



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Ditchling (St Margaret's)
CE Primary and Nursery School

PROSPECTUS



"Pupils benefit from the school's strong commitment to support others by community and charity work. They learn compassion and responsibility through fundraising and talk proudly about these acts of kindness."

OFSTED, 2017

WELCOME



It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of all the staff, families, governors and Hurst Education Trust, to warmly welcome you to our wonderful school.

Set in the beautiful Sussex countryside our Church of England School serves families from Ditchling and the surrounding area. We are fortunate to have a team of the most wonderful children and staff and pride ourselves on putting each child at the heart of everything we do.

Our school vision is based on John 10:10.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

Our school enables children to develop as rounded individuals, with self-confidence and a developed sense of responsibility for themselves and others.

'Learning Together. Building Success' is a shared vision providing excellence for all.

Our school has high expectations. We ensure every child has the best learning experience possible and this is underpinned by our core values. We fully understand here at Ditchling that we are providing our children with all that is needed for their future learning.

Choosing a school for your child can be complex and is one of the most important decisions a parent and carer makes. The school you choose in the early years of your child's education has a huge impact on their future successes and happiness.

At Ditchling, we want to provide our children with the opportunity to pursue excellence, to be able to have the right knowledge and skills to have the choice of any pathway they wish for their future.

I hope through reading this prospectus you will discover how we combine the best of traditional community values with the very latest in teaching methods. If you would like any further information about any aspect of life at Ditchling please do not hesitate to contact me.

We very much look forward to welcoming you soon.

Mrs Amy Clarke
Headteacher

OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary and Nursery School is a Church of England Controlled Primary School.

Our pupils range from 2 years old (Nursery) to 11 years (Year 6) and we currently have eight classes.

Our mission for the curriculum at Ditchling is to:

- Stimulate learning, through an excellent education, to enable children to reach their potential
- Motivate children to discover their talents, to grow in confidence and to positively contribute to the modern world
- Encouraging all our children to develop well-rounded personalities
- Promote a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment
- Underpin our education with our Christian values of trust, perseverance, reverence, forgiveness, compassion, thankfulness and koinonia (community).

We are consistently delivery our mission for education by providing opportunities for every child to flourish. Pupils are able to engage in fun, varied and child-centred learning. Teachers provide rigorous, enquiry-led lessons which respond to the children's questions and interests. This approach enables them to learn new skills, and enhance existing skills, such as risk-taking, resilience, communication and creativity.

We offer well planned lessons in well resourced classrooms so that learning is holistic and supporting pupil's health and wellbeing.

Pupils are encouraged to learn together and they have opportunities for spiritual development. We also ensure we take the time to regularly celebrate all of our pupils' strengths.



Learning Together. Building Success

OUR VISION

We are an inclusive community where Christian values empower us. With God's guidance, we work with confidence and wisdom to inspire a love of learning for the future. We are ambitious for our children and want them to achieve excellence in all aspects of life.

Our vision is that every child will reach their full potential within a caring Christian environment that enables all to flourish.

Together we will:

- **Persevere** when times are challenging
- Show **respect** to all those around us
- Above all, be **kind** to one another living "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

We invite you to share in our vision.

PERSEVERANCE

We want our children to achieve excellence in all areas of school life. As a school, we will provide a balance of both challenge and loving support to build confidence and wisdom. We want our children to thrive as lifelong learners and persevere in times of difficulty.



"Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure."

Proverbs 4:25–26

RESPECT

Our school is founded upon an understanding of Christian love. Children will learn how to build strong relationships and learn to live well together. They will learn to behave with dignity and to respect people of all diversity.



"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves."

Romans 12:10

ABOVE ALL KINDNESS

At Ditchling we place kindness at the centre of our school. We believe that teaching the value of kindness is a vital part of childhood education. We want to be embraced by a community that models kindness to those around them.



"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

BRINGING CHRISTIAN VALUES TO LIFE

Ditchling is proud to be a Christian school with Christian values and heritage. This is evident across our curriculum and school ethos.

Religious Education (RE)

RE is an important part of our school curriculum and reflects the Christian heritage of our school whilst also teaching pupils about other principal religions. We use an enquiry model which encourages pupils to raise questions about the different faiths being studied, learn about faiths, ask 'big' questions and think about their own views.

Collective Worship

As a Christian school, our Collective Worship is an important part of the school day and we are strongly supported by our local church, St Margaret's.

Collective Worship takes place daily and each week we are led by a member of St Margaret's clergy or Youth Worker. We go to church each term to celebrate key Christian festivals.

In addition, every classroom has its own Reflection Area to encourage pupils to take a moment to be quiet and reflect about whatever is on their mind.

Golden Rules

Our Golden Rules support pupils in understanding their responsibilities as citizens and encourage respect and teamwork.

We promote shared human values and develop an understanding of democracy, the rule of law and tolerance and respect of others.

"Ditchling keeps me safe and my favourite part is going to the church to celebrate with the school."

YEAR 3 PUPIL





A SCHOOL AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



Many of our families live in Ditchling village, whilst others come from Hassocks, Burgess Hill and surrounding villages. A quarter of our pupils live further afield however, as a Ditchling pupil, every child should feel a part of the village.

We love being a school at the heart of the Ditchling village and therefore take every opportunity to link with our local community.

Community links

We regularly take pupils to workshops at the Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft and our children take part in the village Summer Fayre and Apple Day.

Each year pupils team up with the school Friends, Parents and Teachers' Association (FPTA) to host an annual coffee morning in the village.

The village church, St Margaret's, holds services in our school and members of the community are invited to join our Collective Worship. We also share our Remembrance Day service with the British Legion.

Supporting charities

We encourage our pupils to raise money for charities as a way to show compassion and *koinonia* (community). Pupils take a lead in deciding which causes we support and how funds will be raised. Charities have included: Centrepont; Children In Need; Kaloko Trust; NSPCC; Poppy Appeal; Rockinghorse Children's Charity; Save The Children; Toilet Twinning and The Wildlife Trusts.

*"I like learning about science and maths.
The adults are kind and supportive."*

YEAR 5 PUPIL

STARTING THE SCHOOL JOURNEY



At Ditchling we offer our own Nursery school for children age 2 years and above.

Whilst our Nursery has its own dedicated indoor and outside space, the children are very much a part of our school community. Children attending the Nursery are able to have fun in a safe environment and develop early friendships which flourish as they grow older.

We are also able to offer the Nursery children access to the wider school facilities such as the school hall, library, playing field, garden, pond, Quiet Garden and Forest School.

The creative thinking and emotional development of our Nursery children is the basis of all that we do. They explore a rich and stimulating curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning.

The ethos of the Nursery is to be kind, caring and thoughtful to others. We nurture an appreciation of different cultures and aim to develop a sense of belonging.

We encourage an enthusiasm for learning and a love of books by reading a variety of stories, rhymes and poems to the children. We also encourage the children to attempt early writing skills and use playful experiences, such as rhymes and counting games, to aid early maths skills.

There are many opportunities for creativity in the Nursery; we have regular singing, dancing and music-making sessions and art and crafts involve painting, printing, collage and model-making. We provide a multitude of opportunities for our Nursery children to be active during both indoor and outdoor activities. We also hold a weekly session in our on-site Forest School.

Having our own Nursery offers children a seamless transition into Reception, should you apply for a place at our school after Nursery.

"Children get off to a good start in the early years and are well prepared for Year 1."

OFSTED, 2017





CARING CLASSMATES

House system

At Ditchling we operate a house system to encourage friendships outside the pupils' own year group and to demonstrate healthy competition. Pupils collect house points and at the end of each term the house with the most points is rewarded with experience-based prizes such as circus skills or Samba dancing workshops.

Pupil Leadership

All children can have their views heard and pupils are encouraged to stand for election as a School Councillor for their year group. The School Council meets fortnightly to discuss ways to further improve our school and the local and global community.

In Year 6 we have elected House Captains, supported by House Vice-Captains in Year 5. These pupils are responsible for modelling appropriate behaviours around the school, and wider community, and for motivating members of their houses to achieve their best.

Year 6 pupils can also apply to become Environment Leaders, Audio Visual Leaders (who help prepare our collective worship), Wellbeing, Health and Mindfulness Leaders, Librarians, Gardeners, News Crew, Digital Leaders and Food Ambassadors.

Buddies

Our Year 5 pupils act as 'buddies' to the Nursery children. The pupils are given weekly sessions for playing and getting to know their buddies. Our children continue this initiative as pupils move up to Year 6 and Reception. At this stage they read together weekly and form friendships which support our youngest pupils through their first year of school.

Peer Mediators and Play Leaders

A group of Year 5 pupils are trained as Peer Mediators to support other pupils with positive relationships on the playground. Others are chosen to be Play Leaders where they lead games at play times.

"Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are considerate, thoughtful and highly committed to learning. Respect for others underpins everyone's experiences at this school."

OFSTED, 2017

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



We endeavour to enhance the school curriculum with a wide range of exciting opportunities for our pupils. These range from trips and visiting speakers to extra-curricular clubs.

Outdoor play and learning

Play is an important time to learn, explore, build resilience and develop skills such as communication and teamwork. Our play times are creative, exploratory and great fun.

Forest School

Pupils take part in Forest School sessions fortnightly. These activities support learning across all curriculum areas including maths, science and geography. Forest School fosters resilient, confident, independent and creative children who can take appropriate risks.

Trips and speakers

In order to enhance the curriculum we welcome visitors into school to give talks and demonstrations on a wide range of topics. Classes also visit educational places in the local community and beyond. We offer residential trips to Years 4, 5 and 6.

"Pupils engage well in activities because teachers ensure that these capture their interest."

OFSTED, 2017



"Going outside for Forest School is great as I can explore with my friends."

YEAR 2 PUPIL



SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE

All our staff are committed to providing for the broad range of children's needs, whether they are physical, educational, emotional or behavioural.

Equal opportunities

We believe every child is equally important and valued, and all children are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We take positive action to ensure that the needs of all pupils and staff are being met in a fair way, irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, specific attainment or social background.

Further challenge

Further challenge is offered to children who show a talent in a subject and where it is deemed that extending their learning would be beneficial. This can be in the form of events off-site.

Special Educational Needs

Our aim is to identify Special Educational Needs as early as possible and to make suitable provision with the resources we have available. Our Inclusion Leader works closely with parents, class teachers, support staff and other professionals to provide individual programmes for identified children.

Accessible for all

Our school is accessible for all - it is based in a single storey building with a ramp at the front entrance, disabled toilet facilities and corridors and doorways that give wheelchair access.

"The learning gets trickier - you have to use your brain and persevere."

YEAR 2 PUPIL

WRAP AROUND CARE

We have developed a thriving wrap around care provision to support families where parents need to drop off early or collect their children later in the day. After School Clubs are also chosen by the children as an excellent opportunity for a fun playdate with friends.

After School Clubs

At the end of the school day we offer a range of clubs for all ages. Clubs enable pupils to meet new children of different ages and take part in an array of fun activities.

These vary each term but include activities such as: Art Club; Board Games; Choir; Cooking; Drama; Engineering; French; Forest School; German; Lego Robotics and Coding; Nintendo Wii and Young Authors.

Sports clubs include: Basketball; Football; Karate; Netball; Tag Rugby and Tennis.

Clubs are run by experienced coaches, school staff and members of the community from other local groups, such as YODA (Youth Club of Ditchling and Hassocks) which is run by a youth worker and the Ditchling Museum Club.

The After School Club provides a free, healthy buffet-style tea for the pupils.

Early Bird Club

We offer an Early Bird Club for children being dropped off before the school day starts.

"I like playing here there's lots of good equipment to play with. Ditchling has a very nice community and the adults are well trained in safety. I also feel like I can talk to staff when I am worried."

YEAR 6 PUPIL



*"My school is bright and I like learning about lots of things.
My favourite learning is when we read stories and books."*

YEAR 1 PUPIL



The Hurst Education Trust (HET) is a newly-formed Multi-Academy Trust set up by Hurstpierpoint College in collaboration with the Diocese of Chichester. It exists to provide a unique offer to local schools in the Mid Sussex area.

Academic excellence is the foundation of a Hurst education, because we believe it opens doors to the future. Therefore every child is challenged and supported along the way in our friendly and warm community.

We are ambitious for each of our pupils and who they can become and we encourage each pupil to engage and enjoy all aspects of school life.

We want our pupils to learn the importance of certain values: a sense of duty, an awareness of right and wrong and a respect for others. We want pupils to be ambitious with a clear sense of purpose, to acquire a balanced view of life and develop into independent, mature individuals.

Schools who are part of the Hurst Education Trust receive a high quality education support package focused on the "Good to Outstanding" journey and access to Hurst College facilities, including sports and academic provision together with specialist facilities including the theatre, the farm and the chapel.

Importantly, schools retain their individuality, including their name, uniform and curriculum.

www.hurst.education

THE HURST EDUCATION TRUST



With its close partnership with the Diocese of Chichester, the Hurst Education Trust is a Church of England Multi Academy Trust.

As such it is proud of its identity and foundation and this is reflected explicitly and implicitly in its ethos, practices and policies.

Central to the work of the Trust and its schools will be the Church of England's Vision for Education; "Educating for life in all of its fullness."

*"I have come so that you may have life, and have it to the full."
(John 10:10)*

Under this umbrella, the Trust and its schools are open, welcoming and inclusive, embracing pupils of all faiths and none, committed to the flourishing of all of its pupils.

Diversity will be celebrated and equal opportunities available to all. It is our belief that there are core common values universally recognised across faith boundaries, dignity, compassion, the removal of disadvantage and discrimination, empathy and encouragement which help foster and create a positive school environment in which all individuals can thrive and grow.

Tim Manly
CEO Hurst Education Trust



A HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

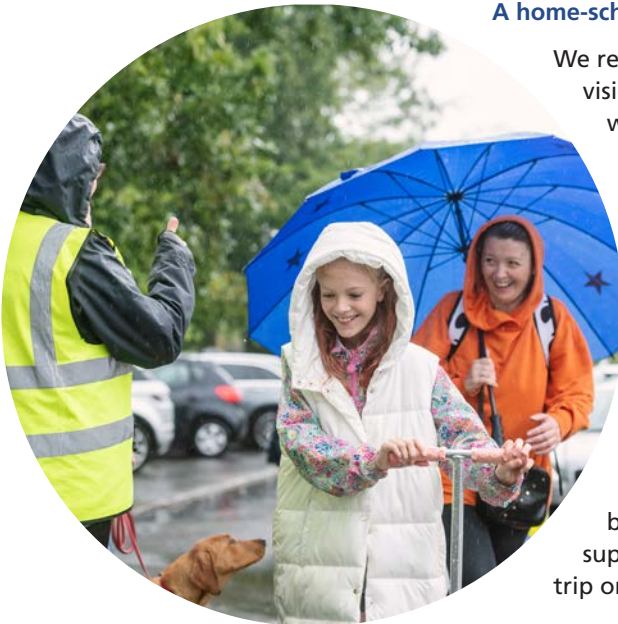
A home-school partnership

We recognise that our school vision cannot become a reality without a positive working relationship with parents. This can be as little as sharing a positive view on school work with their children, ensuring children complete their home learning and attending parents' meetings.

We welcome all parental support in whatever way it is offered, whether that be helping in the classroom, supporting a club, helping on a trip or joining the FPTA.

Friends, Parents and Teacher Association (FPTA)

We have an active and friendly Friends, Parents and Teacher Association (FPTA). The group arrange events and raise school funds which are used to provide additional school resources.



"May I take this opportunity to thank you and all the staff at Ditchling Primary for all the measures you have put in place for our children to see us through these troubling times."

PARENT (DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS)

VISIT OUR SCHOOL

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and Nursery School**

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