

# PARRETT AND AXE

# CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED

# PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Prospectus

### Welcome

Welcome to our school and we hope your association with us will be happy and productive. We do our utmost to ensure all children feel happy, safe and fulfil their educational development whilst here at Parrett & Axe School.

The purpose of the prospectus is to provide a brief outline of Parrett & Axe Church of England, Voluntary Aided School. In it you will find information about our aims, our organisation and curriculum, our school uniform and what to do if you, or your child, have any problems or queries.

The "Moving on to School" provides additional advice for parents of children starting our school in the Foundation Stage.

We hope that you will find all of this material helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or to arrange a visit.

Simon Smith

Headteacher

## One Education Many Opportunities

As a Church of England School, we walk in the footsteps of Jesus with love, trust and forgiveness. The footsteps we take as part of that school journey are important for now but vital for later in life. We firmly believe in “one education, many opportunities” because every minute counts. From our children’s first moments with us in Reception, as they learn how to be a great learner, to their final days in Year 6, as they ready themselves for the next step in their education, all that we do at Parrett and Axe focuses on every child becoming the best that they can be; to truly fulfil their every potential. Well-being, happiness, success and collaboration are the cornerstones of excellence in learning and our core purpose.

The aim for our school is to be a place where:

- the Christian faith is at the centre of everything and will encompass all aspects of school life.
- all people are equally valued, where everyone is kind, considerate and caring.
- children are happy to come to school to learn and reach their full potential.
- children and adults work together in mutual respect.
- children respect their own and others’ property.
- children are encouraged to have pride in themselves, their work, their school and their local community.
- children are encouraged to establish links with the wider community.
- good relations between home and school are encouraged and appreciated.

## The Church School

As a Church school, the teachings of Christ are the basis of our school teaching. In addition, we recognise the requirements of the 1996 Act and the value of learning about other religions.

The format and arrangements for daily Collective Worship are varied. In addition to prayers, hymns and Bible readings, our Worships include music, poetry and contributions from our children and members of the Beaminster Team Ministry. The whole school meets together three times a week, and on other days Key Stages 1 and 2 hold their worships in separate groups.

Celebration Worship is held every Friday afternoon at 2.40 pm and all parents are always very welcome. We will notify you if your child is receiving one of our weekly awards so that you can share in their success.

Under the provisions of the Education Reform Act, 1988, all parents have a right to withdraw their child (under supervision) from the school’s daily Collective Worship, or from religious education. Any parent wishing to withdraw a child from these elements of the curriculum should make a written request through the Headteacher.

## Our School and its surrounding area

The three villages of Mosterton, South Perrott and Chedington lie in the north-westerly corner of Dorset, on the Somerset boundary. The County Town of Dorchester is about half an hour’s drive away, Beaminster is three miles to the South and the coast is a further six miles. The nearest mainline railway station is two miles away at Crewkerne.

Mosterton is a thriving village with a population of about 620. It is set in lovely undulating countryside. It has a village store, a church, an inn and a village hall.

South Perrott is a pretty village with many listed buildings. It lies in the valley of the River Parrett, along which runs the Parrett Trail, and has a population of approximately 220. The village has a village hall, an inn and a church.

Chedington is an old estate village perched on a hillside with a population of approximately 130. The village has a village hall and an inn. Both the Parrett and Axe Rivers, after which the school is named, have their sources in this village.

All three villages are thriving communities and very supportive of all the school's activities.

Many of our children also come from outside this catchment area.

A school bus, provided by Dorset Council, serves the villages of South Perrott and Chedington. Further details are available from Dorset Council.

## The school is divided into five classes

**Corfe** Foundation Stage and Year 1

**Chesil** Year 1 and 2

**Kimmeridge** Year 3 and 4

**Durdle Door** Year 4 and 5

**Lulworth** Year 6

## Class Organisation

One of the challenges of having mixed aged classes at Parrett and Axe is that year group numbers change every year. This means the criteria for allocating children to a class may change annually.

When we assign year groups, we will look at the following:

- Numbers in each year group
- Capacity of classroom
- Assessment information

Using this information, we are confident that we will put children in classes that will ensure they make good progress.

We will ensure that parents will be informed of their child's class for the following year by the end of June. A meeting will be held for all parents where the head teacher will inform parents of the criteria used. A letter will be sent out confirming class allocation the day after the meeting.

## Houses

At Parrett and Axe our children are put into 4 houses that reflect our aims and Christian Values. These are, Courage, Respect, Equality and Kindness.

Children are awarded house points for a variety of reasons and the results are announced in our Celebration Assembly every Friday.

## Our School Day

Children spend the majority of the school day with their class teachers. All classes receive additional support.

The school roll for the educational year 22/23 will be approximately 137

<b>Our School Day</b>	
Morning session	08.30 – 8.40 gates open 8.40 – 12:00 including registration and morning play: 10.15-10.30 for KS2 and 10.30 to 10.45 for EYFS and KS2
Lunch	12.00-13.00
Afternoon Session	13:00-15:00 including registration

At the end of the day all children in Corfe and Chesil must be collected from their classroom by a known adult.

## Starting School

All September entrants are invited to an open session at the school in October of the preceding year. Visits are also made to local preschool settings by members of staff.

We invite all parents and children into school on a regular basis throughout the second half of the Summer Term, which provides opportunities for them to become familiar with their new learning environment. This has become a vital part of the natural progression from preschool, now on site, and helps to ease the children into school.

All schools are now required to admit all children to full-time education from the September after their fourth birthday. Parents have the right to request that their child attends only part-time, for any period up until they reach statutory school age.

The detailed Admissions Policy is available on the school website.

<https://www.mosterton.dorset.sch.uk/information/admissions/>

## The Curriculum

We aim to create a positive, interesting and stimulating environment in which children can develop and mature to achieve their full potential. Alongside the fostering of good relationships, we strive to encourage the development of a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and creative, independent thinking.

In broad terms, our curriculum is intended to encourage the development of children intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and morally, and to provide children with the basic skills they need for life and work.

## Curriculum Areas

The curriculum to which each child is entitled has been laid down in the National Curriculum Statutory Orders. This provides a framework which ensures the academic development of the children as they move through the school. The legal requirements under the National Curriculum are for the following subjects:

<b>Core Subjects</b>	<b>Foundation Subjects</b>		
English Maths Science	Computing/IT Art and Design Languages	Music PE Geography History	PSHE Design and Technology

The children progress through the National Curriculum at their own rate, and this is carefully checked by the class teacher to monitor attainment, diagnose weakness and to give staff guidance for a child's future work. The progress is also monitored by teacher assessment at age 7 and national assessments at 11. The School will communicate these results to parents in the children's reports. It is important to note that the requirements of the National Curriculum apply only to children who are in Year 1 and above. Children in Foundation stage will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS).

All schools must also provide Religious Education for their pupils.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

The emphasis on the teaching of Foundation Stage children will be to prepare them for their later years in school. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum follows on from their preschool experience and covers these five areas of learning:

- Listening, Attention and Understanding.
- Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills.
- Self-Regulation, Managing Self and Building Relationships
- Number and Numerical Patterns
- Understanding the world

## Parents

In the Autumn and Spring Terms, parents are invited to school to meet their child's teacher and to discuss work and general progress. In the Summer Term, parents will receive a written report on their child's progress with an opportunity for discussion.

We invite you to contact the class teacher if either you or your child has any concerns. Should the teacher, at any point, be concerned about your child's educational or social development, we will contact you. It is normally best to make an appointment rather than call on the off-chance. Your visits need not be confined to times of concern; if, for example, children have produced work of which they are especially proud, please feel welcome to come in and share it with them.

The partnership between home and school in your child's education is vital, and there is no doubt that when a good relationship prevails, progress is more successful.

We encourage and value parental involvement in school. Parents can help in a variety of activities inside and outside of the classroom, for example listening to children read, art, sporting activities, music, cookery and gardening. We are always looking for extra support so please get in touch if you would like to play a part in some way.

## PTFA

We have a very active Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association and as a parent you are automatically a member and always welcome at all PTFA events and meetings. There is a noticeboard in the school entrance hall which gives details of these. Through a programme of social and fundraising activities, the PTFA supplements the school's finances, usually supporting specific projects. Some recent examples have been, whole school mathematics schemes, iPads, a new play area, various sporting activities and whole school pantomime visits.

We hope that all new parents will actively support our PTFA as this further strengthens the important link between home and school.

## Links

Parrett & Axe has close links with Mosterton Pre-School and other Pre-Schools in the area. We are proud to be a member of the Beaminster Pyramid and also of West Dorset Schools' Collaboration.

Our Pyramid partners are Beaminster St Marys, Greenford Maiden Newton, Salway Ash, Sticklands Evershot, Broadwindsor and Beaminster Secondary School.

Our additional partners in the Collaboration are: Thorners, Litton Cheney, Symondsbury, Powerstock and Charmouth.

These links give our children and adults the chance to work with children from other schools and offer them opportunities which we could not provide as one small school. The range covered includes residential journeys, sporting activities and cultural pursuits.

## Governors

The Governing Body has a wide range of responsibilities within the school. Governors are appointed for a four-year term of office and meet on a regular basis to discuss and advise on the management of the school. The work of the governors is divided into sub-committees with responsibility for finance and personnel, premises, pay and curriculum.

The governors are elected by parents, staff or appointed by the Diocese of Salisbury and the Dorset Local Authority. They represent those who have an interest in the management of our school and the education of our children. A list of current Governors is on the school website and photographs are in the school entrance hall.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office.

## Visitors and Visits

During the year we invite people from the local community to share their expertise with us.

Children also have the opportunity to take part in excursions during the year and make regular local visits. All these outings and visitors are seen as an extension and enhancement of the work that

takes place in the classroom, and involve both preparation and follow-up sessions. We may join with other schools from the Beaminster Pyramid or West Dorset Collaboration for these activities.

## Health and Safety

We occasionally have children with health problems, or on a course of medicine, that we should know about. If your child has an illness, a disability, or a domestic problem which could affect their progress, please inform the class teacher. If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will make every effort to contact you. It is very important that we have up to date home/work telephone numbers, or other contact numbers. Until we have contacted you, we will take any action required in the interest of your child.

We have qualified First Aiders on the staff, and in the unlikely event of an accident, appropriate first aid will be given. These designated First Aiders will, whenever possible, also administer any medicines which must be taken during the school day. Instructions must be given on the appropriate form. In the case of a more serious accident, we will contact you as soon as possible.

## Absence

We are very aware of the need to ensure your child's safety and we would particularly ask that you telephone in the morning if your child will be absent from school, or late coming in, where we have not been previously notified. This will avoid children being recorded as having an unauthorised absence.

If they have medical or dental appointments during the school day, please inform us beforehand of your arrangements. You must ensure that your child's collection and return is reported at the front office.

If you wish your child to miss PE due to illness a letter will be required.

If your child is ill, please ensure that they are completely recovered before sending them back to school.

## Food and Drink

We are part of the national scheme which gives all of our children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 a free school lunch and a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day. Healthy playtime snacks are an important part of our commitment to the Healthy Schools Award Scheme.

School milk for break-time can be ordered from <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

- Local Food Links are our hot school meal provider. To find out about the meals they provide, please visit <https://www.localfoodlinks.org.uk/> We will provide activation codes which you need to register on the ordering system.
- Meals can be ordered, changed or cancelled 7 days in advance.
- Meals for Key Stage 2 children are very reasonable at £2.40 each.
- Some of our children bring packed lunches to school with drinks in a carton or unbreakable flask. Parents are strongly encouraged to provide a healthy packed lunch. Water is available at all times but children must bring their own water bottle.

## Pupil Premium

Some children may be entitled to receive financial support from the Government which is paid to the school to support their education. Parents who believe they are entitled to this should contact the school office.

## School Uniform

Red School cardigan/V neck sweater/sweatshirt  
White shirt with school tie (purchased from the office) (White shirts and school ties are optional for EYFS and KS1)  
Grey/black skirt/trousers  
Red and white checked summer dress  
Sensible footwear (not trainers)  
White/grey/black socks or tights

### Optional Extras

School coats School caps and woollen hats with logo  
Red School fleece with logo  
Red School book bag with logo

The school believes that the wearing of school uniform promotes equality and the positive image of the school which helps build pupils' self-esteem. Parents are expected to send their children to school in uniform. Please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly marked with your child's name. Children should not wear jewellery but ear studs are permitted.

All items of uniform can be purchased from <https://myclothing.com> . The P.T.F.A also organise a very well supported second-hand uniform service. Please contact the office for more information.

## PE Kit

The correct PE kit is equally important in that it provides the appropriate clothing for specific activities. Again, please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly marked with your child's name

Red school tee shirt, white/black shorts, plimsolls/trainers

Football boots, shin pads and football socks where appropriate.

Tracksuits are optional for games in cold weather

## Spiritual and Moral Development

We believe that the children's general happiness and welfare at school plays a crucial role in their educational development. We wish our school to play a part in developing caring attitudes, thoughtfulness, respect and understanding for others. Our aim is to provide a safe, caring and well-ordered school, where children become self-disciplined in both their work and behaviour.

## ELSA

As well as valuing your child's education at Parrett & Axe we also value their welfare, as we recognise that children learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are met.

At some time in our lives we all experience difficulties and unfortunately children are not immune to the same problems that adults encounter.

At Parrett & Axe we recognise the need to support your child through these difficult periods. There is an Emotional Literacy Support member of staff who provides emotional support and a reflective space where children are able to share honestly, their thoughts and feelings when needed.

## The National Curriculum

The New National Curriculum, first introduced in September 2015, requires that all children are taught Literacy, Mathematics and Science as core subjects. There are also programmes of study for

Art and Design, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Computing, Music, French, PSHE and Physical Education, which includes swimming and PSHE. All schools must also provide Religious Education for their pupils and as a school.

The children progress through the National Curriculum at their own rate, and this is carefully checked by the class teacher to monitor attainment, diagnose weakness and to give staff guidance for a child's future work. The progress is also monitored by teacher assessment at age 7 and national assessments at 11. The School will communicate these results to parents in the children's reports. Children in Foundation stage will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS).

## Equality

Parrett and Axe School will ensure that Equality issues are at the heart of everything we do, taking into account the Nine Protected Characteristics of: disability, race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and religion or belief.

We will work together towards eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act. We are committed to providing equality for all our staff, children and their families and to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Our Equality objectives can be found in the policy section of our school website. In accordance with our Equality Policy all children, regardless of their ethnicity, gender and religion, are entitled to the widest possible educational experience.

## Inclusion

It is our policy to provide pupils who have special educational needs, of whatever kind, with support tailored to their individual needs, so that they are able to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including the National Curriculum.

The teachers design the learning activities in a variety of ways that are suitable for the whole range of our pupils, including those who demonstrate particular skills and abilities. However, from time to time, some children will experience difficulties in school. These may be minor and temporary, or occasionally more severe and long lasting which we will endeavour to address.

The school believes that in-class support is the most effective way of enabling children with difficulties to gain access to the curriculum. However, some children may need considerable support in basic skills to ensure their participation in the curriculum and this may be better provided in individual or small group withdrawal sessions

## Sport

We are very fortunate to have links with Bridport Rugby Club, Footie 4 Dorset, Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre, Premier Sport, Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club. Crewkerne Rugby Beaminster under 12 Football, Beaminster Cricket Club, Bournemouth AFCB, Spirit Acrobatic Gymnastic Academy, Crewkerne Trampolining club, Lyric School of Dance, Studio Dorset (dance), Misterton Tennis Club and Simply Soccer who provide us with curriculum and extra-curricular sessions. We are proud holders of the Sainsbury's Platinum School games award.

KS2 children have the opportunity to take swimming lessons at Crewkerne Aqua Centre and take part in swimming events at Bridport Leisure Centre. The school enters teams in tournaments and festivals including netball, tag rugby, athletics, multi-skills, cricket, hockey, football, cross-country,

tennis, gymnastics, dance, golf and swimming and we have after school clubs which include a number of sports depending on the season. We have been successful recently in many different events which you can view on the School Website's [Sporting Events page](#).

## The Arts

Parrett and Axe is a member of the Dorset Music Service and has been awarded the Music Mark for our commitment to raising the standards and profile of music in education. Our Year 4 children are involved in the national Musicianship programme which provides them with free instrument hire and tuition. We currently offer instrumental tuition for the keyboard and piano and are looking to expand our instrumental tuition opportunities in the near future.

Our Lulworth teacher, Mr Harris, jointly organises the annual Beaminster Choral Concert alongside the Head of Music at Beaminster School. Pupils are given curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to perform throughout the year and in every year group.

## Homework

All children are encouraged to take a reading book home each evening and we ask that parents listen to or read to their children and record and comment in the child's reading Diary. Parents' encouragement and support is then essential to help competent readers to keep reading.

They may be given weekly spelling or times table lists to learn, and support in this would be both helpful and appreciated. The POWer Project approach for homework has now been adopted throughout the school. This has been designed to give your child maximum creativity and enables them to choose a range of activities to complete. We hope this will allow them the freedom to use their creativity and imagination! The POWer Projects will last for a half term, giving children sufficient time to complete them to their very best.

Details of spellings and homework can be found on the Class pages of the school website.

## School Council

The thriving School Council enables our children to develop as individuals who can make a positive contribution to our school community. The School Council gives pupils the chance to experience active citizenship, opening their minds to the role they can play in the wider community. They democratically elect their own officers from each year group who liaise with key members of the school staff. Meetings take place in school time approximately once a month.

## Child Protection

Our first priority is your child's welfare and we will usually discuss any concerns we might have about your child with you. There might be occasions, however, when we have to provide information to or consult other agencies such as the Local Authority Social Care and Health Departments before we contact you. Our responsibility to do so is determined by Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures. If you want to know more about these procedures, please speak to the Headteacher Simon Smith who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Moving on

Children transfer to secondary school at the end of the school year in which they reach their eleventh birthday. The majority of Parrett and Axe pupils transfer to Beaminster School and to

support the transition, pupils have opportunities to take part in a range of activities throughout the year. During the Summer Term senior teachers from Beaminster School and other local Secondary Schools visit us to meet their future pupils. Parents' evenings are arranged at their new schools and our children visit for induction days.

For further sources of information please look at the school website [www.mosterton.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.mosterton.dorset.sch.uk) or contact the school office:

Email: [office@Mosterton.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@Mosterton.dorset.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01308 868492