

GREAT EASTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2021/2022



(photo thanks to Sarah Morris photography)

Our School Vision:

We are God's children and global citizens. We will be bold enough to use our voices, brave enough to evoke change in the world and strong enough to stand up for what is right. We are valued and are part of a Christian family that grows together in faith, love and kindness.

'Let all that you do be done in love'. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Love of learning, life and living.

Associated values: Courage, Compassion, Forgiveness and Joy.



Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School
Great Easton
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 2DR

admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk
www.greateastonprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01371 870219

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for showing an interest in Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School, I hope that you will find this prospectus informative.

At Great Easton Primary School high priority is given to providing quality learning experiences so that all individuals can achieve personal excellence within a happy and secure Christian environment. The school community encourages pupils to meet the challenges of life ahead by fostering positive attitudes, acquiring knowledge and skills and promoting a life-long love for learning.

I am always pleased to show prospective parents around our school and prefer to see families individually rather than do group tours. If you would like an appointment please contact the office and I would be delighted to show you our lovely school, learn about your child and answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Claire Jackman
Headteacher

CONTENTS

Key Information

- School aims
- Safeguarding children

Who works at our School

What makes Great Easton School Special?

- The school environment
- The school in its community
- Links to secondary schools
- Admissions policy
- When do children start school?

School organisation

- Classroom organisation
- The school day
- Uniform policy
- Educational visits
- School transport / Travelling to School

How children learn at Great Easton

- The school curriculum
- National curriculum subjects
- Religious Education

Assessment

- Special Educational Needs curriculum
- Curriculum enrichment

Daily life at Great Easton School

- Arrival and departure
- Absences
- Arrangements for children who fall ill at school
- Arrangements for children taking medication
- Lunch time/ break-time arrangements
- Afterschool / lunchtime clubs
- Friendship and behaviour expectations
- Promoting a healthy school

Partnership with parents

- Home school agreement
- Helping your child at home
- The Parent/Teacher Association
- How to find out what's happening at school
- How to help your child do well at school
- What to do if you have a problem
- Charging policy

History of Great Easton School

Address: Great Easton CE (Aided) Primary School
Snow Hill
Great Easton
Great Dunmow
Essex CM6 2DR

Telephone: 01371 870219

Headteacher: Miss Claire Jackman

Chairman of Governors: Mr Jeremy Toynbee
Email: admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk
Website www.greateastonprimary.co.uk
Status of school: Primary: children aged 4 - 11
Number of pupils: 154
Number of children in each year group 20

SCHOOL AIMS

We pride ourselves on being a school where your child is nurtured in a safe, stimulating and vibrant environment. It's a place where children love learning and love life. Our understanding of each individual child is paramount to ensuring every child is confident, secure and happy in themselves. This helps them to thrive and succeed, not just in school, but for the rest of their lives. We celebrate success and work together to achieve our absolute best.

What makes Great Easton School So Special?

Great Easton School recognises the uniqueness of each of its pupils and strives to acknowledge and develop the individual talents of all of its children. We are a village school that provides a secure and happy environment where pupils are nurtured and where the contribution of each individual is highly valued. We call it our 'school family' and we work hard to maintain a happy and vibrant atmosphere where children thrive and fulfil their potential. Some of the features are listed below:

Opportunities for learning:

- A positive learning atmosphere where children develop a love of life and learning.
- An excellent staff team committed to raising attainment for all pupils and to maintaining consistently high standards.
- A friendly, Christian based ethos.
- A high number of dedicated and experienced learning support assistants and classroom helpers.
- We don't just expect achievement - we celebrate it! Musical, artistic sporting and academic success is shared and celebrated.
- Strong musical and sporting traditions.
- School productions have a role for **everyone**, not just the most confident and extrovert.
- Spacious facilities, including a library, resource room, 'the Den,' (a large classroom space for group work), 'the Cave' (a quiet, sensory area), music room, multi-purpose hall and extensive grounds which include a pond, woodland area, an early years play area, a den building area and a chicken garden -all of which enhance learning.

- A School Parliament of children elected by their peers which enables pupils to influence how the school develops and introduces them to the workings of democracy. We work closely with the DEEP schools and their parliaments. We have the shared 'global aim' of reducing how much plastic we are using.
- Children also volunteer to become 'School Improvement Ambassadors' and work with the headteacher and other leaders on driving the school forward and implementing the School Improvement Plan which impacts on learning and teaching.
- Participation in inter-school projects involving sports, maths, English, Science, history, RE, drama and music.
- A range of extra-curricular clubs and activities including French, Young Voices, cheerleading, multisports and football.
- Peer mentoring - our year 5 children are playleaders and facilitate games. All classes take part in peer reading and read with another class each week. Our year 6 'buddies' support the new reception children when they start in September and support them at playtimes and through shared reading, PE and many other ways too.

Opportunities for social development:

- High value is placed on creating well-rounded pupils who are able to communicate clearly and to form warm and caring relationships.
- Children are encouraged to become independent learners whilst developing tolerance, understanding and respect for others and for their environment.
- An active community partnership between church, family and school with much participation from the school in the life of the church and the community.
- An active and welcoming Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and "hands-on", hardworking governors.

An environment of which we are very proud:

- A peaceful rural location with plenty of outdoor space and beautiful views.
- An enclosed safe activity area for our Early Years children.
- A Den Building area designed by our children.
- A quiet area where our chickens live and are enjoyed by the children.
- An adventure play area

The School in its Community

The school is proud of the active part it plays in the community. We participate regularly in church services which include involvement in Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Christingle. The

Annual Year 6 Leavers' service also takes place in Great Easton Church. We also hold our own Remembrance service at the War Memorial each year. We are able to use the walking bus route to travel to the church, so we walk across the field to get there safely.

We welcome many visitors from the local area to the school including our Rector, parents and governors. They often come to help with activities at the school. All of our governors are drawn from the local community. We have a register of local experts who are able to enrich curricular activities at our school. We also receive visitors from further afield such as visiting artists or musicians.

We organise regular fundraising events for charity such as Comic Relief, Place2Be and Children in Need. The children research and vote on which charity they wish to support each year, this year it is the Air Ambulance.

Links to Secondary Schools

The school falls within the catchment area of Helena Romanes School in Dunmow for secondary education. The majority of our children go on there, but others regularly go on to Joyce Frankland Academy and to schools in Bishops Stortford and Saffron Walden. Parents may also enter their child for the 11+ examination for entry to the Chelmsford and Colchester Grammar Schools.

Admissions policy

When do children start school?

All children whose fifth birthday falls within the next school year (1st September - 31st August) will be admitted in the September of the year that they are five.

In order to ease the transition between home and/or nursery and playgroup and school, we invite children who are starting school the following term to visit us in the preceding term. The children have an opportunity to meet staff and they become familiar with the school routines and with what will be expected of them when they begin school. This reduces anxiety levels about a new experience and in many cases leads to eagerness to begin school immediately!

What if the school is over subscribed?

When the school is over-subscribed, the **Admissions Policy** comes into force. A copy of this is on the school's website.

School Organisation

The school has five classrooms, an extra teaching room (The Den) and a resources area for seven year groups.

The children are grouped into classes according to numbers in each year group. Therefore, as with all small schools, most classes have mixed ages.

Our staff are very experienced in planning the teaching and learning for these mixed age classes. All children are able to work at the level that meets their needs and extends their learning. This is achieved by following up whole class activities by working in small groups that are supported by the teacher and learning support assistants.

Pupils are taught for 25 hours per week. This includes the National Curriculum, (see later for details), Personal and Social Education and Religious Education. In addition to this we have

morning and afternoon registration, collective worship, break and lunch times. We recognise that these times are very important for developing, social and communication skills.

Educational Visits

Pupils learn best from first-hand experience which is why the school believes in the importance of educational visits and visiting speakers to support class topics.

Recent visits have taken place to the Natural History Museum, Braintree Islamic Centre, Neasden Hindu temple, Christmas pantomime, singing at the O2, Stansted Airport's Aerozone, Colchester Museum, Boydells Farm and the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Visitors to school include professional musicians, artists and authors and members of the local community.

Residential Trips

Older pupils have the opportunity to go on residential visits to Danbury Outdoor Educational Centre in Year 5 and the Isle of Wight in Year 6.

School Transport

Approximately 30% of children at Great Easton arrive at school by bus or taxi. The other 70% either walk or come in cars. The school has a well organised system for escorting children from the school to their bus or taxi at the end of each day.

If you require information about whether your child qualifies for public transport to school, please go on line at www.essex.gov.uk and follow links to primary travel.

How Children Learn at Great Easton

It is well known that pupils learn best in a stimulating environment where active learning can take place. They learn through first hand experience, when they are motivated and challenged and when their curiosity is engaged. Visits to places of interest or visitors invited to school therefore provide an added stimulus to learning. At Great Easton we recognise this and aim to develop an enthusiasm for learning by making it relevant, appropriate and exciting. Naturally, we cannot do this without the help of our parents. Therefore parents receive a termly curriculum share letter to explain what the class will learn and how parents can help.

Learning takes place through a variety of teaching approaches that may focus on whole school, class, group or individually based support. Pupils' effort and achievements are strongly valued and there are high expectations in all areas.

The School Curriculum

Religious Education

As a Church of England Aided school we follow the religious education guidelines in accordance with the Diocese. Through this children develop an understanding of the Christian church, as well as learning about other religions. Our aims are as follows:

- To awaken and develop each child's sense of self worth and value as " A child of God".
- To help the child value, extend, mend and live within a variety of relationships.
- To give the child a knowledge and appreciation of the rich variety of religious beliefs, practises and life-styles found in God's world today.
- To awaken, affirm and develop the child's sense of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- For each child to know that for Christians, God is specially revealed in Jesus.
- To offer the child experience of life and worship in the Church, school and community.
- To encourage children's awe, wonder and enjoyment of the created world, and their responsibility for it.

Daily Worship

The school assembles together regularly for an act of worship. We also attend Great Easton Church at least once a term for a service. The teacher leading assembly follows the themes planned for the term. The rector regularly leads an assembly at school. Birthdays are celebrated regularly during assembly.

As a Church of England School the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school is evaluated as part of a SIAMS inspection every few years. Our last inspection took place in November 2015 and the report can be found here: http://greateastonprimary.co.uk/js/plugins/filemanager/files/2015_2016/SIAMS_Report_2015.pdf

A termly Communion service is offered for the older pupils and is held at school to expand children's understanding of Christian faith.

Our school prayer

Dear Lord
 This is our school, this is our community.
 Let peace live here,
 Let friendship flourish here.
 Let learning fill our day,
 May every room be full of happiness
 and
 Love be all around.
 Love of one another,
 Love of all people
 and
 Love of life and living.
 Amen

Special Educational Needs

We encourage all our pupils to work hard, try their best and feel proud of their achievements. However, it is important to remember every pupil develops at different rates and in different ways. During their school life, some pupils will need additional support. We try to identify pupils' needs as early as possible by monitoring their happiness, progress and achievement.

For more information please see our SEND Information Report https://www.greateastonprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/142/SEND_Information_Report_2020.pdf

Daily Life at Great Easton

Arrival and departure

- The school gates are opened to pupils from 8.30 am and everyone is expected to be present by 8.50am for Registration.
- Parking at the school is extremely limited, therefore if at all possible we ask parents bringing/collecting their children by car to use the Village Hall car park and walking bus. Parking is to be avoided near the upper gate when the school buses and taxis are likely to be arriving or departing. Children who arrive by county transport are escorted to the bus/taxi after school.
- At the end of the day we ask parents to wait outside the school building in order to avoid congestion. We are careful to ensure children are collected by their parents or a known adult at the end of the day and ask that you let us know if somebody different is collecting so that we can make sure they are safe.
- Parents collecting pupils at different times of the day are requested to sign in the office diary by the security window. Please let us know if normal collection or transport arrangements change in order to avoid any confusion at the end of the day.
- During the school day (9am until 3pm) both the car park pedestrian and side access gates will be locked. Access to the school during this time will only be via the front pedestrian gate and front entrance.

Late arrivals

Whilst the school shows sympathy to unavoidable lateness, if it is persistent it will be noted in the register and followed up. After all, arriving on time is good for pupils as it helps them to develop a good routine and to avoid anxiety.

Absences

Please inform the school office by telephone or Schnappy by 9.30 am if your child is absent from school.

Arrangements for children who become ill at school

If your child becomes unwell during the school day or an emergency occurs, we will contact you.

Arrangements for children taking medication at school

We have a policy to explain how we manage administering medicines. If your child requires medicine during the school day, please speak with Mrs Thake in the office.

Lunch time arrangement

Lunchtimes start at 12.15 and finish at 1.15 each day.

- Children can have a hot school dinner or bring sandwiches from home. Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to free school meals.
- School meals are cooked on the premises and are available at a daily cost of £2.30, which can be paid weekly, or in advance half-termly or termly.
- Sample menus are available to view on the website. No food is fried. Fresh fruit and salad is available with every meal. School meals at Great Easton are very popular, with approximately 70% of children having them.

- Alternatively, pupils may bring healthy packed lunches, but please no glass bottles or cans and **nothing containing nuts** as we have children with severe nut allergies and cannot give a foolproof promise that children will not share their food with each other!
- Pupils eating both school and packed lunches sit together in the hall in mixed age groups as we believe that this is good for their social development. They are supervised by midday assistants.
- Parents are welcome to book a school lunch and come and eat with their child. Please book in advance via the link sent out in The Grapevine (school newsletter).
- Details of eligibility for free school meals are available from the school website www.greateastonprimary.co.uk

Break-time Arrangements

Children are supervised during playtimes by at least two members of staff. Snack time is separate from playtime to encourage children to enjoy a healthy snack and a drink of water. They then get to have a run around and play during break time.

The year 5 children are also trained as play leaders; this training includes the initiation of games within the playground, dealing with minor disagreements and enhancing pupil relationships and encouraging friendships. During wet weather children stay in classrooms where they are supervised and have a variety of activities to entertain them. During snowy weather and cold winter days we endeavour to take the children out, but ask that they have warm coats, gloves, hats, scarves and wellies.

Expectations for Behaviour

Our school is a community in which respect is based on consideration for others, where we encourage our children to react sensitively and appropriately to the needs of others. Our only school rule is 'Be kind...always'. Our year 5 children are trained as 'play leaders' to assist staff on duty at break and lunchtime. They are also 'buddied' up with the Reception children.

We reward and celebrate positive attitudes to work, consideration shown to others and courteous behaviour. Each week in Celebration Assembly a child from each class is nominated to be a star of the week and the staff and children give reasons as to why they are a star.

We have extremely high expectations for pupil behaviour and courtesy so discipline and disappointing behaviour is rare. However, we have policies in place involving the class teacher, parents and, if necessary, the headteacher, to solve any issues which do arise.

It is important that any change in home circumstances is shared with the school because pupils can, on occasion, display inappropriate behaviour or anxiety when under stress. It is helpful to both the child and the teacher if the latter is aware of any potential problems.

In rare cases of serious or persistent anti-social behaviour, exclusion from the school is an option. Bullying is not tolerated under any circumstances and the school has a clear policy on dealing with the matter firmly.

Promoting a Healthy School

- We were re-validated for the National Healthy Schools Status and now hold the Enhanced status. This is an award of which we are very proud. We continue to work with pupils, staff and the outside community to ensure children have a clear understanding about their health. <http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk/>

Helping your child at home

Please encourage your child to read every day at home. Also, taking a keen interest in what they have done at school that day and showing that you value how they have spent their time is likely to enhance their enjoyment of the school day.

How to find out what's happening at school

We recognise the importance of communication between home and school and would like parents to feel welcome to discuss any matters of concern to them. The best way to do this is to make an appointment with either the head or class teacher. There are also termly open consultation evenings and an annual school open evening, termly curriculum share letters, reading record books, work record books for the older children, parent workshops and forums.

In addition, we send regular updates through an app called Class Dojo and the school newsletter 'The Grapevine' which is emailed to all parents each Wednesday, keeping them informed about the progress of the school throughout the term.

We are always happy to hear from our parents, not just where they have issues of concern but also where they believe that there is reason for commendation and celebration!

Parents can go online to visit our website at www.greateastonprimary.co.uk

How to Help Your Child do Well at School

Praise them and be proud of their achievements

Praise is a far greater motivator than criticism. Listen to their stories about their day, walk beside them when you collect them (and not in front of them on your phone).

Support the PTA

The PTA raises valuable funds for the school and is always on the lookout for new members, please let us know if you would like to get involved.

Reading regularly

Little and often is best. Reading is important and if you value reading time, so will they.

Support your child with their learning at home - we call it **SMART learning** - please see separate document

<https://www.greateastonprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/142/SMART-Learning-policy-June-2021.pdf>

We send the children's books home every week for you to have a look at. This way you are able to keep up to date with their school work. We would encourage you to write comments in their books - the children really welcome your feedback too!

What to do if you have a problem

However well a school is working, there is always room for improvement and there may be times when you will want to raise a concern or complaint. At Great Easton School, we hope that problems can be dealt with informally and quickly, should they arise. Often a quick word with your child's class teacher can sort out any misunderstanding.

We also have a clear complaints procedure which is available as part of our complaints policy, which is held in the school office.

Musical Instrument Tuition

Individual music lessons are available if requested by parents. These are provided by peripatetic teachers from Essex Music Services or private tutors. There is a charge which includes the cost of tuition only. Parents are responsible for providing sheet music and hire or purchase of musical instrument and necessary insurance. Music lessons and payment is arranged directly with Essex Music Services or the individual teacher. If you are entitled to free school meals you can obtain a voucher towards the cost of tuition provided through Essex Music Services.

Swimming

The school provides swimming lessons in accordance with the national curriculum but we do request a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the hire of the pool, instructor and transport to the pool. This is currently £15 for 10 lessons. The key stage two classes and Year 2 all swim for one term each - any children finding swimming challenging are encouraged to swim for the next term until they are more confident swimmers.

And finally...a brief history of Great Easton School

Great Easton Church of England Primary School was founded in 1759 when Mrs Rebecca Meade, the daughter of a London merchant, bequeathed a sum of money which enabled a school to be established in the parish for 24 girls.

A trust fund was set up to provide instruction in reading, religious education and practical skills such as knitting. When they left school, the girls were given clothing to equip them for domestic service. In 1840 a new school was built by the Rebecca Meade trustees near to where Great Easton Village Hall now stands.

On 1st February 1882 the building which still stands was erected on land donated by the Earl and Countess of Warwick (the Maynard family, from which the Countess came, having owned the land since Elizabethan times). The Countess of Warwick in particular was already well-known for her work in the field of educational reform and gave money to improve learning opportunities for all. She is known to have visited the school many times and, with the consent of the Maynard family, the stag which was part of the Maynard crest now stands at the centre of the Great Easton school logo.

The school built in 1882 was initially designed to serve the parishes of Great Easton and Tilty. The first log book described the new buildings as "handsome and commodious and an asset to the neighbourhood".

Little Easton Church of England school was closed in 1958, to be followed by Broxted CE school in 1963. Pupils from both schools, together with those from Molehill Green CE school joined Great Easton school. The original school building was extended in 1975 and a new heating system installed.

When the Rebecca Meade Trust was set up, the Rector of Great Easton became a trustee and so began the school's long association with the church.

The Church of England was a pioneer in the field of education and founded a substantial number of the nation's schools. This school is a Church Foundation, grant-aided by the Department of Education and Employment and maintained by the Local Education Authority. The Rebecca Mead Foundation, still administered by trustees, has responsibility for improvements to and for the upkeep of the exterior of the building.

Finally, I am very proud of our children but I truly believe we do more than educate, we work hard to inspire our children so they develop 'a love of learning and a love of life within a Christian environment'. We have an obligation to give all the children in our care the very best education and childhood we can! We look forward to working with your family. Please pop in to see us or email Sharon, in the office, with any questions or queries as we are always here to help!

Claire Jackman (Headteacher).