



# Barcombe C of E Primary School Prospectus



**A small and mighty school where everyone  
flourishes in the heart of the community.**

# Welcome to Barcombe

My name is Georgie Manners and as Head of School, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our thriving and inclusive school. As our vision says, Barcombe is a *'small and mighty school where everyone flourishes at the heart of the community.'* We put the needs and aspirations of the children at the centre of all we do, valuing strong links with our parents and carers, St Mary's Church in Barcombe, and those in the wider community to achieve this.

Barcombe School is proud to offer a broad, creative and ambitious curriculum which enables pupils to take pride in their learning and where the potential of every child is realised. We are guided by Christian values, and we use the teachings of Jesus to help us learn to live wisely and to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Through our values and vision, we strive to be leaders of learning and agents of change, exploring ways we can positively contribute to the community and help to create a better world.

Our nurturing and committed team of teachers and support staff work collaboratively to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for the children. As a small school, we pride ourselves on knowing one another well and celebrating the individual needs and gifts of every child. Through these close and caring relationships, children are enabled to feel empowered and secure. Our school values of compassion, responsibility, perseverance, forgiveness, hope and courage underpin all we do, and we strive to uphold these in our work and play, every day.

If you would like to find out more about our small and mighty school, you are warmly welcomed to visit and see our vision in action. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Georgie Manners  
Head of School



*"We love that this is a small school where all the teachers and pupils know each other well. The children feel valued here."*

Parent

When the mustard seed grows it is the largest of trees

# Christian Distinctiveness

Our school vision is inspired by the *Parable of the Mustard Seed*. In this parable, Jesus reminds us that although things might look very small at the beginning, they can become something much bigger and end up making a huge difference. Just like that tiny seed, we, too, can make a HUGE difference not only to the world around us, but to the lives of others.

We focus on Christian values to help us learn to be good members of our school and wider community, guiding us to help create a better world.

We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually in all areas of the curriculum, particularly though RE, English, Maths, PSHE, Science, Humanities, Art and Music.

We provide opportunities for reflection, including silence and stillness.

All kinds of birds come and live on its branches.

# Curriculum

We are particularly proud of our unique Skylark curriculum. We have devised a curriculum that is meaningful, purposeful and relevant to the children who live in this area of East Sussex, nestled at the foot of the South Downs.

The area is rich with local history, geography and creativity. We use these subjects as the drives for our curriculum allowing our children to truly immerse themselves in a project-based curriculum where subject specific skills are explicitly taught in a planned, age-appropriate developmental way. Through the Skylark curriculum, children are taught the importance of analysis as the key to understanding.

We aim to put our children at the centre of their own learning and place great emphasis on nurturing skills and attitudes such as resourcefulness, resilience and co-operation. Our teachers bring the National Curriculum alive by making links between the individual subjects and applying them to whole school 'Projects'. Our children also benefit from specialist tuition in sport on a weekly basis.



“Learning here is fun and active. We get to take part in trips and workshops as well as fun lessons. This helps me remember what I have been taught.”

Year 5 Pupil

# Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. **Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS: from ages 4-5**
2. **Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7**
3. **Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11**



## Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children in Early Years are also taught Religious Education. In Early Years we use *Tapestry* software to communicate with parents.

## Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- MFL – French
- Design Technology
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education)
- Oracy
- Forest School

# Enriched Curriculum

## **Trips and Workshops**

The children are often taken on educational visits to complement their learning in school. Some of the places we have recently visited include Battle Abbey, Lewes Castle and Cuckmere Haven. We have also had a workshop on the Benin Kingdom, immersing the children in those times and experiences.



## **Residential**

Each year our Year 6 children experience a residential trip to Bowles Activity Centre.

## **Celebrations**

We love to celebrate with our children their successes individually and as a group. We also celebrate events in the Christian calendar including Easter and Harvest.



## **Events**

We have termly STEM days and have arranged trips to a local school to use their science laboratories. We take part in the annual Patina parade too!

We have two productions at Christmas; the Key Stage 1 nativity play and the Key Stage 2 carol concert. We also hold a Key Stage 2 production in the summer term.



# Forest School, Sport, Clubs and Pupil Voice

## Forest School

We are very fortunate that the children have access to the Wild about Barcombe area for forest school. There, children follow a full programme with our forest school staff. Every year group gets at least a six-week session and a whole day away from school, learning new skills.

*"I love this school  
and its hardworking  
and inspiring staff.  
Children are well  
looked after here."*

Parent



## Sport

We believe that physical development is a key component to success across the whole curriculum and we have excellent PE provision. Our children take part in a range of sports within class PE lessons, as well as regular inter-federation events. Children also benefit from weekly specialist sports coaches.

*"So much of our  
learning is not just  
sitting behind a desk. I  
love how active we are  
and how we learn in so  
many different ways  
and different places."*

Year 6 pupil

## Clubs

We have a thriving after school club which runs until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday.

We also have a number of specialist clubs that change and can include: - French, Football, Dance, Art, and Tag Rugby.



“We get to share our ideas and we get listened to. It makes me feel good to know I can make changes at school to make it better.”

Year 5 Pupil

## Pupil Voice

Our student councillors and eco councillors are elected from every class. They have regular meetings to discuss the school and make recommendations. We also have librarians, digital leaders, play leaders and house captains.





# Inclusion

## **Special Education Needs and Disabilities**

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers in involving them and their children in decisions about learning and progress. Arrangements are in place in school to support pupils with medical conditions.

Pupils with SEND are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activity.

We believe that all children need to feel safe, happy and valued at school to learn, progress, and develop their well-being. We recognise the individuality of all children and the fact that they are at different levels of development, physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially. Staff recognise the need for differentiation in setting tasks for their pupils. Teachers regularly hold pupil progress meetings with leadership and the SENCo to discuss any interventions required to support each child.

## **Gifted and Talented**

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. For older pupils, this is provided in conjunction with other schools.

## **School Uniform**

Pupils at Barcombe School all wear school uniform. Uniform is important; it is practical, appropriate and helps create a sense of community.

“He is enjoying being challenged and continues to love learning new things.”

Parent



“We think it is a great approach, how the curriculum blends different subjects into a single project.”

Parent



## Executive Head Teacher



I hope you have enjoyed reading about our school. My name is Stewart James, Executive Head Teacher of the Skylark Federation, comprised of Barcombe CE, Hamsey, Iford and Kingston CE, and Plumpton Primary School, four wonderful schools on the outskirts of Lewes.

I am passionate about the unique experience children attending small village schools receive. I believe the federation provides the structures and capacity of a large school whilst still maintaining the unique ethos of small schools. I am incredibly proud of the success the federation has bought to the children who attend the Skylark Federation schools.

To observe us in action please contact us on 01273 400 287.

## Admissions

Barcombe CE School is an inclusive school where everyone is welcome. East Sussex County Council are our admissions authority, and they request that all applications are submitted online. Our school's Published Admission Number (PAN) is 20.

## Governors

We have an active Governing Body who meet regularly and monitor areas of the school. They support and challenge every aspect of school activity from the highest academic aspiration to everyday housekeeping to ensure there is overall improvement, progress and achievement and that each child is encouraged to realise their full individual potential.



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the community.**



## **Barcombe Church of England Primary School**

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