



School Prospectus 2021–22

Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery
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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 girl and boy to “shine brightly” (Matthew 5) as they discover their strengths and interests, and 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.

Best wishes,



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, October 2019

“Christ Church is a happy, caring school. The warm welcome each day from staff helps pupils to settle well ... There is a strong sense of community. Everyone is valued here.”

“Staff have high expectations of behaviour. In response, most pupils behave well and try hard ... Bullying seldom happens and is not tolerated here.”

“Parents and carers appreciate the school's nurturing and inclusive environment. They feel their children are in 'safe hands'.”

“Leaders make sure that they prepare pupils to be good citizens. Pupils are polite and friendly ... Pupils learn how to accept others from a variety of backgrounds and to tolerate and value their differences.”

“Staff provide strong help and support for all pupils. They support pupils' emotional and mental health well. Pupils find activities such as yoga very calming ... Pupils feel safe and well cared for.”

“Leaders have set out ambitious plans for pupils' learning in different subjects. For example, in history there is a clear order for learning about key events. Pupils talk knowledgeably about the invasions of Britain.”

“In the Nursery class ... children settle well. Adults' focus on teaching speaking and listening is helping the two- and three-year-olds to talk confidently. Regular teaching is increasing their love of early reading and understanding of numbers.”

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.”

“In accordance with its Christian values, the school works in harmony with parents and the local community; therefore, learners, staff, governors and parents feel valued and contribute to the school’s success.”

“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.”

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

“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.”

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

Why choose Christ Church?

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 girls and boys 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 and elected School Councillors.

Christ Church: high standards and amazing opportunities

Our 2015 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and 2019 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: 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:

- 2021 ... Frome is voted “Best Place to Live in the South West” (*Sunday Times*)
- 2020 ... Frome is listed as the best place to live in Somerset (*muddystiletos.co.uk*)
- 2019 ... Frome is listed as one of the 15 “best weekend breaks from London” (*Time Out*)
- 2018 ... Frome is the “least lonely town in Britain” (*The 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: committed to 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.

We are proud of our School Council's work to raise awareness of British Values and to promote a culture of fairness, friendliness, respect and tolerance.

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: **Kindness, Courage, Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance** and **Forgiveness**.
- Encourage aesthetic, spiritual and moral awareness in a Christian atmosphere.
- Develop within each child a moral compass based on Christian values, allowing every girl and boy 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: 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 onto their class "Rainbow of Recognition" 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: encouraging teamwork and a sense of community

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, Christ Church girls and boys are well prepared for the next phase of their education and for life beyond.

Christ Church: doing the right things

At Christ Church, 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. Hence, 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: Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational

At Christ Church, worship is central to the life of the school. It provides adults and children with space and time each day to pause and ponder spiritual matters.

Collective Worship times give adults and children precious opportunities to explore their own attitudes, beliefs and heritage as they reflect on and engage with Christian teaching, Bible stories and Anglican worship.

Gathering together for Collective Worship helps us feel part of the Benefice of Christ Church with St Mary's in Frome. It also allows us to feel connected to the diverse, multi-cultural, global Christian worshipping family.

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 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, wRiting and aRithmetic. Music, Art, Drama and Dance have their place in the timetabled taught curriculum. Children at Christ Church have opportunities to develop their talents, and where a child is identified as having a specific aptitude and/or gift, then additional tuition may be provided.

Aesthetic and performing arts are used at Christ Church 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 at Christ Church parish church.

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: parish and community links

At Christ Church we enjoy working with our friends and neighbours at the parish church and in the wider community.

Christ Church children sing Christmas carols to elderly people in the Key Centre community building adjacent to the school. Other children attend the annual Frome Remembrance Sunday service in the town. 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.

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:

- Active and In Touch (a Frome-based charity set up to tackle loneliness in the community)
- Children in Need
- Children’s Society (Christingle Appeal)
- Comic Relief/Sport Relief
- Dorothy House Hospice Care
- Fair Frome (providing food, help and support to struggling local families)
- Positive Action on Cancer
- Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal)
- Toilet Twinning
- WHY (a Frome-based charity offering a free counselling service for people affected by a diagnosis of cancer or other life-threatening conditions)

What do we stand for?

The Bible quote that underpins our Christian vision

“Let your light shine brightly for all to see. Let people see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Our school’s inclusive Christian vision

We want Christ Church to be a shining example of Jesus’ love and kindness. We are an inclusive Christian learning community where everyone is welcome and valued, and all are inspired to be the best they can be. We want all children to thrive and flourish in every way, developing a love of learning, discovering their unique strengths and talents, and growing in character and confidence so that their light shines brightly for all to see.

Our six core Christian values

Kindness, Courage, Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance and Forgiveness

Our maxim

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

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 will value and develop all members of our school community, providing excellent opportunities for them to reach their full potential in body, mind and spirit.

Our Golden Rules are based on our six core Christian values

Kindness

- we think kind thoughts, say kind words and do kind things
- we serve one another and help people who are in need
- we share with others and include them in our games

Courage

- we are brave enough to attempt something new or difficult
- we know we won't get everything right all the time, but we love to challenge ourselves and learn from our mistakes
- we do not ignore injustice and unfairness; we make good choices and do what is right – not what is easy or popular

Respect

- we cherish diversity and are tolerant of different ideas and beliefs
- we are polite and well-mannered at all times
- we remember Jesus' Golden Rules: "Love God" and "Love your neighbour"

Responsibility

- we take responsibility for our own thoughts, words and actions, and take pride in our work
- we can be trusted to look after property and care for plants and animals
- we care about the environment and remember to reduce, reuse and recycle

Perseverance

- we are resilient and persistent – we keep on trying and never give up
- we ask for help when we get stuck
- we praise, encourage and admire the determination of other people

Forgiveness

- we forgive people and make friends again
- we believe in restorative justice, reconciliation and new beginnings
- we say the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us"

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 have 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! I wish her every success for the future.

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.

An invitation to visit our lovely school

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.christchurchschoolfrome.org.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 15 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.