Harrietsham Church of England Primary School



Harrietsham Church of England Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Jackie Chambers
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Emson

Nurtured Flourish

Welcome

Welcome to Harrietsham Church of England Primary School. We are a nurturing school where the children are at the heart of all of our decisions. Our school building is modern and vibrant and we aim to create safe, creative learning environments, with a Christian ethos, to enable all of our children to truly flourish.



'Nurtured We Flourish'

Our vision, Nurtured We Flourish, runs through all that we do here at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School.

Our nurturing ethos is popular with children, parents and staff and is at the core of all we do. At our school each child is recognised as an important individual and all of their achievements, in and out of school, are recognised and celebrated. The warm and knowledgeable relationships that our skilled staff develop with our children and their families are vital to our ethos. Every child is cared for and valued and all of our children are encouraged to reach their full potential as confident and independent learners. Our children will leave our school fully prepared, socially and emotionally, to face the challenges of secondary school and life beyond.



Our Vision

We are a warm, welcoming and inclusive school rooted in our rural community. Like the mustard seed, we grew from tiny beginnings and our branches are now spread wide – providing support and taking our values beyond the school gates. All those in our community feel safe and nurtured - able to flourish and grow academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically to achieve their full God-given potential.







"Everyone has been drawn together around a renewed vision and linked biblical story, the parable of the mustard seed. This focus on a common and shared purpose is driving the school towards the best and broadest outcomes for pupils."

SIAMs Inspection 2024



Biblical Link



‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches’.

Matthew 13: 31-32



"The image of the mustard seed growing into a strong tree marks the close link between nurture and flourishing at Harrietsham. All are welcomed."
SIAMs 2024

Our Values

Everything that we do in school is underpinned by our core Christian values and these are the basis for all the experiences we offer our pupils:

Love





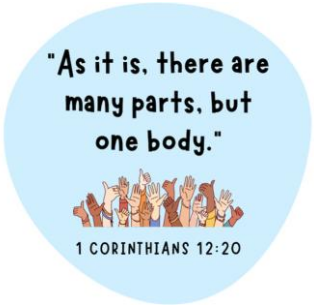
Forgiveness





Fellowship





All members of our school community are valued as individuals and are expected to achieve their full potential as confident and independent learners.







The History of Harrietsham Church of England Primary School



The original ragstone school in Church Road was founded in 1844 and built on part of Little Brickhouse Field. This land was given by William Baldwin Esq. He was the owner of Stede Court at the time and in effect, squire of Harrietsham. It is his coat of arms on the south face of the main building.

Money to build (£240) was raised by public subscription and local stone was given. From the beginning, the community was involved closely with the school. The first Harrietsham schoolmaster had his salary paid by the Trustees of the will of Sir Charles Booth & Baldwin Charity.

In Victorian times, the school served all poor children of school age living within walking distance.

The new school building in West Street opened in September 2006. An extension was added in 2013 to make the school one-form entry. In September 2021, the final build was added, making our school a two-form entry school (2 classes for every year group).

We are extremely lucky to now have a school which is spacious, light and airy and a pleasant environment for our pupils to learn in. We have a super hall, where we can teach gymnastics and dance; the classrooms and corridors are bright and full of interesting and vibrant displays; we have laptops, iPads and interactive Smartboards in every room; there is a large playground with fun play and exercise facilities and a playing field with its own nature area; we have a stimulating library; a dedicated nurture room; an Arts room housing a wide variety of musical instruments; an indoor 'Common Room' for our children to use at lunchtime; a sizable sports field; an extremely large Forest School area - and so much more.

We are proud of our school and our most recent inspection achievements. We were judged to be a 'Good' school by Ofsted in February 2024 and we gained a very favourable 'Good' SIAMS Church report in January 2024.



What do our children say about our school?



"The teachers are all really kind and they help us to learn; they respect us."

"Our teachers expect us to work hard and they make our lessons fun."

"The school is really comfortable; there are places to relax and be yourself."

"I feel safe because everyone looks after each other."

"We have lots of opportunities to run around and be healthy."

"We are protected against bullies."

"I love coming to Harrietsham — it is warm and homely."

"We are like one gigantic family."





What did Ofsted 2024 say about our school?

"Pupils are supported to understand and live out the school values of love, forgiveness, and fellowship. This creates a nurturing and welcoming school for all. As one pupil reflected, 'Our school is a kind place that welcomes everyone'."

"Pupils and staff enjoy warm and positive relationships."

"The school has clear expectations for pupils' achievement ... Pupils believe in these expectations and work to 'be their true selves and do their best'"... "Attitudes to learning are universally positive."

"The school is inclusive and teaches pupils to appreciate differences ... This creates a harmonious and welcoming environment."

"Pupils are confident they can speak to someone about any worries they may have and know these will be addressed promptly."

"The school has designed an interesting curriculum that reflects its increasingly diverse community."

"Staff identify pupils who may have additional needs and adapt their teaching to support these pupils well."

"Pupils behave well. They told inspectors they trust adults in school to 'listen and speak to us respectfully and never shout.'"

"The school is committed to developing pupils into well-rounded modern citizens. It prioritises broadening the horizons of all pupils, especially those who are most disadvantaged ... Staff use exciting opportunities to develop pupils' character."





See our full Ofsted Report on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Ofsted Report

What did SIAMs 2024 (Church School Inspection) say about our school?





"The Christian vision, and supporting biblical story, has united all around a common purpose and ambition for this school. This has inspired the current growth and development of Harrietsham as a Church school."

"The image of the mustard seed growing into a strong tree marks the close link between nurture and flourishing at Harrietsham. All are welcomed."

"There is a strong sense of fellowship impacting on loving and supportive relationships within the school unit. This has secured Harrietsham through a time of change and created firm roots for its recent journey."

"Collective worship, both as a whole school community and within each class, promotes times of deep reflection. This fosters the spiritual growth of each one. At the same time, it drives a happy and supportive environment focused on the values of love, fellowship and forgiveness."

"An engaging curriculum, relevant to the context of the school has been established. This enables all to engage and enjoy learning, supporting them to achieve their God-given potential."

"Effective use of big questions within religious education (RE) enables pupils to reflect. This includes on the impact of Christianity and worldviews on themselves and others."

"A deep understanding of the local context of the school has set pupils at the heart of decision making and leadership thinking."

"Pupils are gaining a growing sense of personal value and an understanding of how they can manage their own feelings and emotions. ... All speak with great positivity about the value of reciprocal support to enable them to rise above difficulties or challenges."

"A widening range of after-school clubs including music, sport and creative activities excite pupils beyond the classroom."

"Older pupils take great pride in their roles of responsibility, modelling good behaviour to younger pupils."

See our full SIAMs Report on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - SIAMS Church Inspection Report

What does it mean to be a Church School?

We are an inclusive school and, in line with the Church of England, **all** children are welcome at our school, whether they are from a Christian faith, another faith or no faith.

Church schools are supported by their local Diocesan Board of Education.

From the earliest days, the purpose of Church schools was to enable children to flourish by providing a basic education and by developing their moral character. It was always intended that Church schools should be open to all of the children of the parish. The schools are not 'faith schools' in the sense of presuming that children are practicing Christians or attempting to make converts of them. However, the ethos of the schools is based on distinctively Christian values and they will offer children an experience of faith through collective worship and links with the parish church. Religious Education in Church schools will always include teaching about other faiths and they will usually follow the same syllabus for RE as non-church schools.



What is being added by being a Church of England school?

Church schools have Christian beliefs and values at their heart. This means that every child and adult associated with the school is not just important because they are members of the school but because they are seen as unique individuals within God's creation.

Church schools recognise that, as well as academic and emotional intelligence, human beings also have spiritual intelligence. The spiritual aspects of life will be recognised, and nurtured, alongside the academic and emotional needs of all.

Church schools are places where challenge through questioning is encouraged because, through this, we can make sense of the world, the gift of life and the purpose of our own personal lives.

As a pupil, parent or visitor you should feel the impact of our Christian values of Love, Forgiveness and Fellowship at all times. Whilst many other good schools should reflect these attitudes, we believe the distinctive difference of our school will always be how our Christian values affect the way everyone is respected.

Church schools are also encouraged to:

- Ensure that the school is led by a Headteacher who is committed, with the help of staff, to establish and maintain the Christian character of the school in its day-to-day activities and in the curriculum.
- Engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day.
- Offer a school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith.
- Ensure that religious education is given at least 5% of school time and that the character and quality of religious education are a particular concern of the Headteacher and the Governing Body.
- Observe the major Christian festivals and ensure that other faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity.
- Maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with a parish church.

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School:



At Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, our Christian values enable us to provide a rich and inclusive education where every member of our school family can flourish, creating an environment of excellence for all.

As our children reflect on our values: **Love, Forgiveness and Fellowship,** they develop their 'moral compass', a strong understanding of right and wrong that will guide them through life.

Our children are encouraged to be 'courageous advocates', to do their best and to make a positive difference through action, however small. We believe that if our children leave us having established these core building blocks, then we will have achieved our goal of giving children the strong foundations they need for their lives now and in the future.



We are associated with the beautiful St. John the Baptist Church.

We enjoy celebrating Christmas, Easter and end-of-year services at Harrietsham Church, and classes visit the church to study aspects of the building and the Church Year as part of the curriculum.

Members of the church also come to school to help lead KS2 worships, allowing a strong bond with our local community.

Spirituality at Harrietsham



Our Vision is rooted in our school community flourishing in every sense of the word - sowing, growing, and deepening their God-given potential, in order 'that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10). The development of the whole child, in body, mind and spirit is at the centre of our school purpose. For us, spirituality is the opening of hearts and minds, through reflection, and questioning of the world. Spirituality at Harrietsham opens us to life and to each other through our relationships, individuality and our awareness and wonder beyond our visible world.

We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.
- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play and stories.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance.

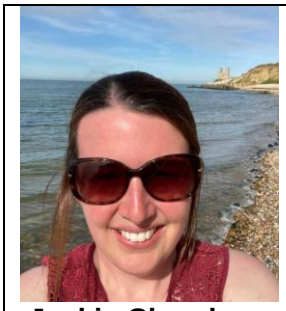
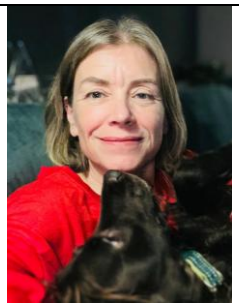




Further details about spirituality at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Spirituality at Harrietsham

Our Senior Leadership Team

Our Senior Leadership Team consists of the following people with the following roles and responsibilities. We are always here to help, support, guide and talk with you.

 **Jackie Chambers Headteacher** Responsible for teaching and learning and the strategic running of the school.	 **Sam Fenner Deputy Head** Responsible for the curriculum and assessment.	 **Rebecca Evans Inclusion Leader** Responsible for Inclusion, including SEND and Pupil Premium.	 **Jo Griffin Pastoral Leader** Responsible for Safeguarding and Attendance.	 **Vikki Reeves Business Leader** Responsible for Health and Safety, Finance and HR.

Our Chair of Governors is also always available to help.

 **Rebecca Emson Chair of Governors**	The Governing Board has three key functions: 1) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction – that these are in line with our Christian values. 2) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. 3) Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils. **To learn more about our Governors, see our website here:** Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Meet our Governors

The most important member of staff – our school dog:



Max Chambers

Max is a Cavapoochon. Max lives with Mrs Chambers and her two daughters. Max LOVES people and will always be keen to say hello to visitors. He loves being stroked, sitting with children and being read to. Max is fully licensed to work in schools through “The Dog Mentor”.

To find out more about our school dogs, please see our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Meet our School Dog

Our Nurturing Ethos





Central to our school vision, nurture is at the heart of all that we do at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School. We strongly believe that children need to be nurtured - socially, emotionally and academically - in order for them to flourish.

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School is part of Nurture UK and we are working towards achieving our National Nurturing Schools Award. Our aim is to achieve excellence in embedding a nurturing culture that responds to the social, emotional and mental health needs of our children, alongside their academic studies.

We strive to be a place of nurture for our children, our staff and our families; our school vision is centred around nurture and the relationships that we have with our children and their families are extremely important to us. We believe that a whole school approach to nurture is the best way to support our children.



Our nurturing approach is underpinned by our whole school ethos - in the way that we greet the children in the morning, the way we speak to them, the way we approach behaviour management and the way we approach learning. The approach is delivered through Quality First Teaching and it promotes healthy outcomes for children by responding to their emotional needs. Through a nurturing educational approach, our children develop vital social skills which include developing confidence and self-respect, and learning to take pride in behaving well and in achieving their full potential.

Specific nurture groups are also run in our school by fully trained members of our Inclusion and Pastoral Team. The groups are held in 'The Nest', which is a specifically designed Nurture Room. These groups are intensive, focused, short-term interventions for children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties which may make it harder for them to learn in a mainstream classroom. These groups are an intervention which are put in place in conjunction with parents and there are specific targets that are worked towards with regular reviews. They aim to replace missing early experiences by developing positive pupil relationships with both teachers and peers in a supportive environment.



Further details about nurture at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Nurture

Behaviour and Ethos

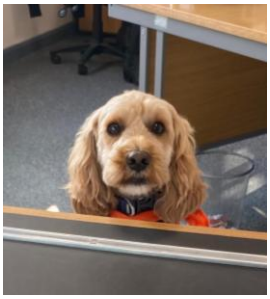
Our positive behaviour policy is focused on ensuring that children feel loved, cared for and valued, so that they behave appropriately, try hard and follow our school values.

Strong on Boundaries, Big on Heart





Our Behaviour Policy is implemented from the moment a child steps into our school in the morning – through the way the adults greet them, through the adults knowledge of them and their family and through the learning set for them which is tailored to their needs. Our children are recognised daily in class through their relationships with adults who care and praise them – through verbal praise, stickers and messages home. In weekly Celebration Worship, positive behaviour linked to our school values is recognised by awarding core values certificates. Children also share their achievements outside of school.



We hold very high expectations of our children's behaviour and we do this using a trauma-informed approach. At our school, the emotional health and wellbeing of our whole community is paramount to being a successful school. We promote a caring, supportive and inclusive ethos, which develops respect, self-esteem and gives a sense of belonging and voice for all. We are committed to being an emotionally safe and shame-free school for both our adults and learners. Our consistent and fair approach is taken on board by all adults who work in our school.

We understand that behaviour is not always consciously planned and is a form of communication and an expression of an underlying need that must be interpreted and responded to appropriately. Our adults will seek to understand behaviour and its roots by questioning and reflecting through restorative conversations.





We teach our children to uphold and embody our school rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe. These rules are modelled, explained and embedded through staff routines, visible and predictable adult behaviour and shared language. We proactively teach, model and scaffold our expectations of Ready, Respectful and Safe. Each rule is broken down into observable behaviours relevant to different school spaces and our rules form the language in which we structure all conversations about behaviour.





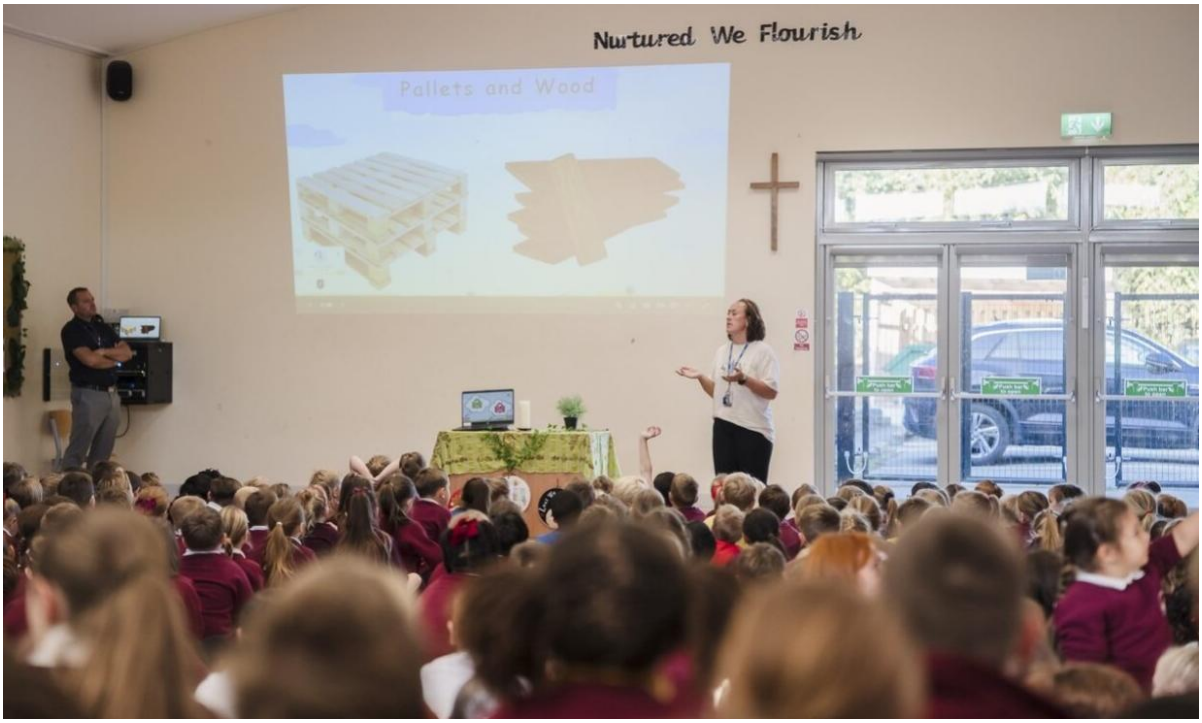




We acknowledge that sometimes things will go wrong. Even with strong relationships, clear boundaries and good co-regulation, there will still be times when conflict emerges or harm is caused. This means that sometimes children will need support to learn from the mistakes made and repair and restore relationships with peers or staff. If our school rules are not followed, where consequences are necessary, they aim to restore relationships, repair harm and they are seen as an opportunity to support future behaviour to prevent the same behaviour repeating itself.

Any bullying is tackled immediately: our children are very good at supporting each other and knowing when to report anything they feel uncomfortable about.

Come and feel our positive ethos for yourself!



Further details about our behaviour policy can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Promoting Positive Behaviour

Teaching and Learning



Our children are at the heart of our school. We are passionate about the development of the whole child so our curriculum, firmly rooted in our vision, is designed to enable each child to flourish.

Tailored to meet the diverse needs of our school community, our curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum as well as opportunities for personal development. Our ambitious, well-sequenced, broad and balanced curriculum builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding of our children from their various starting points.

We provide a positive and stimulating learning environment for all, where each pupil's contribution is valued and where our children are encouraged to articulate their learning through a wide variety of media, including written, spoken language, music and art. Our teachers plan and deliver engaging lessons designed to challenge and deepen understanding and due to this, our pupils approach their learning with enthusiasm and interest.

Pupil wellbeing and good mental health are prioritised so that they become resilient, independent learners. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils and their understanding of British Values are woven through the curriculum and reflected upon in whole school worship. Children leave Harrietsham as confident individuals, well equipped to participate fully in the next stage of their education with an awareness of the wider world.





Our unique and ambitious curriculum is:

- Rooted in our Christian vision and values.
- Underpinned by the National Curriculum.
- Ambitious and progressive - with knowledge and skills clearly mapped.
- Fun, active and challenging whilst making the most of our locality and our outdoor environment.
- Mindful of diversity and inclusive of all children.
- Nurturing - allowing all children to flourish with appropriate levels of support and challenge.
- Focused on oracy - with speaking and listening at its heart.




To enhance our curriculum offer, we invite many visitors into school and take our children on offsite visits. Year 6 enjoy a residential trip which includes adventurous, outdoor activities.

We also hold a variety of curriculum days and weeks such as: Science Week, Book Week, Times Table Rockstars Day, Multi-Cultural Days and Sports Day.




Our children also have a say in what they would like to learn. Personalised learning takes place in the form of enhanced provision, self and peer assessment and through varied learning and teaching styles.





Further details about our curriculum can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Our Curriculum

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion



At Harrietsham Church of England Primary School we are dedicated to providing a high-quality education to all children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs or a disability, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum and to be fully included in all aspects of school life.

We endeavour to promote an inclusive and nurturing ethos, promoting a sense of belonging and community, ensuring that our school family feels safe, secure and loved, with both their academic, social and emotional needs being met. In order to achieve this, we aim to respond to, and to support, learners in ways that take account of their learning needs and varied life experiences. We believe that an inclusive education for all is about promoting equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background.

We strive to develop strong working relationships with parents and professionals to ensure that an individual's Special Educational Needs are met, enabling them to flourish. We work collaboratively with both our parents and our children to ensure that the appropriate provision that an individual requires is personalised to their needs and that the child's future aspirations and best interests are at the centre of our decision making.

We have a dedicated Inclusion Team who work to provide our children with a unique learning offer. Mrs Evans is our Inclusion Leader and she oversees the inclusion of all of our children alongside Mrs Hancock, our Inclusion Assistant.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Hancock work with our teaching staff and outside agencies to ensure that appropriate provision and resources are provided in class to ensure access for all. Our team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) work closely with the teaching staff and support individuals and groups when necessary. Each LSA has a timetable dedicated to supporting the needs of the children in our school.



Further details about Inclusion at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Inclusion

Personal Development

At Harrietsham, our commitment to Personal Development is evident in our holistic approach – with our Personal Development Curriculum being the core to our curriculum offer.

Our Personal Development curriculum ensures that our children grow into courageous advocates and develop the character, confidence, and resilience essential for future success.



Our Personal Development curriculum intent is centered around a commitment and dedication to nurturing responsible, respectful, and active citizens, with a strong emphasis on British Values and equality – with children being helped to understand protected characteristics to promote an inclusive environment. Through our nurturing ethos, we aim to grow courageous advocates who are equipped with the life skills, knowledge and passion to support a sustainable and safe future for generations to come.

At the heart of our Personal Development curriculum is nurture. Our curriculum is implemented through our nurturing ethos, which helps children to grow and develop socially and emotionally in a safe environment with emotionally safe adults to support them. We believe that when children feel safe and secure they are ready to learn.

Personal Development at Harrietsham is implemented through a rich tapestry of experiences – both trips within the local and wider area and awe and wonder inspiring activities within school. We make full use of our school grounds and Forest School to develop our sense of the world around us. Our learning encompasses not only key life skills, PSHE and RSE, but also a wide array of extracurricular activities and opportunities for pupil voice. Each of our classes experience a timetabled amount of child-initiated time (which looks different in different year groups) which allows our children to lead their own learning and to learn more about the characteristics of effective learning and how they can grow and develop these characteristics within themselves.

Further details about Personal Development at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Personal Development

Our Sports Offer

Physical Education and Physical Activity are crucial elements of developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

At Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, we aim to provide a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to be active, play team sports and improve their individual coordination skills. We encourage and support attendance at after-school sport clubs. The school offers a variety of extra-curricular clubs throughout the academic year, these include gymnastics and multi skills for EYFS and KS1, football, athletics, cricket, rounders, netball and Tri Golf.

In addition to the varied clubs on offer at our school, the children take part in active activities at lunchtimes, in at least two hours of PE per week and in swimming lessons during Key Stage 2. Our school takes part in intra and inter competitions organised by local secondary schools.





Further details about PE at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Physical Education (PE)

Forest School

We are incredibly lucky to have an abundance of green space that belongs to our school – more outdoor space than many of us have ever seen belonging to a Primary School!








Every child in our school enjoys regular Forest School lessons with our specially trained Forest School Leader, Miss Bradley. During these lessons, which are often linked to the child's curriculum learning, our children learn about nature and the world around them. They take part in specific skill learning, e.g. being safe around a fire, and develop their teamwork skills in fun, active and challenging activities. Our aim is to develop courageous advocates who are equipped to problem solve and care for the world around them.





Further details about Forest School at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Forest School

OPAL Play

We are an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) School and, as such, we are on a journey to ensure that every child in our school has an amazing hour of high-quality play every day – with no exceptions.

We are currently embarking on a project whereby we are opening up new play spaces for our children to enjoy, creating new play equipment and sourcing loose parts for them to create their own play with!











Further details about our OPAL journey can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) at Harrietsham

Student Leadership

We take pupil voice seriously here at Harrietsham: there are many opportunities for the children to have their say, both in the running of the school day and in their learning.

Our School Council is active within the school. Two representatives from each class, elected by their peers, meet every term to discuss issues, school improvement and events in school. They feedback to class and back to the School Council again.

We also have a number of other opportunities for our children to show leadership – from Play Rangers, who support at playtimes, to Eco Warriors who help us to care for our environment, to Digital Leaders who support children to be safe online to Shining Lights, who support and lead worship in our school.

Safeguarding

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all of the children in our school. We believe that children have the right to learn in an environment that is safe, caring, inclusive and supportive. This includes being protected from all types of abuse, in both the children's physical and virtual environments. Online Safety is an important aspect of safeguarding our children. Adults in our school recognise when children need additional support and are confident in applying our safeguarding procedures.

The children are given the opportunity to learn about how to be safe through their curriculum and through daily interactions with the adults and children.

Our Pastoral Leader, Jo Griffin, is our Designated Safeguarding Lead. She oversees the safeguarding of all of our children.

Site Security and Safety



Our Site Manager, Mr Dunk, oversees health and safety within our site.

Our school has a high perimeter fence and the gates are kept locked. The main gates are opened by an adult on duty at 08:30am and that adult remains at the gate until the gate closes at 08:50am.

Children may only be collected by parents / carers and by named adults previously nominated.

Any parents / carers visiting the school for whatever reason are asked to sign in at the office and report to the office staff first, so that we always know who is in school for the safety of all children and staff. All visitors entering the school are asked to read a copy of our Safeguarding at Harrietsham leaflet and to wear a visitors' badge.

First Aid

We have many adults in school with a First Aid qualification. School trips are always accompanied by a trained first aider.

We send a note home to parents / carers if first aid has been administered throughout the school day. If a child has bumped their head, a message will be sent home and if they have had a more serious accident, we inform the parent/carer straight away.

Disabled Access

Our school is accessible to all. All entrances and doors are to DDA standards and we have three toilets for the disabled and dedicated car parking spaces.

Car Park

We have a visitors' car park which is for the use of visitors to school and blue badge holders.

We strongly urge parents / carers to park sensibly on the road and to respect the property of the estate opposite. Please do not park on the lines, grass verges, at the drop-off zone or in the disabled bays without an official badge.

Further details about Safeguarding at Harrietsham can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Safeguarding

Our Families and Community Links



Our school is friendly and welcoming. We encourage our families to pop in to see staff after school or to contact us with any concerns - no matter how small: we have an 'open door' policy. Your children's class teachers can be contacted in person or through Tapestry (our in-school communications system) and our Senior Leadership team are always keen to meet with our families too.

Parents / carers are invited to formal consultation evenings in Terms 2 and 4, and to a drop-in, in Term 6. In Terms 3 and 5 parents receive an Interim Report detailing their child's achievement in different areas of the curriculum and in Term 6, parents receive a written report on all areas of the curriculum.

We often invite our families into school to share their children's learning with them during events; such as classroom open afternoons, class worships, sports days, music events and playground open sessions.

We send out a questionnaire every year to seek the views of both parents / carers and children.

Parents / carers are also informed regularly about parent forums and support groups – we have a very informative website.

Information Newsletters are sent out weekly celebrating successes and diary reminders.

We have a Parent Rep per class who work to support new families to our school and who help with message sharing between home and school.

Family members are encouraged to help with reading and other aspects of school life: swimming, cooking, trips and school performances.

School Lunches

Our children enjoy the healthy school meals cooked on site (all KS1 children are entitled to universal infant free school meals).



School Lunches are provided by an externally run company - Caterlink.

Each day your child has a choice between the main meal, a vegetarian option, a jacket potato and filling or tomato pasta. A dessert, fresh fruit or yoghurt is available daily.

Fruit is provided for all KS1 pupils and many KS2 children choose to bring a fruit or vegetable snack to eat during the mid-morning break.

Milk is free for all pupils in EYFS below the age of 5. Parents of other pupils can order milk directly (information is in the Admissions Pack).

We encourage our children to drink water throughout the day - we ask all children to bring a named water bottle to school daily; water is available at all times of the day.

Further details about our school lunches can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - School Lunches

School Uniform

We encourage all of our children to wear the appropriate school uniform: it is smart, practical and gives the children a sense of pride in both their appearance and the school. It engenders a sense of belonging and is a visual reminder of our school value of fellowship. Uniform also helps eliminate any pressure which children often put on parents to be fashionable.

We can see the benefits of Active Uniform to promote independence and resilience for our younger children. For this reason, all children in Years R, 1 and 2 will have the option to wear Active Uniform. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need to wear our standard school uniform.

The Governors of the school request the support of all parents in providing the appropriate uniform outlined.

Further details about our school uniform can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - School Uniform



Extended School Opportunities

Extended Care at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School is run by an independent organisation - Safehands.

Safehands is operated by Mrs Mel Lawlee. The school works closely with Mel, and she operates under the same values and ethos as our school.

Safehands runs within the school site.

Breakfast Club opens from 7.30am.
Afterschool Club closes at 6pm.

Further details about Safehands can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Extended Care

Admissions

Subject to places being available, a child whose fifth birthday falls between September 1st and August 31st will be offered a place in one of our reception classes.

We understand that a child's transition into school can be challenging for them and we work with families to make their transition as smooth as possible. We spend time prior to your child starting with us visiting them at home and at their nursery and speaking with you to find out their likes and dislikes. We hold a detailed parent information session so that you know exactly what to expect, we invite you and your child in for stay and play sessions and we hold a teddy bears picnic so that the children can get to know us in a more informal setting.

In September, when they start at our school, your child's entry will be phased to allow for staff to meet all children's individual needs. Your child will initially attend on a part-time basis for the first week.

If you wish to apply for a place for your child part way through the academic year, please complete the "In Year Casual Admission Form" (which can be found on the KCC Primary Admissions website) and return it to the school office. Subject to a place being available, an offer will be made. If we are full in your child's year group, we can offer a waiting list and you have the right to make an appeal through KCC.

Further details about our admissions procedure can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Admissions





Attendance

School Gates Open: 8:30am School Gates Close: 8:50am End of School Day: 3:20pm
The school is open for a total of 32.5 hours per week.

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School recognises the importance of good attendance and punctuality and the negative impact of poor attendance and punctuality on a child's learning. We are therefore committed to ensuring that, as an organisation, we do everything we can to improve our pupils' attendance and punctuality.

We strongly discourage absence from school other than for genuine illness or exceptional circumstances. It is vital that children do not miss any aspects of schooling: some children in particular find it very difficult to settle back and therefore further work is missed. Family holidays will not be granted during term time. It will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and may incur a penalty notice.

If your child feels ill whilst in school, we will encourage them to remain in school unless it is clear that they need to be cared for at home.

Further details about our attendance expectations can be found on our website here:
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School - Attendance at School and Reporting Absence

Thank you for learning more about our school.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact our school office:

Tel: 01622 859261

Email: office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk