

# **SISSINGHURST (VA) CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**CREATIVE, COURAGEOUS AND ASPIRATIONAL  
LEARNING IN THE STRENGTH OF GOD**





# WELCOME TO SISSINGHURST CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Creative, courageous and  
inspirational learning in the  
strength of God*

We are a flourishing Church of England school set at the heart of a beautiful Kent Village. As you arrive at our school, we hope that you will feel the sense of community and joyfulness which is created by our wonderful staff team and fantastic children.

We currently have over 170 children on role from 4 – 11 years of age in 6 classes. Sissinghurst has a uniquely family feel and we are passionate about really knowing every child and ensuring their own personal learning journey allows them to fully fulfil their own potential. Children in Reception class are buddied up with a child in year 5 so that they can build a very special bond over two years; friendships which are very important to the children.

Sissinghurst is a Church of England Primary school and the links with our local church are important, we attend Harvest and Christmas services in our local church and Reverend Pete Deaves visits us in school on a weekly basis to lead Collective Worship. Children at Sissinghurst actively engage in a range of co-curricular activities throughout our leaves of learning where they can actually live out our school values and practically make a difference to themselves and the world around them. We have designed our creative curriculum to engage, inspire and challenge pupils to achieve their best whilst ensuring they leave our school with an understanding of themselves, others and the wider world.



We are blessed with a vibrant school community including: staff passionate about providing the best primary education for all pupils; supportive parents and our FOSS (Friends of Sissinghurst School) as well as children who are keen to learn and who embody our school Christian values of Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Courage. Together with our excellent team of teachers and teaching assistants, we have a very effective Governing Body which makes education here a really enjoyable experience where every child's potential is valued and cherished.

Our school is set in beautiful grounds where our developing Farm school, school garden, reflection area and Forest school can be found. We offer a wide range of co-curricular clubs for children of all ages and our popular breakfast and after school clubs which are run by two of our very experienced (and popular!) Teaching Assistants.

A Sissinghurst education is more than just an excellent academic journey, being part of the Sissinghurst family means that you and your child will be in a happy, caring and friendly place where children learn to:

- > Think critically and creatively
- > Develop an independent and enquiring mind; the ability to question, discuss and argue rationally; to make informed decisions and to apply themselves effectively to tasks
- > Develop personal moral values and understand and respect the multi-cultural society in which we live.
- > Value education for its own sake and acquire the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to enable them to continue with their education as a lifelong process.

## School Vision

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We are a strong 'family', passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities for all. We are courageous advocates for the planet, learning to speak out for others' locally, nationally and globally. Rooted in the strength of God, we respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community.

# OUR VISION & VALUES

**'IN VIRTUTE'  
COURAGE.**

**'IN VIRTUTE TUA  
DOMINE' IN THE  
STRENGTH OF  
GOD.**

## Vision underpinned by Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong. Take courage. Don't be afraid because God, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you."

## School Values

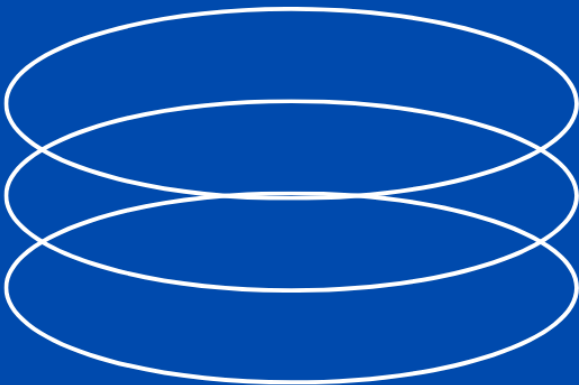
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**COURAGE**

**FORGIVENESS**

**SERVICE**

**KINDNESS**



## School Rules

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**BE READY**

**BE RESPECTFUL**

**BE SAFE**





## **TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR SCHOOL VALUES**

**01.**

### **COURAGE**

We persevere and we are ready to learn, to try our best to make a difference to ourselves and others being strong and courageous as God teaches in Joshua 1:9

**"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."**

**02.**

### **FORGIVENESS**

We treat others with respect and we are ready to say sorry when we upset others as God teaches in Ephesians 4:32

**"BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER JUST AS CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."**

**03.**

### **SERVICE**

We look outwards at the world and at others to see how we can keep each other safe and help our community and our world as God teaches in Acts 20: 35

**"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."**

**04.**

### **KINDNESS**

We are ready to be kind, trustworthy friends like Jesus was to His disciples. With warm hearts we show love to others to help keep each other safe, ensuring that we respect and celebrate everyone's uniqueness as God teaches in Ephesians 4:22

**"BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER."**





# WELCOMING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN TO OUR SCHOOL

Most children at our school start in our Reception class at the age of 4. There is also a preschool on our site which is run by the Learning Tree, children can start from the age of 2 in this setting. We welcome children in classes higher up the school when spaces become available. For the first few weeks in September when your child starts with us in Reception Class, which we call Lions, they will have a phased induction to our school gradually building up to full time attendance within a couple of weeks. All children starting in reception are formally welcomed at our beginners service and quickly settle into school life. Every child in our school creates a piece of 'fruit' which is added to our family values tree in our school hall, the fruit remains on the school tree until the child leaves us in year 6 when it is presented to the child as part of the leavers service. During the welcome service our reception class children also plant a fruit tree in our school orchard to symbolise their own journey of growth. The children enjoy watching how the trees are growing and understand that they too are growing as part of our school.



# CLASS STRUCTURE

From September 2023 we will have 7 classes with our EY and KS1 classrooms downstairs and our four KS2 classrooms upstairs.

Our classes are named after African animals to remind us of our links with Boma School.

- YR – Lions
- Y1 – Giraffes
- Y2 – Elephants
- Y3 – Zebras
- Y4 – Rhinoceros
- Y5 – Eagles
- Y6 – Leopards



# THE SCHOOL DAY

We open the gate at 8.40am each day to welcome our children. The day ends at 3.10pm.

We have worship each day, playtime at 10.15am and lunchtime from 12-1pm.

On Tuesdays each class takes turns termly to experience our Forest School.





# **OUR CURRICULUM ENCOURAGES CREATIVE, COURAGEOUS AND ASPIRATIONAL LEARNING.**

We believe passionately that every child has the potential to succeed and we teach children to believe in themselves and to not give up – a growth mindset.







## Why choose Sissinghurst?

Sissinghurst is a Church of England Primary School. Children take part in a daily act of Collective Worship which includes singing, reflection and an invitation to thoughtfulness and to prayer. Collective worship will be led by one of the teachers, visiting speakers, our local vicar and sometimes by groups of children or classes. Our families are invited to join us every Friday for family celebration worship.

The Church of England's Vision for Education and spirituality states a core desire that children will experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

At Sissinghurst, we believe that by educating the whole child and providing full life experiences we meet this desire.

We define Spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. It is something that teaches us about questioning, understanding and relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond.

Spirituality enables our children to be happy; flourish and succeed and live life in all its fullness.

## NURTURING & DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY

We provide a range of planned and unplanned opportunities for children to develop their own spiritual journey. These opportunities are across the whole curriculum in order to educate the whole child. Activities teach the children to reflect and consider their own actions in a number of different activities:

- Windows: Children learn about life
- Mirrors: Children learn about themselves
- Doors: Children step out into the world, living out Christian values







# INCLUSION AND WELLBEING

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A key aspect to ensuring all children thrive at our school is to ensure that all children's needs are met.

We work hard with our pastoral team which comprises: Our Family Liaison Officer (FLO), Attendance Officer, Inclusion officer, ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and our onsite mental health practitioner.

We have two welfare meetings a term to identify and discuss any children or families who may need extra support. We can also offer counselling and play therapy sessions on site.

Our SENCO ensures that all children with EHCP and SEN status have individualised personalised plans which are updated with parents.

Our school, although on two levels is fully accessible and we have a disabled toilet on both levels.

As a Church of England school we welcome those from all faiths, genders, race and background we are fully inclusive and celebrate the diversity of our world.



## **CLUBS**

All children at Sisisinghurst have the opportunity to take part in a range of clubs and children are encouraged to try new things from gymnastics to clay, football to yoga!

We also offer a wrap-around care service which includes breakfast club and after-school club to help our working families with a drop-off and pick-up schedule that works for them.

**ASK US ABOUT OUR WRAP-AROUND SERVICE!**

## **FOREST SCHOOL**

We are lucky enough to have a large Forest school site directly accessed from our school field. Every child in the school will take part in Forest school for a term each year. Our two trained Forest school leaders provide a range of activities in all weathers to challenge children to take risks and learn from working in nature, using tools and cooking over open fires. Children absolutely love these afternoons and usually come back covered in mud with huge smiles on their faces. We always welcome parent helpers at these sessions. Forest school is continually developing, we have great plans for the coming year, we hope you will enjoy watching this area of our provision develop even further!



# LOOKING BEYOND SISSINGHURST

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We have developed links with other local primary and secondary schools. The close links we have developed with Benenden Girls school continue to grow. On a weekly basis girls come from Benenden to work with children at Sissinghurst. Our links with the secondary schools in our area mean that we are able to make use of Cranbrook Grammar schools mini bus and to send children to take part in musical and dramatic productions at Cranbrook Grammar School.

Children in Key stage 2 have the opportunity to travel to London to take part in the Young Voices concert in the O2 arena with thousands of other children from schools across the South East, this is a phenomenal event and we encourage all of our children to participate. We take part in a range of sporting events against local state and prep schools including swimming, running, netball, football and rounder's matches. Working collaboratively with other local schools means we can share best practice and work supportively to the benefit of all children in our district.

Beyond our local area, we have a long standing collaboration with Boma School in Malawi and some members of our staff have been out to visit our partner school. The connection with others far away helps children to think about world issues and what they can do to support others and learn from others. Families at Sissinghurst collect food for food banks at Harvest time and the year 6 children distribute food gifts to local families. Children also take part in Operation Christmas Child, in collaboration with our local church, to send gifts to families who would otherwise receive nothing. Children at Sissinghurst really care about the world and do make a difference. Sissinghurst has been an Eco School and we are once more on the journey to gain this accreditation.





# **AFTER YOUR SISSINGHURST ADVENTURE...**

In their final year at Sissinghurst children in year 6 apply for roles of responsibility around school including head student, Eco council leader, worship leader, school councillor and many more. All children are encouraged to write a letter of application and attend an interview with the Head teacher. Year 6 roles are allocated at the start of term 2 and children are given a badge and year 6 tie to show their position of responsibility in the school. Our year 6 children rise to the challenge and model the school values in all they do. Children leave us in year 6 as confident, thoughtful and passionate young people ready to take their next steps into the world. We send children to a variety of secondary schools including High Schools, Grammar School and private schools.

Our results can be measured in the outstanding attainment, above average in all areas but it should be measured in the way our children present themselves on a day to day basis. We are proud of every one of them and treasure their journey with us from reception to year 6.





**SISSINGHURST (VA) CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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