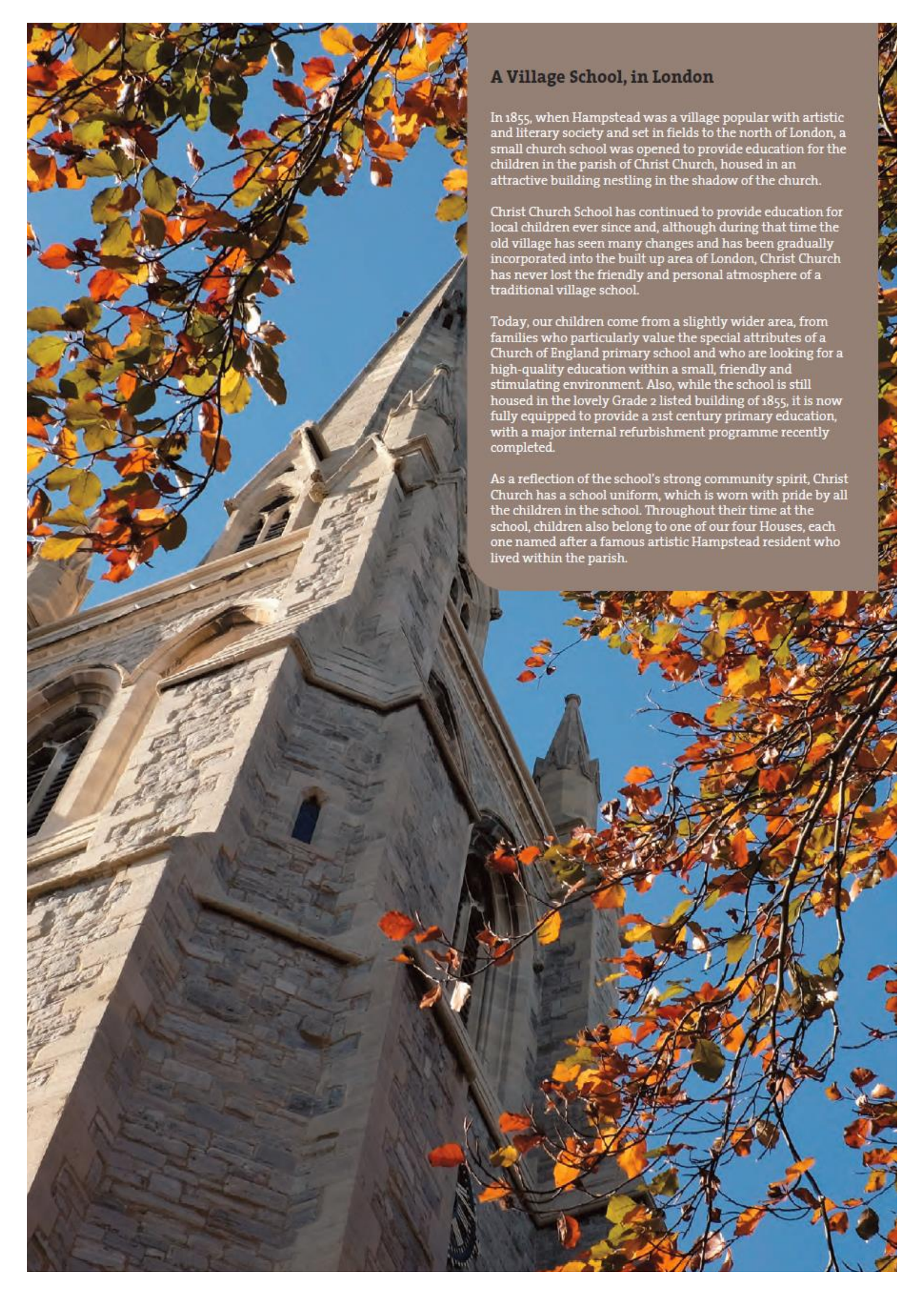


# Christ Church School

A Village School  
in London







## A Village School, in London

In 1855, when Hampstead was a village popular with artistic and literary society and set in fields to the north of London, a small church school was opened to provide education for the children in the parish of Christ Church, housed in an attractive building nestling in the shadow of the church.

Christ Church School has continued to provide education for local children ever since and, although during that time the old village has seen many changes and has been gradually incorporated into the built up area of London, Christ Church has never lost the friendly and personal atmosphere of a traditional village school.

Today, our children come from a slightly wider area, from families who particularly value the special attributes of a Church of England primary school and who are looking for a high-quality education within a small, friendly and stimulating environment. Also, while the school is still housed in the lovely Grade 2 listed building of 1855, it is now fully equipped to provide a 21st century primary education, with a major internal refurbishment programme recently completed.

As a reflection of the school's strong community spirit, Christ Church has a school uniform, which is worn with pride by all the children in the school. Throughout their time at the school, children also belong to one of our four Houses, each one named after a famous artistic Hampstead resident who lived within the parish.





# Christ Church School

A Village School in London



## Ethos and values

We believe that school should be a happy and rewarding experience where children can achieve their potential in both learning and social skills.

We feel it is the duty of our school to maximise the academic performance of every child, to give them the very best preparation for their further educational career and adult life. At Christ Church School we expect the highest standard of teaching and learning and we ensure that each child's progress is regularly monitored to enable him or her to be given every opportunity to achieve.

Equally, we attach great importance to the development of self-confidence and self-discipline and seek to enable children to build good relationships based on mutual respect and appreciation. Children are encouraged to work in cooperation and to be supportive of one another.

## Our Mission Statement

At Christ Church School we respect and value each individual's contribution to our school community. We work to inspire our children with the love of learning and to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life.

We aim to make everyone's time at Christ Church School an enjoyable and rewarding experience and achieve our mission statement by:

- promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning
- providing a rich and stimulating curriculum
- encouraging the development of self-confidence, self-discipline and healthy living
- developing a spiritual awareness
- promoting a Christian ethos whilst respecting other people's faiths
- welcoming the involvement of parents and other members of the local community
- expecting everybody to understand their own rights and take responsibility to respect the rights of others
- expecting everybody to make a positive contribution to our school, the wider community and our planet
- providing an environment where all feel safe from bullying and discrimination.

## Links with the Church and Religious Education (RE)

The school enjoys an active partnership with the parish church of Christ Church, in whose shadow we sit. We hold an assembly in school with Christian worship and prayers every day, major Christian festivals are celebrated in church, including a Nativity Play each Christmas, and each term ends with a service in church, when parents and the parish congregation join us. The school choir also takes part in Sunday services three times each term.

The school encourages those children already involved in the Christian faith and hopes to bring a spiritual awareness to those of no faith. We also welcome many children and families of other faiths to our school. All that happens in our school is guided by our six Christian values of compassion, creativity, patience, simplicity, understanding and hope.

As a Christian school, we have Christian teaching built into our curriculum and assemblies, and parents should be aware of this when they send their children to Christ Church School. However, it is an important part of our RE curriculum to teach children about the beliefs and customs of all major world faiths and to foster in them respect, sensitivity and understanding towards those whose religion and culture are different from their own. This is supported by a programme of visits to other places of worship and visits from faith leaders. Equal emphasis is placed on learning about religion and learning from religion. Although we are a church school this does not affect parents' statutory right of withdrawal from assemblies and religious education.



## Behaviour

Christ Church School is a Rights Respecting School, where our behaviour policy is based on rights and responsibilities and where teaching and learning about children's rights around the world, with a focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, is an integral part of our curriculum and policies.

At Christ Church School we expect appropriate and respectful behaviour in the classroom, the playground, at school events and in the wider community. Children are made aware that disruptive or anti-social behaviour towards others is not tolerated. These expectations are enforced through a system of rewarding positive behaviour and sanctions for inappropriate behaviour. The school's Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is available on the school's website.

These are the rights and responsibilities of all of us at Christ Church School







## Admission of Pupils and Admissions Policy

Christ Church School is a one form entry school for children aged between four and eleven years old, admitting 28 children in each year group. There are seven classes, beginning in Reception class and then Years 1 to 6.

Children are admitted to the Reception class in the September during the academic year (1st September- 31st August) in which their fifth birthday falls. All children start together in September, working up from half days to full time by the beginning of October.

The Governors encourage all parents or carers to visit the school before submitting an application form – groups of parents are shown round the school each week in the Autumn term by the head teacher. Applications should be made online to the Admissions Department at Camden Local Authority, as well as to the school by submitting a Supplementary Information Form.

Children are admitted in accordance to the school's published admissions policy – please refer to the enclosed separate sheet or the website for the admissions criteria.

## The Curriculum

At Christ Church School we are very proud of our broad, balanced and enriched curriculum. Teaching and learning at Christ Church School follows the National Curriculum for Years 1 to 6 and the Early Years Foundation Stage document for the Reception class. Our curriculum is enriched wherever possible by trips and visitors and by providing real-life and concrete experiences for children.

Children are taught within their mixed ability classes for all subjects, with whole class, group or individual teaching planned to ensure all children make excellent progress.

Detailed curriculum statements for each subject area are available on the school website; below we set out the main aims and teaching methods for each subject.

### English

Language is the key to all learning, so literacy is central to our education. At Christ Church School we have two main aims:

- To provide the sort of creative and energetic learning environment that will cultivate a love of books and develop excellent communication skills.
- To foster the traditional values of fast accurate reading and clear legible writing with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

We encourage children to put their thoughts into words, express their ideas clearly on paper and in speech, listen, talk, question, discuss and be confident and sensitive in their communication with others. We work hard to enrich and extend children's vocabulary throughout our curriculum

We provide opportunities for children to practise their language skills through both individual and group activities, through speaking and listening, drama and extensive reading and writing.

### Mathematics

We promote a positive attitude to Maths through practical work, reference to real life situations and opportunities to apply mathematical skills in other areas of the curriculum. Emphasis is placed on mental maths, times tables and skill and speed in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as problem solving, mathematical reasoning and data handling.

### Science

We teach through experiment, investigation and first hand experience. We focus on materials and their properties, living things such as plants and the human body, and light and sound. Children are taught to develop the skills of observation and accurate measurement and recording and the ability to develop



and test hypotheses. Children are taught to interpret and record information using diagrams, tables and computer software.

### Computing

Christ Church School is well-resourced to teach computing with sets of tablets and laptops to be used in class, interactive whiteboards in all classrooms, a separate computer room and an ever-increasing range of educational software. Children develop wide-ranging computing skills, including coding and programming, digital literacy and the use of standard programs and safe and responsible use of the internet. Children use and develop these skills across all curriculum areas.

### History and Geography

Children learn about the UK's past, world history and also our own local history using a range of sources including artefacts, documents, visual images, visitors and trips. We aim to instil a spirit of curiosity about the past, an understanding of significant events and a developing sense of chronology.

We develop children's geographical knowledge and skills through the use of maps, atlases and artefacts and by helping them to study the world around them with local practical activities and trips.



## Art and Design and Technology (DT)

Our art curriculum provides children with the experience of drawing, painting and designing, the opportunity to learn about and be inspired by other artists and the development of their manual, evaluation and research skills. Children's work in the visual arts makes a significant contribution to our school environment.

In DT lessons children are given opportunities to design and create objects and products. They are encouraged to work together to generate ideas, design, make and assemble using a range of techniques, materials and tools. Through this they develop skills in creative construction and problem solving. Children also have the opportunity to use a range of cooking techniques to prepare healthy dishes as part of the DT curriculum.

## Music

Our music lessons aim to develop children's listening, evaluation, composition, instrumental and singing skills. Children develop creativity in making their own music and build the foundations of reading and recording musical notation. There are many opportunities for children to perform in class, in assemblies and to wider audiences, building self-confidence and a sense of achievement. The children also have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with tuition provided by specialist instrumental teachers linked to Camden Music Service. The school choir also plays an important role in school and church life.

## Physical Education (PE) and Sport

Children will learn the fun and enjoyment of PE through a range of activities such as games, gymnastics and dance, taught by school staff and specialist coaches. PE lessons take place in the school hall, school playgrounds and also in a local sports hall and on Hampstead Heath. Children take part in three terms of swimming lessons across Years 2 and 3. We aim to develop children's teamwork and communication skills as well as their understanding of the importance of exercise to healthy living.

Christ Church is part of the Camden Schools Sports Association, entering teams and groups into a range of competitions, exhibitions and tournaments, including cross country, athletics, gymnastics and swimming. The opportunity to participate in competitive sport aims to embed values such as fairness and respect.

## Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship and School Council

The PSHE and Citizenship curriculum teaches children skills to enable them to keep safe and healthy, build and maintain effective relationships with others, understand and respect diversity and make a positive contribution to those in the school and wider community.

Christ Church School has an active, pupil-led School Council, with elected representatives from each class. School Council discusses pupil suggestions and is consulted by the school leadership team on possible changes and improvements in school.

## French

Children in Years 3-6 take part in weekly French lessons, developing speaking and listening as well as basic reading and writing skills over a range of topics. The aim of these lessons is to develop children's confidence and enjoyment in learning another language, in preparation for further study in modern foreign languages in secondary school.

Children in younger classes are exposed to a range of basic vocabulary in different languages, often the range of languages spoken within their class, as a taster for the progressive teaching and learning later in the school and as part of the development of children's understanding of differences around the world.

## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Relationships and Sex Education forms an important part of our Science and PSHE curriculum, with age-appropriate teaching and learning throughout the school. A full copy of the school's RSE policy is available from the school web site and we also hold an annual parents meeting for Year 5 parents in advance of the teaching of this topic. Parents are advised that they have the right to withdraw their children from some specific elements of the RSE curriculum which fall outside the statutory National Curriculum.



## The Christ Church Arts Project

An important addition to the curriculum at Christ Church is made by the Christ Church Arts Project. Funding raised by the Friends Association provides the school with the opportunity to run two arts-based, whole-school projects each year including workshops for children, visits to relevant galleries or concerts, training for staff and visits to school by arts professionals. Recent projects have focused on dance, jewellery-making, singing, self-portraits, textiles and musical theatre and there is always an opportunity for the school to share its work with parents and the wider community through exhibitions, productions and concerts.





## Assessment, Extra Support and Inclusion

The school carefully monitors the progress of each pupil through a combination of observation, questioning and regular testing. Ever-changing next steps targets are set and progress reviewed for each child in partnership between teachers, children and parents.

An annual report is sent home to parents in July and there are also two formal parents evenings during the year with the opportunity for parents to discuss children's progress with their class teacher, as well as many informal opportunities for discussion. We encourage close, ongoing communication between parents and school to ensure that parents know how to support their children's learning at home.

Children develop at different rates and many children will require additional support in some areas during their time at school. We are committed to providing the extra support to help all children achieve their full potential; this support is coordinated by our Inclusion Leader working within the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice. Please refer to the information on our SEN Local Offer and to our SEN Policy (both on our website) for more details of our SEN support and the links we have with other support agencies, or ask to speak with our Inclusion Leader about your child's individual needs.

Our school community at Christ Church includes families from around the world and we are committed to celebrating this diversity and providing support where it is needed for children for whom English is an additional language.

We are also committed to the provision of appropriate challenge for all children, including those who are particularly able in areas of the curriculum. See our policy on More Able, Gifted and Talented Provision on our website for more details.



## Homework and Supporting at Home

Children throughout the school are encouraged to continue their learning at home in a variety of ways, including taking reading books home, learning spelling lists, completing set English and maths tasks and researching different topics.

Some homework, especially in the younger classes, is set with the intention that it is completed with the guidance of a parent and other homework is intended to be completed by the child independently. However, all homework is most effective when supported by parental encouragement and supervision. As the homework we set is intended to reinforce work that the child has completed or is about to attempt in class, this is one of the most effective and easiest ways a parent can directly help their child at school.

We expect that all children will attempt the homework set and that it will be handed in before the deadline given. Further information on our expectations for homework are available on the school website. School staff are always happy to meet with parents to discuss the best ways to support children's learning at home.

## Parental involvement and liaison with school

At Christ Church School we want to work in partnership with parents; education is a cooperative process and we welcome the involvement of parents and carers.

Many parents assist on a regular basis in school or with one-off events such as trips or Arts Project activities. This extra help is very much valued and, if parents feel they have something to offer, class teachers will always be happy to discuss this.

The head teacher and class teachers are always happy to meet with parents to discuss any issues; they are available in the playgrounds at the beginning and end of each day or happy to set up an appointment for a longer meeting. This is in addition to the twice-yearly parents evenings and parents meetings and workshops run regularly to give information on specific topics. There are monthly email newsletters from the head teacher and a termly class leaflet setting out the topics to be covered and key dates for the term.

Parent consultation is also very important to the school – there are regular parent surveys to find out parents' views and needs.



## Out-of-School Visits

At Christ Church School we recognise the importance of visiting places of interest as part of all subjects of the curriculum, providing real-life experiences, motivating children and adding to the classroom teaching.

Regular out-of-school visits at Christ Church include trips to all major London museums and galleries, to local attractions, such as Hampstead Heath and local businesses and shops, and a week-long residential trip for children in Year 6 to an outdoor activity centre. For some out-of-school visits we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of travel or entrance charge. However, no child is prevented from taking part if their family is unable to contribute and if parents find making these contributions difficult they are asked to discuss this in confidence with school staff.

## Food in school

School lunches, cooked on site using fresh ingredients, are available for all children. A choice of main courses, including a vegetarian option, and fresh salad and fruit are always available. There is a charge for school meals for pupils in the junior classes; parents may be eligible for Free School Meals and application forms and eligibility information are available from the school office and on the Camden website. School lunches can also be provided for children with specific dietary needs. Children can also choose to bring a packed lunch to school, to be eaten in the hall at the same time as school meals.

Fresh fruit at break time is provided for all children in Reception to Year 2 each day; children in the older year groups are encouraged to bring in fresh fruit or vegetables for a healthy break time snack.

Children have access to water at all times – each child has an individual school water bottle – and are encouraged to drink enough throughout the day.

## After School Activities and Breakfast club

A wide range of after school clubs take place at the school, run by school staff and by outside agencies, including sports, languages, technology, dance and art. Children at Christ Church School also have access to places at a daily after-school playcentre at another local school and a member of staff escorts children to the playcentre from Christ Church each day. Individual instrumental tuition takes place at Christ Church on Wednesdays after school. There is a charge for after school activities.

A daily breakfast club takes place at Christ Church for the hour before school starts and children are provided with a healthy breakfast. There is a charge for breakfast club which offers both advance booking and a drop-in facility.



## **Equal Opportunities**

At Christ Church School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. Please refer to the school's Equality Documents for more details.

## **First Aid and Health and Safety**

The safety of children in school is of paramount importance to all staff at Christ Church School and there are many procedures in place to mitigate against any possible risks.

If a child falls ill or has an accident during the school day we will contact parents as soon as is necessary. We have several trained First Aiders on the staff who will deal with minor injuries and procedures in place to ensure children have quick access to their inhalers or epipens. We ask that parents keep the school informed about children's medical conditions or needs. The school draws on the support of the school nurse when appropriate.

## **Complaints Policy**

If parents have any queries or complaints about any aspect of the school they are encouraged first to consult the class teacher or head teacher. A copy of the school's Complaints Policy is available from the school office or on the school website.

## **The Friends of Christ Church School**

Christ Church School has a very active Friends Association which organises many social and fundraising events within the school community. Over recent years the Friends Association has organised successful children's discos, Summer and Christmas Fairs, weekly cake sales, quiz nights and much more and, as a result, has been able to provide the school with many extra resources and fund the Christ Church Arts Project.

All parents and carers of children at the school are automatically members of the Friends Association, membership is free and every parent is very much encouraged to get involved.

## **The Governing Body**

The Governing Body support the head teacher and senior leadership team in setting the strategic direction for the school, monitoring the use of financial and other resources, recruiting staff and overseeing progress towards areas of school improvement. The Governing Body of Christ Church School comprises elected representatives from the parent body and staff team as well as representatives from the church and local authority.

Governors are always keen to hear parents' views and are available to talk with parents at the parents evenings twice each year. Parents can also contact the Chair of Governors and other members of the Governing Body through the school office.

## **Camden Local Authority**

The Local Authority makes educational provision for all children in its area.

Our Local Authority is: **Camden London Borough Council, 5 Pancras Square, London N1 4AG**

Tel: 020 7974 1525 Web: [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

## **The London Diocesan Board for Schools**

As a church school, Christ Church Primary School is also supported by the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS).

**London Diocesan Board for Schools, Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London, SW1 4AU**

020 7932 1100 [www.ldbs.co.uk](http://www.ldbs.co.uk)

The Governing Body of the school works in partnership with both the LDBS and Camden Council to ensure high standards in the school.

In common with all maintained state schools, the school is funded by the Government via the Local Authority. However, as a Voluntary Aided church school, the Governing Body is responsible for the maintenance of the building and, to support this, the LDBS provides an insurance fund to which Christ Church School contributes. As at other church schools, parents are asked to make a small voluntary contribution to this fund, which pays for the majority of repairs and the maintenance of the building.



