



Downham

C of E Primary School

Inspiring All to Soar to New Heights 

“But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength. They will
soar on wings like eagles.”

Isaiah 40:31



School Prospectus

2026-2027

♥ *A thriving village school where every child is
known, valued and inspired to soar.* ♥



Creativity



Collaboration



Critical Thinking



Courage



Challenge



Church Road, Billericay,
Essex. CM11 1NU



01268 710387



office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk



www.downhamceprimary.co.uk



Welcome to Downham C of E Primary School

On behalf of our children, staff, and community, thank you for your interest in our school. We welcome visits to our thriving, friendly village school, and we understand that choosing the right education for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make.

Why Choose Downham?

A Nurturing Community: We are an inclusive school with community at its heart. Our dedicated team ensures every pupil feels loved, nurtured, and supported to succeed.

Inspiring Curriculum: We offer a broad, balanced, and creative curriculum designed to develop core skills, spark curiosity, and help every child reach their full academic potential.

High Expectations: We challenge our pupils in a safe, supportive environment where they are comfortable taking risks, making mistakes, and building resilience.

Christian Ethos: We are proud of our Church of England heritage; our five core values guide us to work together for the good of every learner.

We firmly believe that communities build schools, and we work closely with our families to provide the best possible education, preparing our children to become confident, lifelong learners.

Ms Theresa Walker
Executive Headteacher

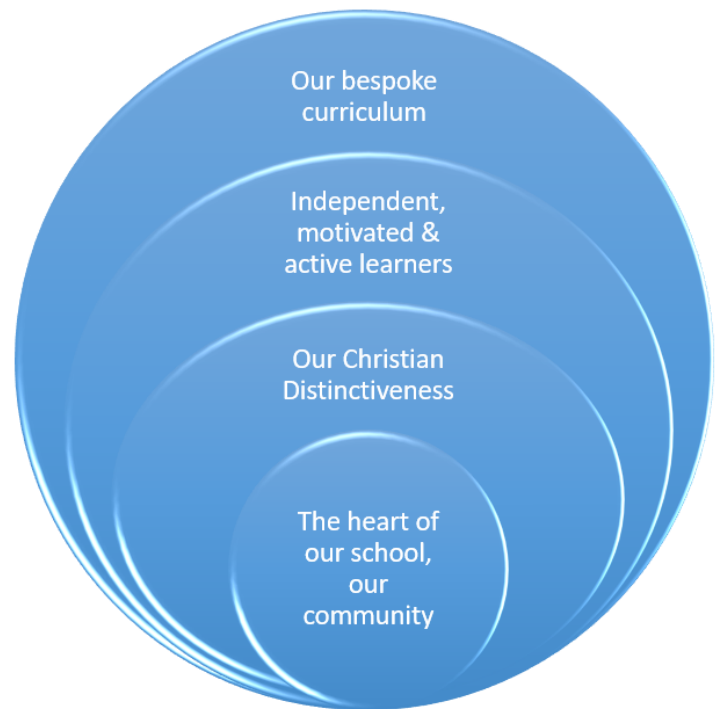
Miss Johanna Bailey
Executive Deputy Headteacher



Our Vision & Values



Inspiring children to soar to new heights.



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.

Our Values - The Downham 5 Cs



Challenge:

This is about embracing challenges, learning from your mistakes and forgiving yourself.



Collaboration:

By working together and collaborating, we can ensure that all of our community flourish.



Creativity:

Each of us is unique and will flourish in different ways.



Courage:

Is about a life-long process of challenging ourselves to be the best that we can be – even when this becomes hard.



Critical thinking:

We challenge and support children in taking risks, leading their own learning and developing critical thinking to become life-long learners.



Part of The Berlesduna Academy Trust

Downham School is proud to be a member of The Berlesduna Academy Trust. Established in 2016, the Trust now supports over 3,000 pupils and 500 staff across a strong partnership of regional schools.

A strong partnership of schools, collaborating and sharing each other's strengths to make a positive difference.



This collaboration enhances our school community through:

- **Shared Excellence:** We share resources, training, and expertise to maintain high educational standards and drive continuous school improvement.
- **Community Connections:** Our pupils and staff benefit from joint activities and initiatives, strengthening our ties within the wider educational community.
- **A Shared Vision:** Driven by the core values of *aspiration*, *family*, and *success*, the Trust fosters a culture of high ambition, academic achievement, and lifelong skills for every child, regardless of their background.



A Brief Overview of the EYFS Curriculum



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**
- **Physical Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **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.



Learning Through Play at Downham C of E Primary School

At Downham, we passionately believe that young children learn best through play, exploration, and real-life experiences. Every day, our pupils have the opportunity to step into the shoes of an artist, writer, mathematician, scientist, designer, or storyteller.

Our approach focuses on:

- **Child-Led Exploration:** Inside and outside, children actively engage in a wide range of self-chosen activities.
- **Consolidating Skills:** Play-based experiences help children deepen their knowledge, understanding, and core skills.
- **Building Independence:** Through continuous provision, children learn to make independent choices, initiate their own play, and become resilient, lifelong learners.



The Importance of Reading in the Primary Curriculum



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.



Our Curriculum & Experiences

Beyond core academics, our curriculum is built to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by fostering tolerance, empathy, environmental awareness, and strong communication skills. We carefully design our learning to introduce children to the best of human creativity, achievement, and cultural understanding.

To bring this learning to life, we enrich our curriculum through:

- **Inspirational Visitors:** Welcoming role models who show our pupils what is possible in life.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** Exploring global festivals and events to celebrate different cultures and backgrounds.
- **Hands-on Learning:** Visiting local businesses and landmarks to deepen community connections and academic knowledge.

Our school is proud to offer a wide range of extracurricular activities that cater to the interests and talents of our pupils. These activities are designed to complement the academic curriculum, promote physical well-being, enhance social skills, and encourage creativity.



Throughout the year, pupils have the opportunity to engage in a variety of clubs and sports, which foster personal growth, teamwork, and fun.

Forest School



At Downham Primary School, children in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 enjoy weekly Forest School sessions led by specialist teachers from St. Mary's School in our dedicated wildlife area.

Through hands-on outdoor learning, children develop confidence, resilience, independence, and teamwork while exploring the natural world. These engaging sessions promote physical wellbeing, problem-solving skills, environmental awareness, and a lifelong love of learning.





Chelmsford Athletic Club
Est 1934

Primary School Cross Country Series
Supported by the Weedon Family Ranch
at Hylands Park, Chelmsford



Sport at Downham



- William de Ferrers School Sports Partnership (WdF SSP) look after schools across Basildon, Chelmsford and the Dengie.
- The partnership is led by Katherine Jaggard. Our SSCOs are Mrs Burns at Billericay School and Mrs McSweeney at Mayflower High School.
- The WdF SSP cover every single 'School Games' sport and many more catering for all primary school year groups. The best teams then get sent through to the county finals run by Active Essex.



Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the unique heartbeat of our Church school, providing a space for pupils and adults to encounter faith and explore conversations about God. Together, we celebrate key Christian festivals like Harvest, Christmas, and Easter, and explore new spiritual themes each half-term.



Our weekly worship schedule includes:

- **Monday:** Whole-School assembly featuring guest speakers from local churches.
- **Tuesday:** Class-based worship – Picture News
- **Wednesday:** Whole-School worship
- **Thursday:** A joyful, Whole-School Singing Assembly.
- **Friday:** Whole-School Celebration Assembly.

To foster student leadership, our Worship Group help welcome visitors, co-lead our whole-school worship sessions and go out into the local community.



Links with the Local Community

Community Engagement

Our school choir plays an active role in the local community, providing pupils 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 Belfry Residential Home and the Ramsden Heath Coffee Club. These performances not only help foster a sense of community but also give pupils 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 pupils to gain a practical understanding of how local services operate and the role they play in keeping the community safe.

Links with Local Churches:



As part of our school's commitment to nurturing the spiritual development of our pupils, we have strong links with several local churches, including St. Margaret's Church in Downham and Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church. Each week, we welcome a different member of the clergy to lead our Collective Worship. This practice gives pupils the opportunity to engage with a variety of Christian denominations, fostering a greater understanding of different faiths and practices.

Our collaboration with the local churches extends to special events, including Christmas and Easter celebrations in which the whole school participates in order to deepen the children's knowledge and understanding of the religious significance of these occasions.



Wrap-Around Care



CAMP EPIC

Ofsted Registered

Downham WAG

Childcare Funding accepted

What your kiddos can expect to do at our after school clubs...

'Move' 'Create' 'Play' Every day!

Monday - Friday!

Breakfast Club
7:45-08:45am
£5 Per session

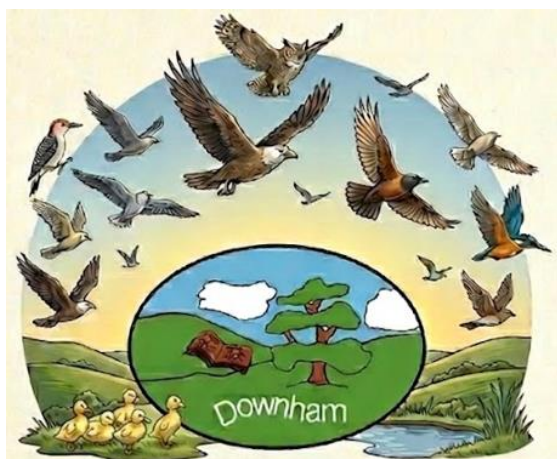
After School Club
3:15-4:30pm
£6 Per session

+ 'Lates' (snack inc) 4:30-6pm
+£7.50 Per session

For more info or to Book, ask at Reception or WhatsApp us Directly on:
07830 850072

Follow us on Socials!
@CampEpicPro
Camp Epic





Our School Organisation

7 Classes:

Ducklings: EYFS
 Robins: Year 1
 Nightingales: Year 2
 Woodpeckers: Year 3
 Kingfishers: Year 4
 Owls: Year 5
 Eagles: Year 6

Uniform

Our uniform can be bought from Danielle's.

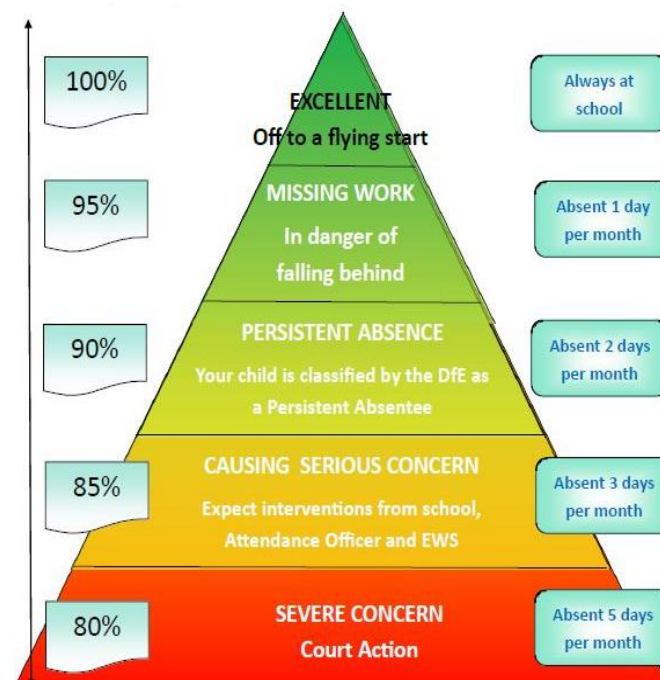
<https://www.daniellesshop.co.uk/downham-c-of-e-primary-school-159-c.asp>



Why Attendance and Punctuality Matter

Regular school attendance and punctuality are vital for a child's academic success, social development, and future opportunities.

- **Academic Achievement:** Higher attendance is directly linked to better progress in core skills like reading, writing, and maths. Because learning builds step-by-step, missing days creates cumulative gaps that make it difficult to catch up.
- **The Cost of Absence:** Even seemingly high attendance rates can mean significant lost learning time. For instance, **95% attendance** means 10 days missed in a year, while **90% attendance** equals 19 days missed—amounting to nearly 4 weeks of lost education.
- **Social & Life Skills:** Regular attendance helps children build lifelong confidence, a sense of belonging, and the ability to maintain strong friendships. Establishing these healthy habits from an early age builds essential skills and secures better future job prospects.
- **Punctuality:** Arriving on time is crucial. Being late disrupts the morning routine for the individual child, the teacher, and the entire classroom.



Admissions

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 2027:

For children starting Primary or Infant School (Reception) in September 2027, applications open on **9 November 2026** and close on **15 January 2027**. National Offer Day for primary places is typically in mid-April 2027.

Before you apply, you should:

- Check you live in the Essex Administrative Area
- Read the Primary School Admissions Booklet

Contact Details:

Downham C of E Primary School

Church Road

Billericay

Essex

CM11 1NU

01268 710387

Email: office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk

