

# Welcome to Downham C of E Primary School



*Inspiring children to soar to new heights.*

On behalf of the children, staff and community at Downham C of E Primary School, I would like to thank you for your interest in our school. We welcome all visits to our thriving, friendly village school situated at the heart of a rural village community; choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make as a parent. Here at Downham C of E Primary School, we are an inclusive school and offer all our children the opportunity to thrive and flourish by aspiring to offer the best possible quality of education through our committed and dedicated team. We are a school with the community at its heart; we aim to ensure all our pupils are loved, nurtured and enabled to succeed, through an atmosphere of high expectation, in order to be ready and prepared for the world and jobs of tomorrow. At Downham C of E Primary School, we have developed an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum, rich in creative first-hand experiences and core skills to ensure that all pupils reach their academic potential and become responsible, well-rounded citizens equipped for the modern world by ensuring that every child succeeds and thrives, becoming a life-long learner, prepared for the world of tomorrow. Staff are passionate about creating an environment and culture that promotes the opportunity of children feeling safe to take risks, make mistakes and feel comfortable being challenged to reach their fullest potential. We are proud to be a Church of England Primary School and as a community, we work together for the good of all of our learners. The caring, Christian ethos of the school is firmly based on our five core values which remind us all that we must consistently strive to achieve and exceed our potential. As a school, we have high expectations and set challenging tasks to enhance children's learning. We strive to encourage children to engage in their learning and show curiosity and enthusiasm. These expectations are supported by the whole school community and through the learning environment. We also believe that communities build schools and we aim to work in partnership with the school community to constantly improve the school and the education that we provide for pupils.

***Mrs Walker, Executive Headteacher***

# School Information



## **Downham C of E Primary School**

Church Road

Billericay

Essex

CM11 1NU

01268 710387

Email: [office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk)

## **School Hours**

08:45 Gates open

09:00 Gates close

09:00 Registration closes and start of session 1

15:15 End of school day

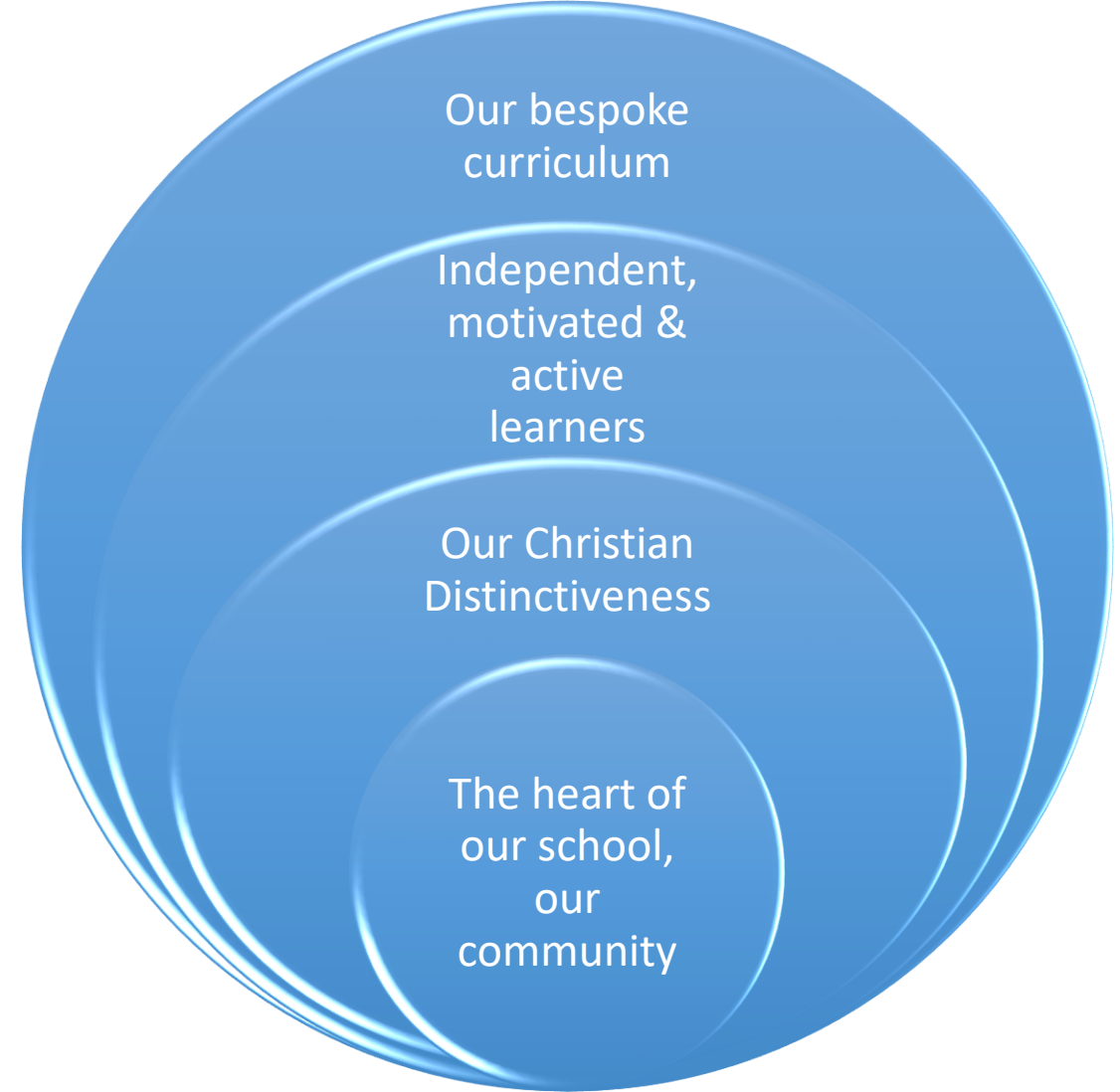


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# Our Vision & Values



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The pupils at Downham C of E Primary School are at the heart of the school. Our five core Christian values which were chosen by the school community, underpin the foundations of our curriculum which is bespoke to the needs of our pupils, community and context.

# Berlesduna Academy Trust



*Aspiration Family Success*



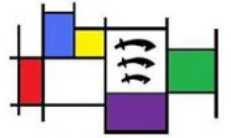
Merrylands Primary School  
and Nursery



Whitmore Primary School  
and Nursery



The Willows Primary School  
and Nursery



Felmore Primary School

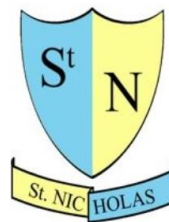


Fairhouse Community  
Primary School

We are proud to be supported by the Berlesduna Academy Trust which first established in 2016 and now has over 3,000 pupils and over 500 staff. The vision of the Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background. We are a strong, partnership of schools, collaborating and sharing each other's strengths to make a positive difference. The Trust's core values of "aspiration", "family" and "success" guide us on our journey of school improvement.



Crays Hill Primary School



St Nicholas Primary School



St Mary's C of E Primary  
School Woodham Ferrers



Canewdon Primary School



Cherry Tree Primary School  
and Nursery

# Admission Procedures



The school's published admission number is 210 children from age four plus to eleven years. The school serves the children of Ramsden Heath, Downham and part of Ramsden Bellhouse. Those from outside this area will be accepted provided places are available and parents wish their children to attend a Christian School because of its specifically religious emphasis.

Any parents considering our school for their child are encouraged to visit us. Please make an appointment via the school office and the Head of School or another senior member of staff will be happy to show you around and share time with you and answer any questions you may have.

**Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2025:** You can apply for primary (reception) school place at an Essex primary school between **4 November 2024** and **15 January 2025**.

Before you apply, you should:

check you live in the [Essex administrative area](#)  
read the [primary school admissions booklet](#).

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

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# Our School Organisation

**Duckling Class:** Early Years Foundation Stage

**Robins:** Year 1

**Nightingales:** Year 2

**Woodpeckers:** Year 3

**Kingfishers:** Year 4

**Owls:** Year 5

**Eagles:** Year 6



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# A brief overview of the EYFS Curriculum



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Activities in reception are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences.

Planning for each (week/term) is carried out using a topic-based approach, following the children's interests and responding to specific events.

There are 7 Areas of Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which activities are planned around:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PRIME AREA)**
- **Physical Development (PRIME AREA)**
- **Communication and Language (PRIME AREA)**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Throughout the EYFS, children will be working towards the Early Learning Goals. These describe the level of attainment expected at the end of your child's Reception year in school.

# Why is Continuous Provision important in the Early Years?



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At Downham C of E Primary School, we passionately believe that young children learn best through play and exploration. Wherever possible we offer children the opportunity to experience real life events that are linked to their learning. Every day our children get the opportunity to be an artist, writer, mathematician, scientist, designer or a storyteller to name but a few! These play-based experiences enable the children to consolidate their skills, knowledge and understanding and enable them to become independent and resilient learners. Throughout the environment, both inside and outside, you will see busy children actively engaged in a wide range of activities that they themselves have chosen. Continuous provision supports and encourages our children and staff to have a lifelong love of learning; it enables children to return to their explorations and consolidate their learning over the course of a day or a more extended period. It also allows children to make choices and initiate play without interaction with an adult.



# The Importance of Reading in the Primary Curriculum



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At Downham C of E Primary School, we believe that reading is the foundation of all learning. A love of reading enriches pupils' lives, enhances their imagination, and provides them with the essential skills to succeed across the curriculum. Our carefully structured reading programme nurtures confident, fluent readers from an early age, developing their comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.

To support this, we have created a brand-new **library space** at the heart of our school—a welcoming and inspiring environment designed to foster a lifelong love of books. Stocked with a diverse range of high-quality literature, the library provides pupils with access to classic and contemporary texts that spark curiosity and creativity. Regular library sessions, author visits, and reading initiatives ensure that every child has the opportunity to engage with books in a meaningful way.

Through our commitment to reading, we empower our pupils with the knowledge, confidence, and enthusiasm to become independent learners, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future educational journey.



# Collective Worship



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Collective Worship is the unique heartbeat of our Church school. It is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We celebrate key Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Each half-term we also take a theme to explore, such as People Who Met Jesus or The Parables Told by Jesus. The whole school gathers on Monday mornings, welcoming a visitor from a local church or Christian organization. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we usually have separate Key Stage sessions, allowing for more focused conversation and exploration of the half-term's theme. On Thursdays, everyone gathers for Singing Assembly and on Fridays we have a whole-school Celebration Assembly. A team of Year 5 and 6 Prayer Buddies help to welcome visitors and to lead whole-school Collective Worship sessions.



# Personal Development



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Our curriculum is designed to extend beyond the academic; it is designed for our community and wider society. We encourage tolerance, empathy and environmental awareness. We want our pupils to communicate confidently in our ever-changing world. We focus on developing pupils' moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding so that they are well-prepared for life in modern Britain. We carefully plan the essential knowledge that pupils need to become educated citizens in an ever-changing world. We aim to introduce them to the best that has been thought and said and intend to stimulate an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At Downham C of E Primary School, we believe in giving children the experiences that builds upon our vision and values. Over the year we open our doors and welcome many inspirational visitors who give the children a chance to really see what is possible in life. We celebrate cultures, diversity and difference by exploring festivals, events and celebrations throughout the year. As part of our educational programme we explore local businesses, landmarks, people and experiences that can support a greater depth of knowledge promoting hands on learning.

# Links with the Local Community



## **School Choir's Community Engagement**

Our school choir plays an active role in the local community, providing students with the opportunity to share their musical talents and connect with residents and community members. Throughout the year, the choir performs at various venues, including the Nags Head Pub, The Belfry Residential Home, and the Ramsden Heath Coffee Club and Luncheon Club. These performances not only help foster a sense of community but also give students the chance to contribute positively to local events and gatherings.

## **Engagement with Local Businesses and Services**

We also work closely with local businesses and services to enrich our curriculum and offer memorable learning experiences. This includes partnerships with the Wickford Fire Department, Essex Police and Safer Essex, who provide valuable insights into community safety and emergency services. These collaborations allow students to gain a practical understanding of how local services operate and the role they play in keeping the community safe.

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# Attendance Matters



All parents and carers want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they are adults. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class.



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