



St James the Great Church of England Primary School & Nursery

OUR PROSPECTUS





Introduction from our Headteacher

On behalf of our whole school community, I am delighted to welcome you to St James the Great Church of England Primary School and Nursery

As a proud member of the Vine Schools Trust, our Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. We are a caring and inclusive school where every child is encouraged to flourish, grow in confidence and reach their full potential.

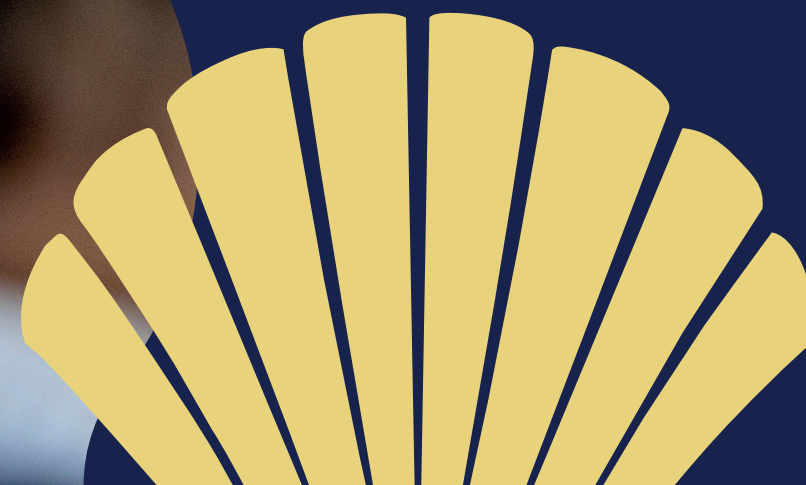
At St James, we celebrate each child as a unique individual, nurturing their talents and supporting them to persevere and succeed in all areas of school life. Our dedicated staff work hard to create a safe and inspiring learning environment where respect, kindness and aspiration are woven into daily life. We set high expectations for learning, behaviour and attendance, and we believe that every child deserves the very best opportunities to thrive.

We value strong partnerships with parents and carers, working together to provide a rich and engaging education that builds a strong foundation for the future. Our broad curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, creativity and a love of learning, helping children to grow into confident, well-rounded individuals.

We look forward to building a happy and lasting relationship with you and your child as they begin their journey with us.

Mrs L J Turner

Headteacher



† Vision & Values

At St James the Great, our Christian ethos is the foundation of everything we do. We are a welcoming and inclusive school where every child is nurtured, celebrated and encouraged to grow into a confident, compassionate and respectful individual

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child is a unique creation of God, and we strive to provide an environment where they can flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

We are guided by the fruits of the Spirit –

“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23)

– and these values shape our daily interactions and school culture. Hospitality, kindness and respect are central to our community, and we work together to ensure that every child feels safe, valued and inspired to be the best they can be.

Our curriculum and pastoral care are designed to support the whole child, encouraging perseverance, empathy and a deep sense of belonging. We believe that by fostering strong relationships and promoting a culture of encouragement and aspiration, our children will grow into thoughtful, resilient and responsible members of society.

“
Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love
one another

JOHN 13:34–35

With Christ, we
learn to love and
love to learn.



“
The school has high expectations for pupils’
achievement. These are being realised through
effective teaching and clear leadership.”

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Our Culture

St James the Great has been at the heart of the Colchester community for over 150 years, and we are proud of the caring, inclusive and nurturing environment we have built.

Our school is a special place where every individual is seen as being of equal value, regardless of background or starting point.

We set high expectations for every pupil and work with determination to help each child become “the best that they can be.”

We are a Trauma Perceptive Practice (TPP) school, which is the Essex approach to understanding behaviour and supporting emotional wellbeing in children and young people.

We expect our staff to demonstrate the core values of TPP principles with our pupils. TPP principles, which are reflected in our behaviour policy, recognises that the good relationships we create with children will have the greatest influence on their interactions with us and one another.

We promote an environment which encourages a sense of belonging, the development of safe and trusted relationships and the building of resilience. TPP creates an underlying culture of mutual respect and support where we practice:

- Compassion and kindness instead of blame and shame
- Hope instead of hopelessness
- Connection and belonging rather than disconnection

We believe that children learn best in a safe, calm and respectful environment. Our three core rules – Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible – underpin our approach to behaviour and wellbeing. We take bullying seriously and work proactively to prevent it through education, collective worship and open communication.

We regularly consult with pupils, parents and governors to ensure our vision remains relevant and impactful. Together, we foster a culture where children feel confident to ask for help, listen to advice and grow closer to God as they develop their spirituality.

OUR THREE CORE RULES

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible.





SEND Provision at St James the Great

At St James the Great, we believe that every child is a unique and valued individual, and we are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are supported to thrive, achieve and feel a deep sense of belonging.

Our inclusive ethos is reflected in the warm, respectful relationships between staff and pupils. We work hard to create a nurturing environment where children feel safe, confident and empowered to take risks in their learning. Pupils with SEND are supported through tailored strategies that help them build independence and resilience, enabling them to make strong progress across the curriculum.

We are proud of our dedicated facilities, including a purpose-built sensory room and The Ark nurture room, which provide calm and supportive spaces for children who benefit from additional emotional or sensory input. These resources are matched carefully to the needs of our pupils, ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time.

Our staff are well trained to identify and respond to individual needs. They work closely with families and external professionals to create personalised learning plans that reflect each child's strengths and challenges. We encourage pupils to "give it a go" and celebrate every step of progress, no matter how small.

From Early Years onwards, children with SEND are welcomed into a learning environment that values their contributions and helps them grow in confidence.



Wraparound Care

At St James the Great, we understand the importance of providing flexible and supportive care for families beyond the traditional school day.

Our wraparound care provision is designed to offer a safe, nurturing and enriching environment where children can continue to thrive before and after school.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs each morning before school, offering children a calm and welcoming start to their day. Pupils enjoy a healthy breakfast and have time to socialise with friends, preparing them mentally and emotionally for the day ahead. The club is supervised by experienced staff and provides a positive, structured routine that supports punctuality and wellbeing.

Whizz Kids After School Club

Our After School Club, Whizz Kids, operates every weekday afternoon and is led by dedicated staff who plan engaging activities that complement the school curriculum. Children take part in creative play, games, crafts and outdoor activities, all within a safe and inclusive setting. A healthy snack and drink are provided, and the club offers a valuable opportunity for children to unwind, build friendships and continue learning in a relaxed atmosphere.

Both clubs are bookable in advance via our online system and are open to all pupils. We aim to support working families while ensuring that children feel happy, secure and inspired throughout their time at school.

“Pupils learn well and often find the work interesting, listening attentively and joining in with activities.”

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Literacy Development

At St James the Great, we believe that literacy is the foundation of all learning and a gateway to future success. Our curriculum is designed to provide a language-rich environment where pupils develop strong communication skills from the earliest stages.

From speaking in full sentences in Nursery to exploring complex texts in Key Stage 2, we nurture a love of language and storytelling that grows with each child.

We place a strong emphasis on early reading and phonics, recognising that many of our pupils begin their journey with limited vocabulary. Through high-quality phonics teaching and consistent routines, children quickly gain confidence and fluency in reading. Our approach is inclusive and responsive, with teachers adapting lessons to meet individual needs and to ensure every child can thrive.

As pupils progress, they are encouraged to explore a wide range of genres and authors, developing comprehension, critical thinking and a passion for literature. Writing is taught through engaging themes and purposeful tasks, helping children to express themselves clearly and creatively. Vocabulary development is embedded across all subjects, enriching pupils' understanding and enabling them to articulate their ideas with confidence.

Our commitment to literacy has been recognised by Ofsted, who praised the school's effective teaching of early reading and the enthusiasm pupils show during phonics sessions. Inspectors noted that children in the early years are “particularly engaged and enthused,” and that pupils “learn well and often find the work interesting, listening attentively and joining in with activities.”

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to become a confident reader and writer. By fostering curiosity, creativity and a love of learning, we empower our pupils to succeed both in school and beyond.



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It was a real pleasure to visit St James the Great Church of England School and see firsthand the warmth, creativity, and ambition on show. The school's commitment to nurturing every child's potential is truly inspiring. I was especially impressed by the pupils' enthusiasm and the staff's dedication to creating a safe and inclusive environment where all children can thrive.”

PAM COX MP

“

Pupils enjoy attending school. They learn well and often find the work interesting, listening attentively and joining in with activities.”

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Vine
† Empowering All to Flourish

