyone Achieves More"
we take pride in our work*

Christ Church leavers

The extracts which follow are taken from the final end-of-year school reports of Year 4 leavers.

Leaver Report One

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach **Z** this year. She is hard-working, kind and has a wonderful sense of humour. Her confidence in herself has grown over the year and this has had a direct effect on her work in class and the friendships she has in the classroom.

Z follows the Golden Rules and is a polite and caring member of the class, who can be trusted by both adults and children alike. She is always willing to help others and her contributions on the carpet have been like gold dust; her general knowledge and range of vocabulary has helped both the children and myself.

I am sure she will go from strength to strength as she moves up to middle school and I hope she will visit Christ Church over the years, bringing in her written pieces of work for me to read.

Leaver Report Two

N is a bright, friendly and caring boy, who has done very well in class this year. He is always engaged in lessons and tries his hardest in almost every activity we do. Due to his positive attitude, he has made progress across the curriculum.

N is popular amongst his peers and plays sensibly with many different children in the playground. He follows the school Golden Rules and his behaviour is wonderful.

N is an incredibly talented sportsman and has represented the school in a number of different sports, e.g. training in karate outside of school. He has shown himself to be a talented athlete, representing the school at athletics with great success. He always tries his hardest in PE and always endeavours to do his best for himself and his team. I hope **N** continues with his involvement in sport at middle school.

Leaver Report Three

A is thoughtful and caring. She is an enthusiastic, interested learner and has been keen to find out and remember facts, particularly in our work on plants in Science. She also extended this learning to our beach walk on our Year 4 residential trip, by accumulating an extensive collection of rocks! More recently, **A** contributed to the planning of a class investigation into growing beans, working collaboratively in her group.

It has been fantastic to see **A** develop as a learner this year, building in stamina and becoming more resilient. She perseveres and keeps trying, even when she finds it tricky.

A is trustworthy, is keen to offer help and enjoys taking on responsibilities. She can always be relied upon to sensibly model excellent behaviour, both within the classroom and throughout the school.

Leaver Report Four

M is conscientious, sensible and confident. She has continued to develop as a learner this year, building on her high level of achievement. It is with quiet enthusiasm that she tackles challenges, endeavouring to do her best at everything. She makes thoughtful and careful contributions to lessons. As well as working well independently, **M** collaborates effectively and increasingly confidently with others.

M works so well in all areas of the curriculum. She is diligent and conscientious, wanting to do her best in all subjects. She excels in Art and Design work, producing careful sketches and detailed illustrations. She has been working hard to evaluate and improve on her painting skills.

M's behaviour is exemplary; she makes good decisions and aims to be "on the Rainbow" by the end of each week! **M** is a delightful member of the class and has been a pleasure to teach!

Leaver Report Five

J is a most polite, considerate and kind boy. His behaviour is superb. He is able to judge what is the right thing to do and is not distracted by others. He is helpful both to his peers and to adults, and is utterly reliable. **J** is well liked by the other children, due in no small part to his sunny disposition and his gentle approach to relationships. He is very caring and loyal, and always has a friend to be with.

J approaches all work with a smile but is often a bit less confident in his own abilities than I would like him to be. **J** participates well in RE sessions. His kind, considerate nature allows **J** to consider other views and he is never judgemental. He is both tolerant and thoughtful, and is generally willing to share his thoughts with the class, which is lovely to see.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching **J** this year. He is always happy to chat or to share an amusing thought. I am confident that he will do well next year.

Believe in yourself, **J**, you are the equal of all challenges!

Leaver Report Six

D is a polite and helpful girl, who is always prepared to help others around her. She has a wide circle of friends and a smile is never far from her face. She is a respected and well-liked member of the class.

D has worked incredibly hard this year and has produced some wonderful pieces of work, which have consistently been of a very high standard. Maths has thrown some challenges at her, but **D** has persevered and worked her way through them. Academically, **D** is well prepared to go on to middle school and I am sure she will thrive there, just as she has done here.

D joins in every PE lesson, whatever the discipline, and always puts in 100%. She is a very talented young athlete and is involved in many after school clubs, and has represented the school at gymnastics, where she performed fantastically to help Christ Church win a Gold medal.

Your invitation to visit Christ Church

There are many ways to get to know our school. Here are some of the key options. In each case, please check the school website (www.christchurch.somerset.sch.uk) for details.

Alternatively, enquire to the school office by email at sch.152@educ.somerset.gov.uk or telephone on 01373 463781.

Personal tours

On a personal tour you will be shown around the school, have an introductory discussion with a senior member of staff appropriate to your enquiry, and get to meet some of the children. The best time to see around is in the morning during term time, when you can meet staff and pupils in class. A personal tour normally takes about 20 minutes.

Other opportunities to visit

In addition to the above, parents/carers/families are also welcome to visit us at one of our many and varied school events. These include concerts, church services, sports events, Christmas fayre and summer fete.

**Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery
Feltham Lane, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5AJ**

Tel: 01373 463781

Email: sch.152@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Website: www.christchurchschoolfrome.org.uk