

*Ponsbourne St. Mary's
Church of England
Primary School
Prospectus*



Welcome to Ponsbourne St. Mary's Church of England Primary School!

A message from the Head Teacher

We welcome you warmly to our school, it is a place I am immensely proud of and I hope you will enjoy getting to know us.

The community of Ponsbourne St. Mary's is committed to providing an excellent standard of education for all children allowing each individual to achieve their full potential regardless of ability, race or background. Our school provides a safe and caring learning environment founded on Christian principles.

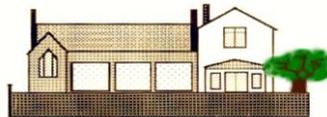
We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and the wider community to ensure our children feel supported, attain high standards and experience a broad and balanced curriculum that motivates and challenges them.

At Ponsbourne St. Mary's we are genuinely proud of our learning community and our achievements. We are excited about the school's future and the on-going development of our school. Visits to the school are encouraged and visitors are welcome to contact the school for more information or to arrange an appointment to look around.

I look forward to meeting you and your family.

Tracy Gaiteri MEd, BEd Hons.
Head Teacher

LOVE TO LEARN



LEARN TO LOVE

“The headteacher’s enthusiasm for teaching is highly infectious and this is a key element in the way all staff work so well together as a team.” Ofsted

Well Being and Personal Development

At Ponsbourne St. Mary's, the children's wellbeing and personal development is of utmost importance. All children are known by all staff who will look out for and support children's different needs. We have a peer buddy system in which older children support younger children. Y5 and 6 pupils are lunchtime monitors, play leaders and peer mentors.

Children are given both choice and responsibility whilst at Ponsbourne St. Mary's which helps them to develop as individuals and good citizens. They follow a strong programme of personal, social, emotional, citizen and health education which involves debate, drama, circle time as well as more traditional ways of learning. Several times a year, we have a 'Feeling Good' day which is planned by the children – activities which make them *feel good* such as Yoga, cooking, watching a film etc.

Pupil's outstanding personal development, including their excellent social, moral, spiritual and cultural development, supports their learning exceptionally well. Ofsted

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Ponsbourne St. Mary's is a highly inclusive school committed to **all** children achieving their potential. No child will ever be hindered in achieving their own potential by specific difficulties or needs they have.

An Inclusion leader (INCo) is employed by the school. She supports children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, and children who are considered to be Gifted and Talented according to national criteria. She works with individual children, she devises programmes of work for children delivered by Teaching Assistants (TA) and Learning Support Assistants (LSA), she liaises with other professional and she is responsible for tracking children's progress.

All our Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants are fully trained professionals who work alongside the class teacher in supporting children to learn.

The school is like one great big happy family

Y5 Child



Ponsbourne St. Mary's Church of England Primary School mission, vision and aims

Ponsbourne St. Mary's Primary School Community

Our school community comprises: all children, families, staff, governors and others associated with the school, including community groups, local charities, business and support services and all external

Ethos

Ponsbourne St. Mary's Primary School is a caring church school which sets high store on the value of all its community. Expectations of care and concern for the wellbeing of all children, staff and families are a central core of our Christian ethos. Wherever possible, this informs our relationships and the nature of our interactions.

Mission statement

Our mission is to provide a planned, exciting and relevant learning environment in which all participants are welcomed and valued.

Our educational aims

Visitors to Ponsbourne St. Mary's comment on the warm, well disciplined, friendly atmosphere within the school. We believe that children feel happy and secure in this environment. This in turn creates the best possible attitude for learning.

From arrival at Ponsbourne St. Mary's, each pupil should move forward according to age and ability to learn.

Finally, we provide opportunities that will help children to develop as individuals with the skills and attitudes necessary for survival in our rapidly changing society, where high technology must be balanced with respect for humanity and the natural world.

Inspiring lifelong learning!

"The school is a learning community. Staff and pupils reflect and conduct research on how to improve learning." Ofsted

Ponsbourne St, Mary's Primary School Vision.

Within a broad Christian ethos, we intend to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating learning environment that offers a rich, motivating curriculum to develop individuals and inspire life-long learning.

To facilitate our vision we aim :-

- To continue to ensure that every child enjoys learning and achieves their full potential regardless of gender, age, race, physical or intellectual ability or class in a happy and secure learning environment.
- To raise standards by ensuring that the skills, values, knowledge and talents of individuals are fully developed
- To promote the health, confidence and well being of all learners within the school enabling them to see themselves as valued and valuable members of a wider society
- To provide a strong framework for promoting good behaviour and positive attitudes in order to cultivate a safe and secure community in which everyone may flourish
- To give our pupils a sense of success and pride in all their activities and prepare children for future economic well being
- To provide opportunities for our pupils to become successful independent learners through a wide variety of physical, intellectual and aesthetic experiences.
- To develop the school's role in the local and wider community and each child's understanding of citizenship by continuing our strong links with the church and nearby village schools, liaising with nearby larger secondary schools and encouraging links with local industry, residents and organisations.

We encourage all children to develop as super learners since learning is life's most important skill, we want them

- to take responsibility for their learning
- to become resilient, resourceful and reflective
- to develop the skills of reasoning
- and have respect for themselves and others

We refer to this as the 6Rs.

Standards and Expectations

We have high expectations for all of our children and strive to ensure children achieve high standards in Literacy, Maths, Sciences, Religious Education, the Humanities, the Arts, Sport and PE, a Modern Foreign Language and Personal, Social, Emotional, Citizenship and Health Education.

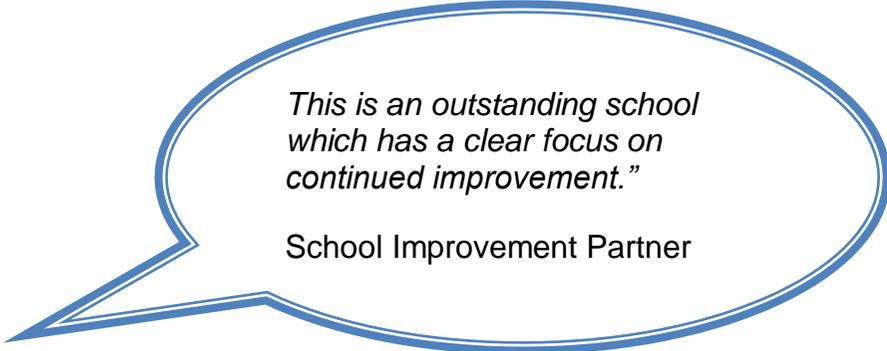
The school's attainment is high in comparison with national attainment. The progress that children make is also well above the progress made by children nationally. This is reported to parents annually following the assessment of Y2 and Y6 pupils. Each child's achievements are reported annually in a school report and parents are invited to attend consultation evenings each term to discuss their child's progress.

“Excellent links have been formed with parents who are kept well informed about how their children learn.” Ofsted

Attendance is a key priority as children can not learn if they are not in school. Permission for absence is not given unless there are extenuating circumstances. Permission for leave to go on holiday is rarely authorised. As a result our attendance is far higher than attendance nationally. Our attendance percentage is reported annually.

Behaviour is another key priority. The school has a code of conduct which all members of our community are expected to follow. The behaviour policy is reviewed bi-annually and is consistently applied. Behaviour is outstanding at this school.

In our previous two Ofsted inspections and Church School inspections the school was deemed to be an **Outstanding School**. Our school remains an improving and developing school.



*This is an outstanding school
which has a clear focus on
continued improvement.”*

School Improvement Partner

Curriculum

Learning takes place in an innovative, creative curriculum that addresses all subjects and aspects of learning.

In English, Reading is a key priority. From the start of school they are taught to read learning about phonics and 'real' books as they progress they are encouraged to read often, from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They learn to write for different purposes and audiences, constructing letters, reports, persuasive texts such as adverts, brochures and guides, myths and legends, stories and poems.

Mathematics is taught through mixed ability teaching which meets the needs of all children. They learn to solve problems and investigate mathematical patterns, using and applying skills they have learned.

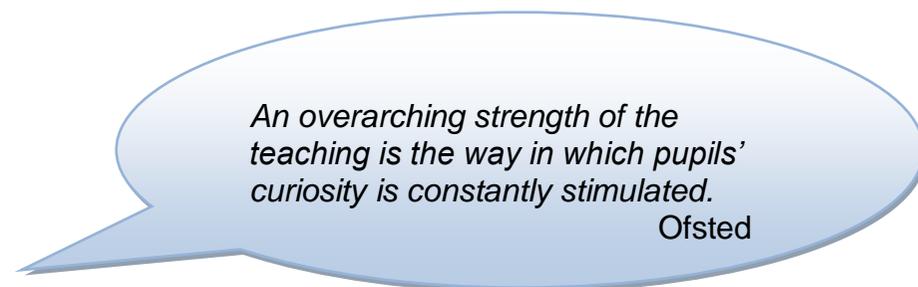
Each class follows a two year rolling programme of learning which delivers the National Curriculum in learning linked to the Humanities, the Arts and Sciences; this encompasses topics such as Toys Past and Present, The Great Fire of London, The Tudors, Rivers and Mountains, Electricity and Forces etc. topics which are in the news such as The Olympics, The World Cup, The General Election etc. whole school topics such as Buddhism, The Inuits, Forensic Science etc. and topics chosen by children because they are interested in learning about something or someone.



The outstanding quality of teaching generates great enthusiasm for learning.

Ofsted

Within the study of topics, children are encouraged to direct their own learning, considering what they will learn, how they will learn and with whom they will learn. This enables the children to develop independent learning skills, be creative and responsible and be motivated and excited to learn.



An overarching strength of the teaching is the way in which pupils' curiosity is constantly stimulated.

Ofsted

From KS2, children attend a local sports centre weekly where they are able to swim, dance and use the children's SHOKK gym.

Extra-curricular Activities

We are able to offer a range of enrichment and extra-curricular learning activities. In addition, we work in partnership with local primary schools and secondary schools to offer enrichment classes in subjects such as Maths, PE, the Arts and the Humanities.

We run a breakfast club each day, lunchtime clubs such as chess and book club, and after-school clubs such as football, netball, karate, art etc.

Extended School/Community Engagement

Ponsbourne St. Mary's works in partnership with other schools, the church, universities, community groups, charities and businesses.

We are linked with the village church and village hall committee with whom we organise services, fund raising activities and social occasions.

“The school is at the heart of the community and has a very strong relationship with the church which makes development of the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding outstanding.” School Improvement Partner

We are part of an extended schools consortium with Potters Bar schools, Cuffley and Northaw. A Parent/Pupil Support Worker works within this consortium to offer support and signpost further support for families.

We are also part of a cluster of five rural schools – Ponsbourne, Northaw, Bayford, Essendon and Hertingfordbury Cowper. We work in partnership with these schools.



We are in an alliance with a Teaching School in Potters Bar which collaborates with schools, nationally, artists, Cambridge and Hertfordshire University and other educational providers.

We have link schools in Enfield and Devon with whom we correspond and visit throughout the year.

My child has made exceptional progress and is a confident, well rounded member of the school who has been given many opportunities to gain experiences and learning in many different ways. Parent