



Together we Love, we Aim High and we Celebrate!

Prospectus



Main Street
Chilthorne Domer
Yeovil
Somerset BA22 8RD
Headteacher: Mrs Nichola Chesterton

TEL & FAX.: 01935 840407
E-MAIL: office@cdcs.uk

Headteacher's welcome

A very warm welcome to Chilthorne Domer Church School! Our school is a happy and busy place where children are encouraged to develop academically, socially and emotionally. Our aim is to provide a safe place that is well ordered and caring. We want everyone's contribution to be valued and for all members of our school community to have opportunities which allow them to develop their full potential. Our school aims to enable children to become confident, enthusiastic and independent learners who are engaged positively in their own learning.

We are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets the needs of all our children and to which they have equal access; we strive to provide the highest possible educational standards.

We hope you find this prospectus helpful, please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any more information. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Mrs Nichola Chesterton
Headteacher

School aims

- * To provide a welcoming and compassionate community in which all are equally valued for who they are, developing in children a love of learning and a desire to continue to expand their knowledge and skills throughout their lives.
- * To encourage the experience of Christian life and participation in worship. We have close links with the Parish Church and children regularly worship in the church. Provide an atmosphere where diversity is celebrated.
- * To encourage children to have a sense of belonging and responsibility towards others in our school community, the local community and the wider world. For all children to feel protected and safe.
- * To provide a creative and well planned curriculum which enables all children to achieve the highest standard of work and learning of which he/she is capable and at the same time develop lively and enquiring minds. We want our children to be inspired by the quality of teaching and we encourage our children to have high expectations of their learning and achievement and to become imaginative, creative young people who can ask questions, make links and solve problems.
- * To help children to understand the importance of good health and a healthy lifestyle and to ensure they know how to stay safe.
- * To work together with parents forging strong home school partnerships.
- * To create a stimulating environment in and around the school, in order to promote aesthetic and spiritual awareness.
- * To allow children the space to play imaginatively and cooperatively, developing independence and resilience.
- * The school's policy of inclusive education applies equally to all adults and children who work here regardless of gender, religion, race, background, specific difficulty or physical ability.

The following information will give you an overview of the day to day running of our school.

This prospectus offers a 'taste of Chilthorne', we believe you will understand us better by visiting, so please do feel free to come along and share part of the day with us. Visits can be arranged through the school office. Please do not hesitate to ask, if you require further information.

Starting School

Starting school is an important step in the learning journey for all children. We therefore have a carefully planned induction following the confirmation of a place for your child at this school. We are very proud of the partnership which begins at this early stage between school and home.

- The local authority confirms school places directly with you. This will be followed by an evening meeting for parents at Chilthorne Domer Church School to explain the process and answer questions.
- From June to July we invite children into school for taster sessions. We find that these sessions make the transition into school life easier and help the children to familiarise themselves with the school environment.

Fun outside the classroom

We offer a wide range of opportunities and activities linked to our curriculum within the school day. We also pride ourselves on the many different clubs run after school by staff, parents and outside coaches. These cover a wide range of activities including choir, football, netball, cross-country, cookery, construction club and many more. We also offer instrumental tuition on a group or individual basis during the school day should you wish for your child to have this opportunity. There is a cost for this service.

The School Day

8.45am	The gates open and children go to their classrooms for their morning tasks
9.00am	Registration closes
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Lunch
3.30pm	School ends

The school office is manned from 8.30am – 3.30pm.

Breakfast Club and Forest Club after school care

A breakfast club is available from 7.45am until the start of school. The supervisors are employed by the school and are also part of the teaching support team. After school we provide child care from 3.30 until 5pm, in a safe and familiar environment. There is a cost for both of these services.



Website and social media

Please refer to our website for a range of information about Chilthorne Domer Church School: www.chilthornedomerchurchschool.co.uk

You can also visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChilthorneDomerChurchSchool/>

Safeguarding Children Statement

Chilthorne Domer Church School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Staff: Our recruitment and selection processes are rigorous and comply with the County Council's guidance. All Staff are cleared by DBS with volunteers cleared as applicable. All staff receive training and are aware of safeguarding and child protection issues and responsibilities.

Children: We listen to our children and take seriously what they tell us. On rare occasions concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you. Children feel they are in a safe place and that their concerns will be listened to.

Our curriculum

Foundation stage

Our Foundation stage provides a really good start to school life. The curriculum is play based which helps children develop the skills they need to become effective learners.

Learning opportunities are developed through:

- Play which is structured at times, to enable new skills to develop.
- Children's' interests noted by staff and suggestions from parents.
- Allowing children to make their own decisions and choices.
- Providing a range of stimulating resources that children are encouraged to explore freely and through direction from staff.
- Incorporating drama and role-play into sessions.
- Enquiry and exploration.
- Catering for different learning styles and needs.
- Offering very high quality pastoral care so that children feel confident, valued and secure.

Phonics and Reading

Children learn through a daily differentiated 4-part phonics lesson, following the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme within a 6 phase progression structure. Each phonics session provides a multi-sensory teaching approach. This benefits all types of learners (auditory, visual, kinaesthetic) by using resources such as interactive white boards magnetic letters, wipe boards, puppets etc. In Key Stage 1 we focus on two fundamental areas in reading; decoding (the skill of reading words) and comprehension (understanding what is happening in the text).

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 builds on the learning that has taken place in the Foundation Stage. The curriculum provides opportunities to meet a range of learning styles. We encourage children to grow in confidence, become more articulate and interact socially with other adults and children.

Key Stage 2

Enriching experiences allow the children to enjoy school and enhance their learning through an exciting variety of opportunities. Children are encouraged to be independent, experience all that our school has to offer and aim high in both life and academic skills. We strive to ensure our children are well rounded, confident and happy, in preparation for life's challenges and opportunities.

The National Curriculum is used to guide and support teaching and learning at the school. Careful planning ensures that these subjects are matched with the age, ability and experience of each child. Computing is used throughout the curriculum, both as a teaching resource and as a tool for recording, collecting and

sorting information. We provide children with a variety of resources to help them learn including iPads, chrome books, laptops and interactive whiteboards.

Physical curriculum

As a school, along with our teaching of sport and PE, including yoga, we offer a strong array of extra-curricular clubs and tournaments that cover the range of ages in the school. We are particularly proud that every child in Key Stage 2 is encouraged to join a sporting club, take part in intra house events or is invited to represent Chilthorne Damer Church School at a local sporting tournament.

We provide a broad range of sporting activities including lunch and after school clubs, school sports teams and dance and drama groups and are very fortunate to have a specialist sports coach who supports the delivery of high quality lessons.

From Year 2, children attend swimming sessions at Goldenstones Leisure Centre. During the sessions children will receive coaching from school staff and qualified tutors with the expectation that all children will be able to swim 25m by the end of Year 6.

Class teacher input via targeted classroom teaching also known as Quality First Teaching

For your child this would mean:

- That the teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class.
- That all teaching is based on building on what your child already knows, can do and can understand.
- Different ways of teaching are in place so that your child is fully involved in learning in class. This may involve practical or visual methods of learning.
- Specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENCo or outside professionals) are in place to support your child to learn.
- Additional or specific resources to support individual needs are used as recommended by the SENCo or outside professional.

Specific group work within a smaller group of children

This group, often called an intervention group, may be

- Run in the classroom or outside.
- Run by a teacher or a teaching assistant.

****Please note that not all intervention groups are to support pupils with SEND. For some pupils more specific, target led, small group or individual work will be needed to support their progress in school. This may involve working with a teacher, teaching assistant or other professional for example a speech therapist. This additional support may take place in or out of the classroom depending on the needs of all pupils. If your child has a statement or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) or has specific needs which require specialist intervention their provision will be planned and reviewed through a Person Centred Review meeting held annually. This meeting will be centred around your child and the outcomes for their provision and progress. It will be an opportunity to share your child's successes, likes and dislikes as well as their progress in school and an opportunity to plan for the future. The annual meeting may be attended by you, school staff and any other professionals working with your child (these meetings can be held at more regular intervals if needed).**

The wider curriculum

There are many different opportunities available to our children throughout the school year. Classes regularly have themed days in school which link to our learning and teachers will aim to get their children out on visits 3 times in an academic year. We also take part in whole school days such as World Book Day.

Residential trips

Children in Year 4 take part in a 2 night residential where they will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities such as riding the zip wire and climbing wall. This can be a real adventure for the children which increases their confidence and helps them gain a tremendous amount of personal

achievement. Year 5 and 6 children going further afield for a 2 night stay in London and have the opportunity to see a show in the West End and visit places of significance like St Paul's Cathedral. The residential is an annual trip and the London trip happen bi-annually.

After School Clubs

We have a dedicated staff team, most of whom will run a lunch time or after school club. We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities and they are well utilised by children within our school. In the past we have offered clubs such as: netball, football, rugby, cross-country, cookery, reading, construction, STEAM and dance.

Homework

Homework is provided to all children. Starting in Foundation with daily reading at home through to Year 6 where children will receive a more formalised homework timetable to support their learning in school. Parental support with homework is very much appreciated as are the amazing models that often arrive after a topic homework.

Pupil Premium

We aim to ensure that all pupils in receipt of additional pupil premium funding benefit from assistance that is carefully tailored to their needs. Skilled teachers and Teaching Assistants provide personalised help so that pupils make the progress possible to them. The day-to-day progress of each individual pupil is regularly checked and adjustments to teaching are made as required. The rate of progress of these pupils is at least similar to others in our school and in some cases it has been better.

Attendance

If children are to receive a full and accessible education it is vital that children attend school each day and on time, this is a legal requirement. Children are not permitted to take leave during term time for any reason other than genuine illness or in very exceptional circumstances.

Please ensure you read our attendance policy thoroughly. At Chilthorne Domer Church School we have very strict attendance protocols and procedures for persistent absenteeism which, if not followed, can and will result in financial penalties for parents. Please read our [Attendance Policy on our website](#) or from the school office.

Assessment and Reports

Informal assessment of children is on-going. Formal assessments are made at the end of each academic year. Annual reports inform you of your child's progress in all National Curriculum areas and give the end of Key Stage results. You will also have tables to compare your child's performance with national achievement. The purpose of assessment is to monitor progress, diagnose weaknesses and give staff an indicator for a pupil's future work.

Throughout the year, there are occasions when you will be invited to see the work of your child and the school as a whole e.g. Parents evenings twice a year, sharing assemblies, sports day, drama/music productions and events run by the P.T.A.

Pupils with medical needs

If your child has a medical condition you will be invited to meet with the SENDCo before your child starts school and thereafter at regular intervals to write a medical healthcare plan. This plan will ensure all staff in school are aware of your child's medical needs and how to support your child to manage their condition. Staff working directly with your child will be trained appropriately before your child starts, alternatively there may be a period when you are required to support your child with their medical needs whilst staff training is arranged.

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Our aim is to meet the educational needs of every child. For some children this means they need extra help or have specific medical, physical or learning needs. We have an excellent SENCO who provides appropriate support for these children.

School Uniform

The Governors and staff expect all pupils to wear Chilthorne Domer Church School uniform. Full uniform information can be found in our 'Information for Parents' leaflet which is provided to parents when offered a place at Chilthorne Domer Church School and is also available on our website.

School meals

All Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal each day and our hot school meals are provided by an external caterer who can also cater for specific dietary requirements. Key stage 2 meals can be booked for a cost.

Admissions Foundation Stage: before your child starts school.

Each new year group has a planned admission number (PAN). Admissions for Foundation intake are set and allocated by the County Council Admissions department, please visit the Somerset County Council's website where you will find their admission criteria.

The school will hold a number of new parent visits during the autumn term prior to the application end date. Dates will be published on our website.

During the summer term, prior to your child starting school, the Local Authority will provide the school with the names of the children who have been offered a provisional place. Once this is received we will invite you to visit the school with your child. It is during this visit that your child will meet their teacher for a play session and you will have the opportunity to talk to the teacher about your child and any particular needs. Your child will then be invited to further play sessions with out as part of our transition process.

We will also hold a new parent's information evening when you will have the opportunity to view the school uniform and meet with staff who will be involved in your child's education.

In Year Admissions

We are an oversubscribed school and most of our year groups are full. If you would like your child to join Chilthorne Domer Church School during the school year, please contact the school for an application form. If there are spaces children will be admitted in accordance with the Somerset County Councils Admissions Policy.

PTFA

Our school benefits enormously from the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. The PTFA are actively involved in all aspects of school life and do a magnificent job in raising funds for the benefit of our children. All parents are members and we are always looking for new committee members! Further details are available from the school office.

School Governors

Members of our Governing Board come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Typically, they are representatives of the local church and community, parents/carers and staff who bring a range of interests, knowledge and skills. Governors meet regularly to set and implement the strategic direction of the school.