



# PROSPECTUS 2025

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## St John's CofE (VC) Primary School

Enabling all children to achieve their true potential in a caring and inclusive community based on Christian values.

[www.st-johns-danbury.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-johns-danbury.essex.sch.uk)

# CONTENTS

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1. Who We Are
2. Our Vision & Values
3. Why Choose Us?
4. A Day in the Life at St John's
5. Our Learning
6. Pastoral Care & Wellbeing
7. Our Christian Ethos
8. Working Together
9. Joining Our School
10. Inclusion & Special Educational Needs
11. Practical Information
  - School Uniform
  - Attendance & Punctuality
  - Medicines & Medical Needs
  - Safeguarding
  - Behaviour
  - The School Day
  - Drop-Off & Pick-Up
12. Next Steps & Contact





# WHO WE ARE

## Welcome to St John's Church of England Primary School

Starting school is one of the most exciting milestones in a child's life – and at St John's, we are privileged to share that journey with our families.

Our school is a happy, nurturing Christian community where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to 'let their light shine'. We believe that children learn best when they feel safe, cared for and inspired, and we work in partnership with families to ensure each child flourishes academically, socially and spiritually.

Our vision: Learn Together, Achieve Together, Celebrate Together, and "let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16), shapes everything we do. It means we learn as a community, we support each other to achieve our very best, and we celebrate every child's unique talents and successes.

With a rich and exciting curriculum, outstanding pastoral care, and a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom – from swimming in our own indoor pool to singing in choir or taking part in our annual triathlon competition – St John's offers children a primary school experience filled with joy, challenge and inspiration.

Mr Toby Power  
Acting Headteacher



**A CARING CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY WHERE  
EVERY CHILD IS  
KNOWN, VALUED  
AND ENCOURAGED TO  
SHINE.**

# OUR VISION & VALUES

At St John's, we believe education is about more than academic learning – it is about shaping character, nurturing curiosity, and helping every child to grow in confidence and kindness.

## Our Vision

Learn Together • Achieve Together • Celebrate Together  
“And let your light shine.” (Matthew 5:16)

## Our Mission

To enable all children to achieve their true potential in a caring and inclusive community based on Christian values.

## Our Values

These five values are woven through our teaching, our relationships, and our worship:

- **Respect** – valuing ourselves, others and the world around us.
- **Responsibility** – taking ownership of our words, actions and learning.
- **Kindness** – showing care and compassion.
- **Truthfulness** – being honest and trustworthy.
- **Perseverance** – trying our best, even when it's difficult.

## What a St John's Pupil Becomes

By the time our pupils leave our school, we aspire for them to embody the following qualities:

- A passion for learning, with an insatiable curiosity and eagerness to discover more about the world.
- A strong moral compass, understanding the principles of justice and fairness, and consistently making ethical choices.
- Resilience and self-assurance, with the confidence to think independently and make their voices heard.
- Courageous advocates, standing up for what they believe is right and demonstrating integrity in their actions.
- Inquisitive thinkers, who ask thoughtful questions and approach the world with a sense of wonder and inquiry.
- Analytical minds, capable of thinking critically and solving problems with clarity and creativity.
- Empathy and inclusivity, embracing and respecting the uniqueness and diversity of others.
- A deep sense of self-awareness, understanding their strengths, values, and potential.
- Informed decision-makers, who reflect on their choices and take responsibility for their actions.

These are not just aspirations — they guide daily life at St John's, helping every child to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.



# WHY CHOOSE US?



Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family makes. At St John's, parents tell us they value not just the excellent teaching, but the warmth of our community and the wide range of opportunities their children enjoy.

Here are just some of the reasons families choose us:

- ✨ A caring Christian community where every child is known, valued and encouraged to let their light shine.
- 📖 An ambitious, broad curriculum that inspires curiosity and creativity while building strong foundations in reading, writing and maths.
- 🌟 High expectations with excellent pastoral care, helping children to thrive academically, socially and spiritually.
- 🏊 Weekly swimming lessons in our very own heated indoor pool help build confidence, skills and safety in the water.
- 🎵 A rich offer in music, sport and the arts, with clubs, choir, drama and competitive sports teams that develop talent and teamwork.
- 💛 Strong partnerships with parents and the local community, including close links with St John's Church and an active, supportive PTFA.
- 🌳 A beautiful village setting with spacious playing fields, playgrounds and opportunities for outdoor learning.

When families walk through our doors, they often comment on the sense of welcome and belonging they feel. At St John's, we combine a strong academic focus with the care, faith and opportunities that prepare children for life beyond primary school.

**A WARM,  
AMBITIOUS  
SCHOOL WHERE  
CHILDREN  
FLOURISH  
ACADEMICALLY,  
SOCIALY AND  
SPIRITUALLY**



# PHOTO GALLERY





# A DAY IN THE LIFE AT ST JOHN'S

At St John's, every day balances focused learning with regular opportunities to move, play and reset. Our 50:10 timetable (50 minutes of learning followed by a 10-minute break) runs throughout the school, apart from EYFS and Year 1, who follow their own age-appropriate routines. This inclusive approach means children stay engaged, energised and ready to learn.

**8:35am – Gates Open**

**8:45am – Doors Open & Early Work**

## **Morning Learning & Breaks**

Lessons are taught in 50-minute blocks with short breaks in between. These breaks are designed to give children time to move, refresh and reset, so that when they return to class they are focused and ready to learn again.

**12:00–1:15pm – Lunch and Play**

Lunchtimes are staggered so every child has time to eat, play and recharge before afternoon learning begins.

## **Afternoon Learning & Breaks**

The 50:10 rhythm continues, with a broad range of subjects.

**2:40pm – Collective Worship**

Our community comes together for reflection, prayer and song, often led by staff, pupils or visiting church leaders. This daily time is the heartbeat of our school.

**3:15pm – Home Time**

## **After School**

Clubs extend the day with exciting opportunities: football, choir, drama, seasonal sports and more.

At St John's, our daily rhythm combines challenge, creativity and care so that children can leave school each day feeling stretched, supported and happy.




# OUR LEARNING


At St John's, we believe every child deserves a rich, exciting and balanced education. Our curriculum blends strong foundations in the core subjects with a wide range of creative, sporting and cultural opportunities.

## The 50:10 Approach

Most of our classes follow a **50:10 timetable** – 50 minutes of focused learning followed by a 10-minute break. This inclusive structure keeps children active, refreshed and ready to learn. It supports concentration, wellbeing and ensures every child has regular movement breaks throughout the day.


## Core Learning


 **English** – We build confident readers and writers through a strong focus on phonics, comprehension, grammar, spelling, vocabulary and creativity.


 **Mathematics** – Children develop secure number skills and problem-solving strategies, using a variety of resources to explore patterns and concepts.

 **Science** – Through investigation and discovery, pupils learn to question, experiment and understand the world around them.

## Broad & Balanced Curriculum

 **Art & Design Technology** – Creative projects that encourage self-expression and design skills.

 **History & Geography** – Inspiring curiosity about people, places and the past.

 **Music** – Singing, performance and instrument opportunities, including choir and recorder groups.

 **Computing** – Developing safe, confident and creative use of technology.

 **PE & Sport** – A wide range of physical activities, with excellent facilities and extensive outdoor space.

## Swimming for All

We are fortunate to have our own heated indoor swimming pool. Every child from Reception upwards swims weekly, taught by qualified instructors. Swimming builds confidence, water safety and physical fitness – and is one of the highlights of the St John's experience.

## Clubs, Visits & Experiences

Beyond the classroom, children enjoy an impressive range of opportunities:

- After-school clubs such as football, netball, choir, drama and art.
- Annual residential trips in Year 6 to foster independence and teamwork.
- Visits to museums, theatres and places of worship, enriching their learning in real-life contexts.

## Learning for Life

Our curriculum is rooted in our Christian vision and values. We encourage children to be respectful, resilient, kind and curious, equipping them not just for the next stage of education but for life.





# PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

Happy children learn best. At St John's, we place as much importance on wellbeing as we do on academic progress. Every child is known and cared for as an individual, and we work in close partnership with families to ensure they feel secure, supported and ready to thrive.

## A Nurturing Community

- Class teachers are the first point of contact and build strong, trusting relationships with each child.
- Learning support staff play a vital role in providing care, guidance and encouragement.
- Our SENCo, Mrs Rachael Anderson, works closely with staff and families to make sure every child's needs are understood and met.

## Safeguarding at the Heart

Children's safety and wellbeing are central to our work. Our safeguarding team, led by Mr Toby Power (Designated Safeguarding Lead), ensures that every member of staff is trained to keep children safe. We promote an open, listening culture where children know they can talk to trusted adults whenever they have worries.

## Supporting Emotional Wellbeing

We know that children sometimes face challenges, big or small. At St John's we:

- provide opportunities to talk, share and reflect;
- use restorative approaches to resolve conflict and rebuild relationships;
- celebrate kindness and perseverance through our rewards and recognition;
- offer additional support for children who need it through Mrs Wright, our Wellbeing Mentor and Young Carers' Champion, and through links with outside agencies.

## Building Character

Pastoral care is rooted in our Christian ethos and values. Children learn respect, responsibility and kindness through everyday interactions as well as through collective worship. Our aim is that they leave St John's not only as confident learners but as thoughtful, caring individuals.



# OUR CHRISTIAN ETHOS



As a Church of England school, our Christian faith is at the heart of who we are and what we do. It shapes our vision –

“Learn Together • Achieve Together • Celebrate Together” – and guides us in helping every child to “let their light shine” (Matthew 5:16).

## Daily Worship

Each day we gather for collective worship – a time of prayer, song, story and reflection. This daily rhythm is the heartbeat of our school, giving children the chance to pause, think and grow spiritually as part of a community. Worship is inclusive and invitational: children and adults, of all faiths or none, are welcome to join in, in ways that feel right for them.

## Church Links

We enjoy a close partnership with St John’s Church in Danbury, as well as other local churches. Clergy regularly lead worship in school and we celebrate Christian festivals in church throughout the year.

## Religious Education

Our RE curriculum follows the Essex Agreed Syllabus and is supported by the Diocese. Children learn about Christianity as well as other world faiths, developing both knowledge and respect for diversity. This enables them to reflect on life’s big questions and explore their own beliefs.

## Living Our Values

Respect, responsibility, kindness, truthfulness and perseverance are not just words on posters – they are lived out daily in classrooms, on the playground and in our relationships with one another. These values help our children and adults flourish into compassionate, thoughtful and resilient individuals.

At St John’s, our Christian ethos creates a safe, joyful and reflective space where faith, character and learning flourish together.



**“ST JOHN’S IS A CALM AND HAPPY PLACE WHERE PUPILS ARE CONFIDENT TO BE THEMSELVES.”  
— OFSTED, 2023**

# WORKING TOGETHER

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At St John's, we believe children thrive when school and families work hand in hand. Education is a partnership, and we greatly value the support and involvement of parents, carers and the wider community.

## Parents as Partners

We operate with an open-door approach; teachers are always happy to talk through questions or concerns at the end of the day, and appointments can be arranged if a longer conversation is needed. Parents also receive regular updates through newsletters, ParentPay messages and the school website.

## Getting Involved

Many parents choose to play an active role in school life by:

- hearing children read;
- supporting art, craft or cooking activities;
- volunteering on trips and special events;
- supporting with swimming in EYFS and Year 1.

Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference to our children's experience.

## The PTFA

Our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) works tirelessly to enrich school life. From discos and inflatable days to our annual Summer Fayre, the PTFA brings the community together and raises thousands of pounds each year for additional resources and opportunities. New members are always warmly welcomed.

## Community Collaboration

We are proud of our strong links with local churches, organisations and the wider Danbury community. These relationships give our children a sense of belonging and help them understand the value of contributing to something bigger than themselves.

Together, we create a school where children are supported, families are connected and the whole community celebrates success.



# JOINING OUR SCHOOL



We are delighted that you are considering St John's for your child. Choosing a school is a big decision, and we aim to make the process as smooth and supportive as possible.

## Admissions

All admissions to St John's are managed through Essex County Council's Admissions Team. Applications can be made online via the Essex website, where you will also find key dates and full guidance.

### 👉 [Apply for a school place](#)

When the number of applications exceeds available places, admissions are allocated using Essex County Council's published criteria, which include:

1. Looked-after and previously looked-after children.
2. Children with a sibling already attending the school.
3. Children living in our priority admission area.
4. Other applicants, prioritised by distance from home to school.

Our current published admission number is 30 for Reception.

## Transition & Starting School

We want every child's start at St John's to be a positive, happy experience. To help with this:

- Parents are invited to a New Intake Meeting in the summer term before their child starts, to meet staff and learn about daily routines.
- Children are welcomed to school for transition visits, giving them the chance to explore their classroom, meet their teacher and make new friends.
- Our Reception team visit many of the local nurseries and pre-schools to get to know the children before they join us.
- In September, new pupils begin with parent meetings and a phased start to the term. Children attend shorter sessions in small groups before moving to full-time attendance over the following weeks. This supportive transition enables children to build relationships, establish routines safely and develop confidence and wellbeing as they settle into school life.

We know that starting school is a big step, and we work closely with families to make sure every child feels secure, excited and ready to learn from day one.

## Mid-Year Admissions

If you are moving into the area or considering a change of school, applications are also made via Essex County Council. We welcome visits so that you can see our school in action before applying.



# INCLUSION & SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS



Every child is unique, and at St John's we are committed to ensuring that all pupils — whatever their needs, abilities or background — feel valued, included and supported.

## Our Approach

- We create an inclusive environment where every child is encouraged to take part in all aspects of school life.
- We identify and respond quickly to children's needs, working in partnership with families to provide the right support.
- Teachers adapt lessons to make learning accessible while maintaining high expectations for all.
- We work with external agencies when necessary to ensure the best provision for each child.

## Our SENCo

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (Mrs Rachael Anderson) oversees provision across the school. She works closely with teachers, parents and outside specialists to ensure that children with additional needs receive appropriate support and make strong progress.

## Access for All

We make reasonable adjustments to ensure our site and curriculum are accessible. This includes dedicated disabled parking, wheelchair access, and personalised arrangements where needed.

## Partnership with Parents

Children are always at the centre of what we do. We work closely with families, keeping them informed, involving them in decisions, and celebrating every child's achievements.

At St John's, inclusion is not an add-on — it is part of our ethos. Every child is supported to let their light shine.



**EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE. AT ST JOHN'S, INCLUSION IS NOT AN ADD-ON — IT IS PART OF WHO WE ARE.**

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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## School Uniform

Our uniform helps children feel part of the St John's community and ready for learning.

- **Winter:** grey skirt/pinafore/trousers, white blouse or shirt with school tie, purple cardigan or jumper.
- **Summer:** purple and white gingham dress or playsuit, or grey shorts/culottes with white shirt and tie.
- **EYFS:** children in the Early Years wear a white polo shirt (no tie required) all year round for comfort and practicality.
- **PE Kit:** purple polo shirt, black shorts, black tracksuit and trainers for outdoors.
- **Swimming:** black swimsuit/shorts or trunks, yellow swim hat, towel.
- **Jewellery & Hair:** Only one pair of stud earrings (removed for PE and swimming). No nail varnish or non-natural hair colours. Hair shoulder-length or longer must be tied back.

Uniform can be bought from Smarty Pants Schoolwear or local supermarkets.

👉 See our [School Uniform Policy](#) for full details.

## Attendance & Punctuality

Good attendance is vital for learning.

- Children should be in school every day unless unwell.
- Gates open at 8:35am, doors open at 8:45am, and registration closes at 9:00am.
- School finishes at 3:15pm.
- Holidays during term time cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- If your child is absent, please call the school before 9:15am on each day of absence.

We understand that some families may face challenges with attendance or punctuality. Our staff are here to listen, offer support and work together with parents to find solutions that help every child succeed.

👉 See our [Attendance & Punctuality Policy](#) for more information.

## Medicines & Medical Needs

We welcome children with medical conditions and make sure they can access all areas of school life.

- Medicines should only be brought to school when essential and must be in the original container with prescription label.
- Parents must complete a consent form before medicine can be administered.
- Emergency medicines (e.g. inhalers, epi-pens) are kept accessible.
- For long-term needs, we create an individual healthcare plan in partnership with parents and healthcare professionals.

👉 See our [Administering Medicines Policy](#) for full details.

## Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority.

- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Toby Power (Acting Headteacher).
- Our Deputy DSLs are Mrs Lois Barrett (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Rachael Anderson (SENCo) and Mrs Jenny Whitelaw (School Business Manager).
- Any concerns about a child's safety must be reported immediately to the DSL team.

We teach children how to keep themselves safe, including online safety, and we work with families and outside agencies when needed.

👉 See our [Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy](#) for more details.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Behaviour

We expect all members of our community to live out our values: respect, responsibility, kindness, truthfulness and perseverance.

- We use a restorative approach, helping children to reflect, repair and learn from their actions.
- Rewards and recognition celebrate positive behaviour.
- In rare cases, suspensions or exclusions may be used, in line with DfE guidance.

➡ See our [Behaviour Policy](#) for full details.

## The School Day

We run a 50:10 timetable for Years 2–6 (50 minutes of learning, 10 minutes of movement break), supporting children's concentration and wellbeing. EYFS and Year 1 follow their own age-appropriate routines.

## Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- Children enter through their classroom doors between 8:45–8:50am.
- At the end of the day, parents/carers collect children from their class exit points or playground.
- Please inform the office if someone different is collecting your child.
- For safety, children must be accompanied until handed over to staff at the start of the day.






# NEXT STEPS & CONTACT

We hope this prospectus has given you a sense of the warmth, opportunities and community spirit that make St John's a special place to learn and grow. The very best way to experience our school is to come and see it in action.


## Arrange a Visit


We welcome prospective parents and carers to visit during the school day. You will have the chance to tour the classrooms, meet staff and pupils, and see our ethos and values lived out. To arrange a visit, please contact the school office.

## Contact Us

 **St John's C of E (VC) Primary School**  
Little Baddow Road  
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 [www.st-johns-danbury.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-johns-danbury.essex.sch.uk)

## Find Out More

Full versions of all school policies mentioned in this prospectus, including **Attendance, Safeguarding, Behaviour, Medicines, Uniform, RSHE and SEN**, can be found on our website:

 [School Policies](#)



# St John's CofE (VC) Primary School



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