



ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

Prospectus 2022



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Headteacher's Welcome

On behalf of our staff, parents and governors, I am delighted to welcome you to Esher Church School (ECS).

At ECS our highly experienced and dedicated staff team provide a safe, happy and loving environment and have continuous drive to deliver excellent teaching in a way that inspires children to learn and explore. Our curriculum and teaching gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to be agents of change and making a difference in the world. Our academic outcomes are high and we place a strong emphasis on ensuring that all children are challenged so that they are motivated, enjoy their learning and flourish during their time here.

As a Church of England school, we place a strong emphasis on Christian Values and encourage the children to think about how to use these values to have a positive impact on their own lives and the lives of those around them. Importantly ECS is not just a faith school for Christians but a church school for all, fully inclusive of different backgrounds, faiths and abilities.

We provide a wide range of opportunities for the children to engage in practical activities as well as exciting trips, visits and cultural experiences. We actively promote children's participation and successes in sport, music and the arts through our broad and balanced curriculum and through our extensive co-curricular clubs programme.

We work in close partnership with parents and carers and keep them informed about their child's progress regularly. We have an 'open-door' policy and our teachers are happy to arrange meetings with parents and carers to discuss their child's progress, how they can further support at home and any concerns they may have. Should you wish to talk any matters over with me then you are most welcome to do so. I am never too busy to talk to a parent and always make every effort to be available and visible around school.

I hope that our prospectus provides you with a clear overview of our school, its organisation and aims. There is no substitute, though, for seeing the school in action and talking to our children. We have regular Open Events during the Autumn term and are happy to arrange personalised visits at other times.

We want your child to be happy in school, to enjoy their learning, and to grow academically, emotionally and spiritually and to be the best that they can be.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mr B. Foley, Headteacher

Esher Church School history

Our building in Milbourne Lane has been our home since 1968, although the history of the school began with the school on Esher Green. A building fund was launched in 1856 when the existing school, which was managed by the Rector of Esher and a group of helpers, proved too small to meet the needs of local children. Major contributors to the fund were King Leopold I of Belgium who lived at Claremont during his marriage to Princess Charlotte of Wales and Queen Marie Amelie, who lived at Claremont when she went into exile with her husband, King Louis Philippe, after being driven from the French throne in 1848. The fund was sufficient to allow the re-building and formal opening of the school in 1859.

Queen Victoria was a frequent visitor to Esher and became the Royal Patron of the school. The Duchess of Albany (the widow of Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold) also visited frequently and awarded prizes and gave an annual treat to the pupils. Her daughter, Princess Alice, began the tradition of presenting an annual Needlework prize, a tradition which continued at the school until 2000.

Another prize, the Petre Award, dates from 1871 when money from a bequest made by Mr Nathaniel Petre was used to buy Bibles. These were presented "to the boy or girl who, during the year, have set the best example both in and out of school". Again this tradition was followed until July 2000; since then every child leaving the school has been presented with a Bible at the leavers' assembly in July.

In 1968 the school moved to its present site as a Voluntary Aided Primary School. This later became a First and Middle School before being reorganised as a Primary School in 1993, with two new classrooms built to accommodate our younger children. Subsequently, 5 further new classrooms have been added to the 'old school' to allow the school's expansion to two form entry throughout. The school became an academy in February 2015; it retains its close links to local parishes and to the Diocese of Guildford.

As a Single Academy Trust, we continue to work closely with our local primary and secondary schools, both from the maintained and independent sectors, sharing best practice, developing our curriculum offer and taking part in joint school events, such as design technology and computing projects and inter-school sports tournaments.



Our Ethos

Our Christian Ethos is at the heart of all we do – we are a church school for all, not just a faith school for Christians. We are an inclusive community and welcome children from all backgrounds.

Our aim for every child is to enable them to achieve *'life to the full' and flourish in all that they do*. This means that we promote the development of the whole child, enabling them to be the very best that they can be academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We believe that childhood should be a happy time, and that a child's primary school years should be special; formative and transformative, so much more than a stepping stone to secondary education. It is therefore important to us that every child enjoys and gets the most out of every day that they are with us.

*"Pupils enjoy coming to school because of the caring ethos at the heart of the school's culture."
Ofsted 2019*



Our Vision

We provide exceptional educational experiences for all children, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to thrive in an ever-changing world.

To be a safe, happy, loving community where excellent teaching inspires children to learn and explore, care for each other and believe that they can make a difference.

Our Aims

- We welcome and value everyone in our school community
- We create a safe environment through being kind and respectful. We are role models to each other, celebrating efforts and achievements
- We offer an enriched curriculum that enables children to master academic skills and be ready to develop their creative, investigative and critical powers. We provide opportunities to reflect on injustice and consider ways we can be agents of change
- We encourage children to embrace challenge without fear, whilst promoting resilience
- We are committed to the wellbeing of staff, pupils and all members of our community

Our Values

We value:

- **Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills:**

Fostering confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and fully developing talents in all areas of life

- **Hope and Aspiration:**

Seeking resilience, coping wisely with things and people going wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

- **Community and Living Well Together:**

Ensuring a core focus on relationships, active participation in communities and qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

- **Dignity and Respect:**

Ensuring the basic principle of respect for the value of each person, treating each person as a unique and worthy individual.



*“Relationships and behaviour are very positive and shaped by the school’s Christian character.”
SIAMS Inspection, 2018*



Our curriculum

In education, a curriculum is broadly defined as the totality of student experiences that occur in the educational process.

At Esher Church School, we interpret this to be everything our pupils experience from the moment they walk through our school gates on their first day to their final farewell, when they move to their next educational setting. It includes but does not only comprise of their structured and sequenced lessons, assemblies, clubs, visitors, school trips, Church services and all interactions within our community. By paying careful attention to how each of these aspects contribute to our pupils' development, we are able to support our children in making and building strong links to understand the world they live in and inspire them to have high aspirations for themselves and their world both now and in the future.

There are five core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and Computing plus seven foundation subjects: history, geography, art, design and technology, modern foreign languages (Spanish), music and physical education. In addition, we have a detailed scheme of work to teach personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education across the school.

Parents and carers are given details of the curriculum to be covered at the beginning of each academic year; many of the subjects are taught in a cross curricular way, via our 'Big Enquiries'. This means that each year group begins each half term aiming to answer a question, for example, 'Is it better to eat like a Tudor or a Caveman?'. In order to establish the answer to the question they need to know the history of Tudors and cave men as well as what constitutes a healthy diet—so covering learning in both history and science. This method of teaching enables the children to make links between subjects, as well as being a highly engaging way for the children to extend their knowledge.

We place a strong emphasis on the 'cornerstone' subjects of English and Maths. We use a range of teaching strategies to suit the needs of all our children and pay particular attention to stretching our most able children by, for example, entering the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge from year 5 for our able mathematicians and arranging author visits to inspire our budding writers.

Our curriculum has been carefully crafted from Reception through to Year 6, building the children's knowledge and skills incrementally as they make their way through the school. It has also been designed to support the children in understanding how small things they can do can make a difference in the world. Opportunities such as raising money for charity, helping the local environment and supporting the community are woven in to lessons at every opportunity. We ensure that Pupil Voice is a key part of improving school, listening to the children's ideas through circle times, School Parliament and the Junior Leadership Team.

We collaborate closely with other local schools, both in the independent and state sector, to share best practice in our curriculum and teaching and learning practices. This ensures that our vision of continuously providing exceptional educational experi-



"The curriculum is a particular strength. Pupils enjoy coming to school because teachers make learning interesting and relevant....much of the learning is based around real-life experiences. Practical activities are the norm. Educational visits and trips help pupils to make sense of what they are learning about and why."

Ofsted 2019

Our curriculum is enhanced by a range of trips and visits to further inspire the children and complement the learning they undertake in school. These range from a walk to the local woods to look at the changing seasons all the way up to residential visits in Years 4, 5 and 6. These experiences help the children to put their learning into context and to experience learning in a range of settings.



Play

We believe play to be a fundamental part of learning. It is in the playground where children have the best opportunities to learn and practice the social and communication skills that are essential to a good education and making and sustaining strong relationships.

We aim to provide high quality, sustainable play opportunities for all children. These inclusive opportunities in play are achieved by offering carefully considered outdoor spaces and equipment that offer a rich choice of accessible play experiences for every child. Play has a vital role in children's health, happiness and wellbeing and it creates children who are independent, confident, imaginative, adaptable, social and able to assess risks.

Our playground consists of a Playzone, incorporating a large sandpit, pebble play and water play area, climbing zone, a forest school zone, a small world play area, and a number of sports activities. We teach the children how to respect and look after their play areas and equipment and teach them how to play with one another in a fun and safe way.



Co-curricular Learning

Opportunities continue beyond the taught school day as we run a wide range of co-curricular clubs and activities for children to enjoy. Clubs are run by teachers, outside providers and specialist coaches. Are offer includes:

- Art
- Athletics
- Chess Club
- Chinese
- Dance Club
- Dodgeball
- Drama Club
- Eco Club
- Football (Girls and Boys Clubs)
- French Club
- Gardening Club
- Gymnastics
- Hockey (Surbiton Hockey Club)
- Homework Club
- Taekwondo
- Multisports
- Netball
- Orchestra
- Phase 1/2 Choir
- Phase 3 Choir
- Running Club
- Rugby (Old Cranleighans Rugby Club)
- STEM Engineering Club
- Tennis (Esher Lawn Tennis Club)



Participating in co-curricular clubs can help to boost children's self esteem, build their confidence and support them in making new friendships and so we encourage all children to participate in this programme. Children in sports clubs are likely to represent the school in matches in local sports leagues or against other schools, and our choirs and orchestra have regular opportunities to perform both in and out of school.

The school's commitment to providing further opportunities in all areas of the curriculum, including sports, music and the arts have resulted in us achieving the **International Eco-Schools Gold Award**, **School Games Mark**, as well as the **Anti-Bullying Alliance United Against Bullying Gold Award**.

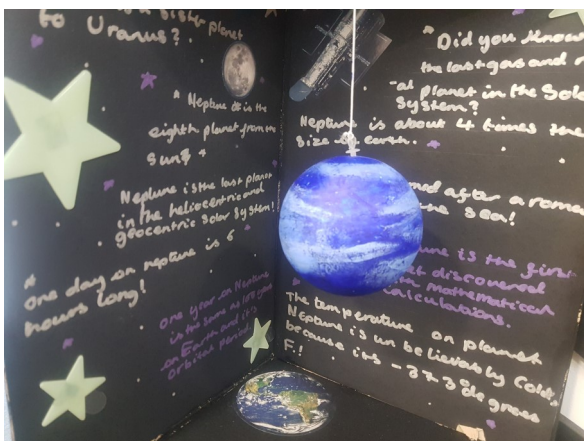
Home learning

We believe that a positive partnership between home and school is vital to support children’s learning. We never want home learning to become a chore or a battle and so have developed a policy which balances support for children’s learning whilst recognising that children and families can lead busy lives and family time is precious.

The majority of the home learning we set is reading, reading comprehension, spelling and mental maths practice as these represent core elements of children’s learning which parents can easily support with. As the children progress through the school they are set an increasing amount of written work, appropriate to their age. Should children want to do more home learning we set some open ended ‘learn and explore’ activities each half term which are optional but are designed to be fun and engage the children in different styles of learning. These could include designing a poster, researching an aspect of a Big Enquiry or even baking a cake using World War 2 rations.

We run an after school home learning club for children in Years 3 to 6 each week in order to support families who find home learning difficult for any reason. Children can attend the club every week, or just dip into it if they have a piece of work they are finding particularly tricky or are finding it hard to complete learning at home for any reason.

Our children really engage with the online tools we use for homework— including Times Table Rock Stars where the children can master their times tables skills and improve their ‘rock star status’ with more practice.



Assessment

When children enter our Reception classes, their teachers carry out a simple baseline assessment to gauge what they know and can already do so that we can build on their existing knowledge and skills effectively. From then on children’s development is continually assessed whilst they are engaging in both learning and play activities.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, assessments are made in six areas of learning: personal and social development, communication, language and literacy, mathematical development, knowledge and understanding of the world and physical and creative development.

In Years 1-6, continual assessment of children’s progress continues and teachers use this assessment to inform their subsequent teaching and learning sequences. This is known as formative assessment. More formal assessments are made termly when the children sit tests in reading comprehension, spelling and grammar and maths to check what they have learnt and understood. Teachers also assess the children’s writing through formative assessment from their English books and writing across the curriculum. The results of these assessments are shared with parents and carers each term. This gives the important opportunity to celebrate the child’s progress and to share how the parents/carers can support learning at home.

“Pupils make good or better progress across the school. This is true across the breadth of the curriculum, but particularly in reading and mathematics..”

Ofsted 2019

Pastoral Support

Excellent pastoral support is at the core of what we do at Esher Church School . As a church school, with Christian values at the heart, it is important to all our staff that our children are loved and valued and that our parents and carers feel welcomed and supported. Visitors always notice the caring, safe and friendly environment which is enhanced by children’s enthusiasm for learning in the classrooms, playgrounds and school events.

Great pastoral care starts with excellent relationships between staff and children. Teachers aim to greet each child as they come into school every day and get to know each child individually (their character traits, their likes and dislikes, their hobbies etc.) in order to build a trusting relationship.

There are times when some of our children and/or families need a little extra or more specialist support, such as through bereavement, family break ups etc. We have a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) in school who is specially trained to support children who need additional help for any reason, using a combination of play therapy, small group or individual programmes or just providing a listening ear. Our experienced leader of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion also has a wealth of outside agencies she can sign-post children and parents/carers towards for specialist support and advice. The school also organises links to parenting courses and holds coffee mornings in school for parents to seek informal advice.

Pastoral care is not something that is only provided by adults at Esher Church School. Our children are excellent at supporting one another both through organised programmes and by helping one another whenever they see a need. When children join us in Reception they are paired up with a Year 6 ‘Big Friend’ who will help them to settle in and keep an eye on them at playtime, as well as helping out in the classroom, sharing stories, using the computers or creating artwork. We also regularly train our Year 5 children as peer mentors and Playground Friends, with the skills to be able to support other children at break times and play times. During playtimes, we also have trained Year 6 Sports Leaders who lead playground games and teach the younger children some new activities and skills.

Our School Parliament lead pupil voice across the school, focusing on ensuring all children have the best educational and social experiences possible. Two members from each class are democratically voted by their class mates to be an ambassador for the class and our school. They designed and implemented our Anti-Bully Charter and achieved our **Anti-Bullying Alliance United Against Bullying Gold Award**.



Esher Church School Association (ECSA)

The ECSA are our school's Parent/Carer Teacher Association. Every parent and carer at Esher Church School is an ECSA member and they form such an important part of our school community. We have a dedicated committee who oversee the organisation of some wonderful learning and exciting events throughout the year, which not only raise funds for the school but are great fun too. Events include the **Summer Fair, the Christmas Bazaar, Quiz Night, Children's triathlon/duathlon, Esher Runs (10K and Fun Run Event), children's disco** and the **Summer Ball**.

All additional funds raised are directed back into enhancing the educational experiences of all children at ECS. We use funds raised by ECSA events to buy those extras that we may not ordinarily be able to afford from school budgets but which makes learning much more exciting and state of the art for our children. Recently the ECSA have purchased new Phonics resources and reading books across the school, class sets of Chromebooks and iPads, sports equipment, new swimming pool cover, new musical instruments, etc.

Joining the ECSA and giving up some of your time is a rewarding opportunity to enhance the community and the children's learning and social experiences.



Breakfast, After School and Holiday Club

We run a very popular 'wrap around care' service at ECS for children in Reception to Year 6. To support working parents/carers, children can be dropped at school from 7:45am and can remain on the school site in our After School Club until 6.00pm. This provides an invaluable service for working parents and carers but is also used by children who simply want to continue to socialise with their friends after school.

The Holiday Club runs during Half Terms, Easter and throughout the Summer holidays, where children have the opportunity to use the school's play facilities, take part in sports and arts and crafts activities, baking and visiting local attractions, such as the cinema and library.

Life at Esher Church School

*“Pupils thrive at Esher Church School.”
Ofsted, 2019*

Keeping our Christian ethos and values at the heart of all we do means that every child is unreservedly respected, valued and loved as a member of our community. This ethos shows too in relationships between staff and the fact that our school is such a happy place means we are able to retain excellent and experienced staff on our team.

Our curriculum is exciting and enthuses the children and supports them in becoming independent thinkers. Our children thrive on these opportunities and will frequently ask if they can organise their own fund raising activity or arrange for the school to participate in a special event (World Book Day, Neurodiversity awareness day, Anti-bullying week, etc). With a strong School Parliament and Junior Leadership Team, we always support our children in being aspirational and achieving their goals.

We have high academic outcomes and our children are very well prepared for life at secondary school after they finish Year 6. Secondary school Headteachers often comment on how wonderful it is to take children from Esher Church School as their enthusiasm for learning and polite manners set them apart. We encourage a growth mind-set in children and adults at school—we learn by making mistakes, show resilience when things become tricky and can achieve anything if we put our minds to it.

We firmly believe that learning takes place both in and beyond the classroom. Alongside academic rigour, we place importance on the wider opportunities (sports, music, the arts, etc.) we offer our children to enable them to be the best that they can be.

School Sport and Physical Education

We believe that playing sport is vital for children’s fitness as well as giving the opportunity for children to develop skills in teamwork and sportsmanship. We partner with some of the best sporting organisations to ensure our children have the best possible teaching in PE and sport. These include Surbiton Hockey Club, Old Cranleighans Rugby Club, Esher Lawn Tennis Club, England Sports Group Gymnastics and Surrey Football Association.

We have a specialist sports coach who teaches children from Reception to Year 6 in all areas of the Physical Education National Curriculum. We supplement this with specialists in their sporting field, including Playball sessions which support the younger children with their early ball and hand/eye co-ordination skills. We compete in the local schools’ (independent and state school) hockey, football and netball leagues, the district athletics and cross country competition, the swimming gala, a cycle event, a triathlon, indoor athletics, rugby tournaments. We have an excellent performance record in competitive sports and are current champions in Surbiton Hockey Club Year 3 and 4 tournament, Elmbridge Schools Cricket League Plat winners, Cranmore School Under 10 Football Champions 2022.

We are very fortunate to have our own swimming pool on site which means children in Reception to Year 6 have a weekly swimming lesson throughout the summer and the first half of the autumn term. As a heated teaching pool, it is perfect for those who are novices at swimming and those who are more advanced. Proficient swimmers in older year groups are taught life saving skills and first aid, life long learning skills they may need in later life.



Music

We encourage all our children to participate in musical activities, through specialist whole class teaching, singing assemblies, co-curricular clubs and the opportunity for children to take part in peripatetic lessons. Our infant and junior choirs regularly perform in church services, conferences, visiting care homes and have taken part in events such as Young Voices, a massed school choir event held in the O2.

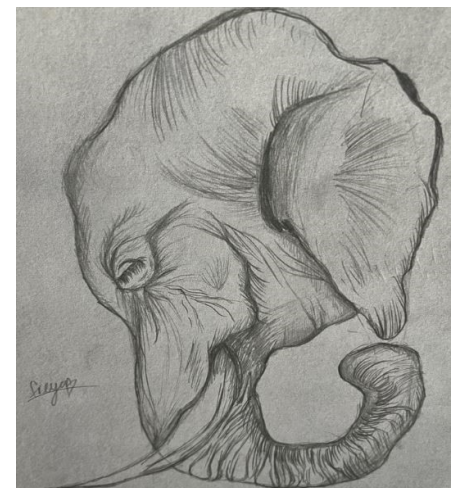
Our specialist music teacher teaches from Reception to Year 6, with focus on performing, listening to and evaluating music, both using their own voice and a range of musical instruments. All children have the opportunity to learn to play and practice a classical musical instrument taught by a specialist teacher from our strong collaboration with Surrey Arts, who also provide us with specialist teachers for further tuition.

We have a wide range of peripatetic music teachers offering brass, woodwind, violin, voice, drum, guitar and piano lessons and our instrumentalists are encouraged to join our school orchestra and to participate in our informal 'tea time concerts', held termly. At the end of each academic year we hold a performing arts showcase, 'Encore', held in the performing arts studio at Esher High School, during which our children showcase their singing, dancing and skills in playing a musical instrument.



Art

We have a specialist art teacher who works across the school developing and celebrating the children's knowledge and artistic skills in a range of mediums. We place an importance of art across the curriculum as we want to encourage the children's self expression, creativity and social awareness, whilst building confidence and a sense of individual identity. We give the children opportunities to showcase their artistic skills and published pieces on displays, special event art galleries in church and in local art studios.



End of Key Stage 2 Academic achievements 2022

Children in Year 6 take tests in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and Maths. These, alongside teacher assessments of English writing and science, provide vital information to parents about their child's attainment, support the transition to secondary schools and identify where additional support is best targeted to individuals.

Our End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results for 2022 significantly outperformed national and Surrey benchmarks and showed improvement on strong results from previous years. These results are a celebration of the strong teaching and exciting curriculum across the school, culminating in our Year 6 children being ready and prepared for secondary school and beyond.

Key Stage 2	Esher Church School 2022		National 2022	ECS v National 2022	Esher Church School 2019		National 2019		ECS v National 2019
	At and above expected standard	Greater depth	At and above expected standard	At and above expected standard	At and above expected standard	Greater depth	At and above expected standard	Greater depth	At and above expected standard
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
Reading	89%	54%	74%	+15%	77%	39%	73%	27%	+4%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	96%	63%	72%	+24%			78%	36%	
Writing	84%	22%	69%	+15%	72%	25%	78%	20%	-6%
Maths	96%	63%	71%	+25%	82%	37%	79%	37%	+3%
Science	96%		79%	+17%			83%		
Combined (Reading, Writing and Maths)	80%	22%	59%	+31%	65%	21%	63%	11%	+2%

Destination of Leavers

At the end of Year 6, our children move to a range of secondary schools in both the maintained and independent sectors. Consistently over the last few years, approximately half of our children move to independent schools for Year 7.

In 2022 our leavers' destinations were:

**City of London Freemen's
Esher High School
Hinchley Wood School
Surbiton High School**

**Claremont Fan Court
Epsom College
Reed's School
Tiffin School, Tiffin Girls' School**

**Cobham Free School
Guildford High School
Royal Grammar School
Tormead School**

Each year we hold an information meeting for parents and carers of children in Years 4 and 5 to support with making decisions about transition to secondary school. We also support parents and carers with children accessing high quality 11+ tuition and preparing them for entrance exams and interviews. We have a strong track record in our Year 6s moving to the school of their choice and continuing to flourish during Key Stage 3 and beyond.

Joining us

If you are interested in your child joining us, or if you have any further questions, please give us a call on **01372 463 139** or drop an email to **office@esherchurchschool.org.uk**.

Mr Foley, Headteacher, would be delighted to give you a personalized tour of our learning environments and give you more information about the school.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.