



Christ the King Prospectus 2025 - 2026

"Loving, learning, growing together as Christ's family"

Welcome to Christ the King

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions that any parent ever has to make. We hope that this prospectus will give you an indication of the work of our school community, its atmosphere and ethos and how these reflect the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

Christ the King is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary School provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and maintained by Reading Borough.

A child is a gift from God and the first and best teachers of any child are his or her own parents. We are proud of our children and their achievements; we are proud of our academic standards and the selfless commitment of our staff; we are proud of the warm and strong community that we serve, and proud that we serve the whole of that community. We believe in working closely with parents, parishioners and the wider community to provide the very best for our children spiritually, morally and academically, but individual parents must take the decision as to whether what we offer is right for their children.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this prospectus or about the school, please do not hesitate to contact us. If, after reading this prospectus, you would like to make an appointment to look round the school you will be most welcome.

I look forward to meeting you,

Vanessa Bingham
Acting Headteacher

The School Governors

The Governors of Christ the King Catholic Primary School represent all our stakeholders. As ours is a voluntary aided school a majority of the Governors is appointed by The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (the “Foundation”); these are known as Foundation Governors. Reading Borough appoints a governor (the Local Authority governor); the parents elect two governors; the staff elect a governor; and the school’s headteacher is a governor.

Chair of Governors: Vicky Hummell
Vice-chair: Mr C. Prendergast

Foundation Governors

Sister V. Hummell
Mr. C. Prendergast
Mrs M. Hills
Father Daniel Agber (parish priest)
Mrs T. Poole
Mr D. Brown
Ms J Kooran-Kallookkaran

Elected Teacher Governor

Miss B Lockwood

Acting Headteacher

Mrs Vanessa J Bingham

Local Authority Governor

Mrs G. Gibson

Elected Parent Governor

Mrs T Bukowska

Organisation and staffing

We have a 26 place Nursery, and our admission number for the main school, determined by the Local Authority and the Diocese, is 45. This means we have 315 children from Reception to Year 6, which in turn means that children may be taught in mixed year groups and are unlikely to be taught in the same group throughout their time at school.

Staff Structure 2025-2026

Senior Leadership Team

Role	Name
Head	Mrs Bingham
Deputy	Mrs Flynn
Assistant Head/Ark Manager and Inclusion Leader	Mrs Tetchner
Assistant Head/KS2 Leader	Mrs Bloom
KS1 Leader	Mrs Flynn
Early Years Leader	Mr Taplin
School Business Manager	Mrs Martin

Office Staff

Role	Name
Family Support Worker	Miss King
SENCo	Mrs Asker/ Mrs Bano
Office Manager	Mrs Brophy
Office Assistant	Miss Fappiano
Pastoral Worker	Miss Baker

Teaching Staff

Year group:	Class Teacher:	HLTAs/TAs/1-1
Nursery	Mrs Thompson	Mrs Emmett- Church Miss Kite
Reception	Mr Taplin	Miss Inglis Miss Kite Miss Black
Reception	Mrs Uminska	Mrs Emmett-Church Mrs Sarafimov
YR 1	Miss Scott	Mrs Dougall Miss Rees
YR1/2	Miss Allwood / Miss Parsons	Mrs Emmett Mr Reid

		Miss Ali Miss Lingos
YR 2	Miss Lockwood	Miss Jordan Mrs Buckland Miss Chan
YR 3	Mrs Kassam	Miss Ip Miss Turner Mrs Dougall
YR ¾	Mrs Gooch	Miss Hazleton Mrs Faheem Mrs Buckland
YR 4	Miss Thompson	Mrs Shuttleworth Miss Rees Mr Reid Miss Dye
YR 5	Mrs Casey	Miss Black Mrs Atif
YR 5/6	Mrs Powell/ Mrs Asif	Miss Dalimore Mrs Buchan
YR 5/6	Mrs Bloom	Miss Wysocka Mrs Faheem
The Ark	Mrs Machado	Mrs Young Mrs Filby Mrs Holland Miss Holder Mrs Lee Miss Chan
Ducklings	Miss Nylias	Mrs Boakye Mrs Whitchurch -Bennett Miss Cottee Mrs Hutchinson Miss Turner Miss Black
HLTA		Miss Bowles Mrs O'Reilly Mr Reid Mrs Young Mrs Tucker

Our Mission

Loving Learning



*Growing together
as Christ's family*

The aims of our school

At Christ the King we promote the academic, physical, spiritual and social development of each child. We do this through a stimulating environment and a broad and balanced curriculum. We aim to:

- Encourage compassion, care and respect one for another;
- Nurture the child's spirituality through prayer and worship;
- Develop the pupil's individual talents;
- Encourage the children to do their best;
- Promote family involvement in our school;
- Value each child's individuality.

Christ the King is a Catholic School. This means we are called to be a centre of excellence in teaching and learning, for we follow Christ's instruction to his followers "Go and teach" (Matthew 28:19). We encourage awareness of the presence of God in daily prayer and worship. We acknowledge that all human beings are made "in the image and likeness of God".

To be an authentic Catholic school we must provide the very best of education for all our pupils and we never forget that every child matters.

We work in close partnership with the parish of Christ the King. The parish church is next door to the school. We often visit the church for services and our parish priest, Father Daniel, is a frequent and welcome visitor to school.

Behaviour

The behaviour of our pupils is a matter of great importance. Children are expected to show politeness, respect and thought for others in their dealings with one another and with adults. They are encouraged to be hardworking, honest, kind and fair.

If children are not well behaved learning cannot take place. Through our behaviour policy we encourage children to take responsibility for their own actions. Expectations for behaviour, are clear through our three rules: Ready, Safe, Respect which are understood by all pupils. There are also rewards and protective and educational consequences.

Bullying will never be tolerated and our approach to bullying is set out in our "Anti-bullying policy".

Lunches

Hot meals of a very high quality are provided in our school dining room and we also provide facilities for children to eat their own packed lunches.

Special Educational Needs

Our school aims to welcome and respect each pupil as a child of God, to recognise individual capabilities, and to celebrate success. We aim to encourage the efforts of all children and to create a community in which they can feel valued, confident and secure.

The curriculum is made available to all children at a level appropriate to their needs. Extra support is provided to all children where appropriate either through class work or in additional booster classes.

Through the appropriate agencies of the Local Authority we are able to provide a range of specialist services.

If a child is in need of any degree of extra support this will be provided in consultation with the parent, the class teacher and the Special Needs co-ordinator.

Every child at Christ the King is valued and given equality of opportunity in all areas of school life whatever their class, culture, race, belief, gender, ability or disability. There is disabled access into the school and we also have three fully accessible toilets.

Curriculum

We are committed to providing a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum which meets the needs of each child. In accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum children cover the following subjects: R.E., English, Maths, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music, P.E., Modern Foreign Languages and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

R.E. and Worship

For the teaching of Religious Education we use the “God Matters” Scheme of Work devised by the Diocese of Portsmouth and authorised for use in all schools throughout the Diocese.

Acts of collective worship take place each day and particular celebrations mark the rhythm of the year. We pray using a range of well-known, traditional prayers, less familiar published prayers, prayers written by teachers and pupils and extemporised prayers. We pray to ask God, to say thank you to God, and to give glory to God (Petition, Thanks and Praise). Some worship is child led, though much is led by teachers and other adults. Our worship is varied, vibrant and sensitive to the spiritual needs of those who are not Catholics. We invite children to pray but we never force them to adopt specific attitudes, to make particular gestures or to say particular words. Children have the right to withdraw from worship at their parents’ request. Any such requests should be made to the headteacher.

Swimming and Music

In Year 6 all children have swimming lessons for the Summer Term. Our aim is that every child should feel confident in the water and that as many as possible should learn to swim. We also encourage as many children as possible to take up a musical instrument.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the learning process. It is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning and is in response to guidance from the school. For children in Foundation Stage and KS1 homework largely consists of regular reading with parents and carers, looking at books together. All children should be read to, or listened to, for at least 15 to 20 minutes a day. Other literacy homework will include spellings, punctuation exercises etc. For numeracy, number games and tasks may be set for younger children and more formal exercises for older children.

Homework increases as children get older. Daily reading is still important whatever the age of the child, but in addition to spellings, punctuation exercises and numeracy exercises, homework in Key Stage 2 might include: finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations or more traditional written assignments. There may also be occasions when children are required to finish work started in class.

Homework is an extension of work in class. We do not set written homework for its own sake, to do so can be harmful. There will therefore be occasions when circumstances make it inappropriate to set homework.

Education for Personal Relationships (Sex Education)

We recognise that God is our Creator and his love for us as individuals is central to everything. Education for Personal Relationships is part of our curriculum and is introduced at times and in a context that is relevant to the age and maturity of the child. The work covered is presented in such a way that it ensures due regard for moral considerations and the value of family life.

Our Education for Personal Relationships is based on “A Journey in Love”. Parents are informed by letter when their children will have lessons in sex education and are invited to view the materials we use and to discuss with us what we teach, and how we teach it. They are also welcome to speak to Mrs V Bingham, the Headteacher, if they have any concerns.

The School Day

Morning Session:

Nursery	8.45—11.45 a.m.
Infants	8.50—12.00 p.m.
Juniors	8.50—12.30 p.m.

Afternoon Session:

Infants	1.00—3.20 p.m.
Juniors	1.30—3.20 p.m.

We have a breakfast club that runs from 7.30 —8.50 a.m.

Parents may leave their children with confidence and should not accompany the children into school.

Funtastic Kids Offer an afterschool club that runs from the Geoffrey Field Junior Site, we have staff members from Christ the King school that work at the afterschool club, the children are escorted from Christ the King to the afterschool club, they have two sessions available for you to book 3.30-4.30pm or 3.30-6pm information for Funtastic kids at www.funtastickids.co.uk

At the end of the day children from reception to year 4 are collected from the junior playground. Years 5 & 6 are collected from the Ark gate in Lulworth Road

School Uniform

Girls:

Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school badge (Optional)

White polo shirt with school badge (Optional)

Skirt or dark grey trousers

White or grey socks

Boys:

Navy blue sweatshirt with school badge (Optional)

White polo shirt with school badge (Optional)

Dark grey trousers or shorts.

Grey socks.

Parents are asked to make sure that children wear sensible shoes to school. Trainers, jelly shoes, crocs or sling-back sandals are not acceptable for general wear.

P.E. Kit – Children come into school in their PE kit on their PE day

Infants:

T-shirt in the child's house colour (red, green, gold or blue, navy shorts and plimsolls.

Juniors:

T-shirt in the child's house colour (red, green, gold or blue), navy shorts and plimsolls.

Tracksuits may be worn and trainers are acceptable when P.E. is outside, but not for indoor P.E session.

Note: School uniform may be purchased from Stevenson's, in Chatham Street, Reading.

Extra-curricular activities

The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities. These vary from time to time dependent on the availability of staff and the season of the year

Christ the King school has a very active and highly successful parent-teacher association. This runs our summer fair and organises special events and treats for the children throughout the year. For example, the PTA has paid for children to have a trip to the Theatre or the Cinema, they have run several pupil discos and uniform sales.

We encourage all our parents to give the PTA their full support.

Complaints

Any problems should initially be raised with the class teacher or the member of staff involved in an incident. If this does not resolve matters an appointment should be made with the headteacher. Should parents feel the need to take a complaint further they should write to the Chair of Governors c/o the school. The school's complaints policy is available on request from the office, and is on our website at www.christthekingreading.co.uk.

Building Fund

Christ the King is a voluntary aided school. This gives us certain freedoms, but means that unlike other schools in our area our school buildings are neither owned nor maintained by Reading Borough Council. For all building and renovation work we receive grants directly from the Department for Education but we are required to pay 10% towards all these costs. We therefore maintain a building fund and ask all parents to contribute to it.

The Nursery

We have a purpose built 26 place Nursery, and run a morning session.

The Nursery is a full part of the school. For some activities our Nursery children may join with Reception and they occasionally attend assemblies, but they have separate playing facilities and the experience of Nursery is a gentle introduction to school life.

Foundation Stage

Together the Nursery and Reception classes make up the Foundation Stage. In line with Government guidelines and best practice our Foundation Stage curriculum is less formal than the work in the rest of the school. Learning is frequently child-directed and experiential. Sometimes parents are a little worried that “all they seem to do is play”. It may look like this; and it is certainly fun in the Foundation Stage; but there is actually a lot of learning taking place.

Admissions: Parents who wish their children to attend our Nursery should fill in a Nursery application form. This may be obtained from the school office.

Parents should note that there is a separate admissions process for Nursery and the rest of the school. Our admissions criteria for both Nursery and the rest of the school are the same, but a place in Nursery does **not** guarantee a place in the Reception class. This is because children come into our school from other Nurseries in the area, e.g. Blagdon Children’s Centre or Whitley Park Infants, from other areas, e.g. if families move into our area from other places, and some children do not attend Nursery at all. By law we are not allowed to give preferential treatment in our admissions process to children from our Nursery.

The Ark

Our school is privileged to host The Ark, Reading Borough's 21 place primary Resource Centre for children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (often known as ASD).

Admission to the The Ark is subject to a process that is separate from admission to the main school but The Ark is in all other respects an integral part of the school. Children from The Ark take part in all school activities and spend much of their time in mainstream classrooms.

The Staff based in The Ark

Centre manager: Mrs R. Tetchner

The Ark Teacher: Mrs Machado

Support Assistants:

Mrs H. Filby, Mrs T. Holland, Miss M. Holder, Mrs C Young, Mrs N Lee, Miss K Chan

From time to time during the year there may be changes to this list or to the responsibilities of particular members of staff.

We try to give the children routine and to help them enjoy success. As much as possible they take part in the normal life of the school. They go to assemblies, take part in sports days and school visits, and are in class with their peers for much of the week, but we are also able to make available specialist therapies, we have our sensory room, and when things get just too complicated the physical building of the Resource is a safe haven.

At Christ the King we are privileged to host The Ark, Reading's Resource for primary aged children with autistic spectrum conditions. In March 2009 we responded to a request from Reading Borough Council to host a 5 place Resource. When the Centre opened in November 2011 it was a 10 place Resource; today it has 21 children. The numbers of children diagnosed with autism are increasing every year, and are particularly high in Reading.

Children come to our Resource from all over the Borough, from Tilehurst, Caversham, Newtown and Whitley. It's no surprise that children with autism sometimes find it tough to cope with school. 70% of those with ASD also have other conditions and the "meltdowns" which can be provoked by intense emotion and stress, often make it difficult to accommodate these children in mainstream classrooms.

Children with autism can have difficulties coping with their emotions, understanding

consequences and appreciating other peoples' points of view. They can experience intense stress when their routine changes, or when things happen that they don't understand, and they sometimes have a problem distinguishing between reality and fantasy.

What next?

If you are interested in applying for a place for your child you can find the latest application form on the school website under key information/admissions or phone the school office on 01189015434. You also need to apply through Reading Borough Council.