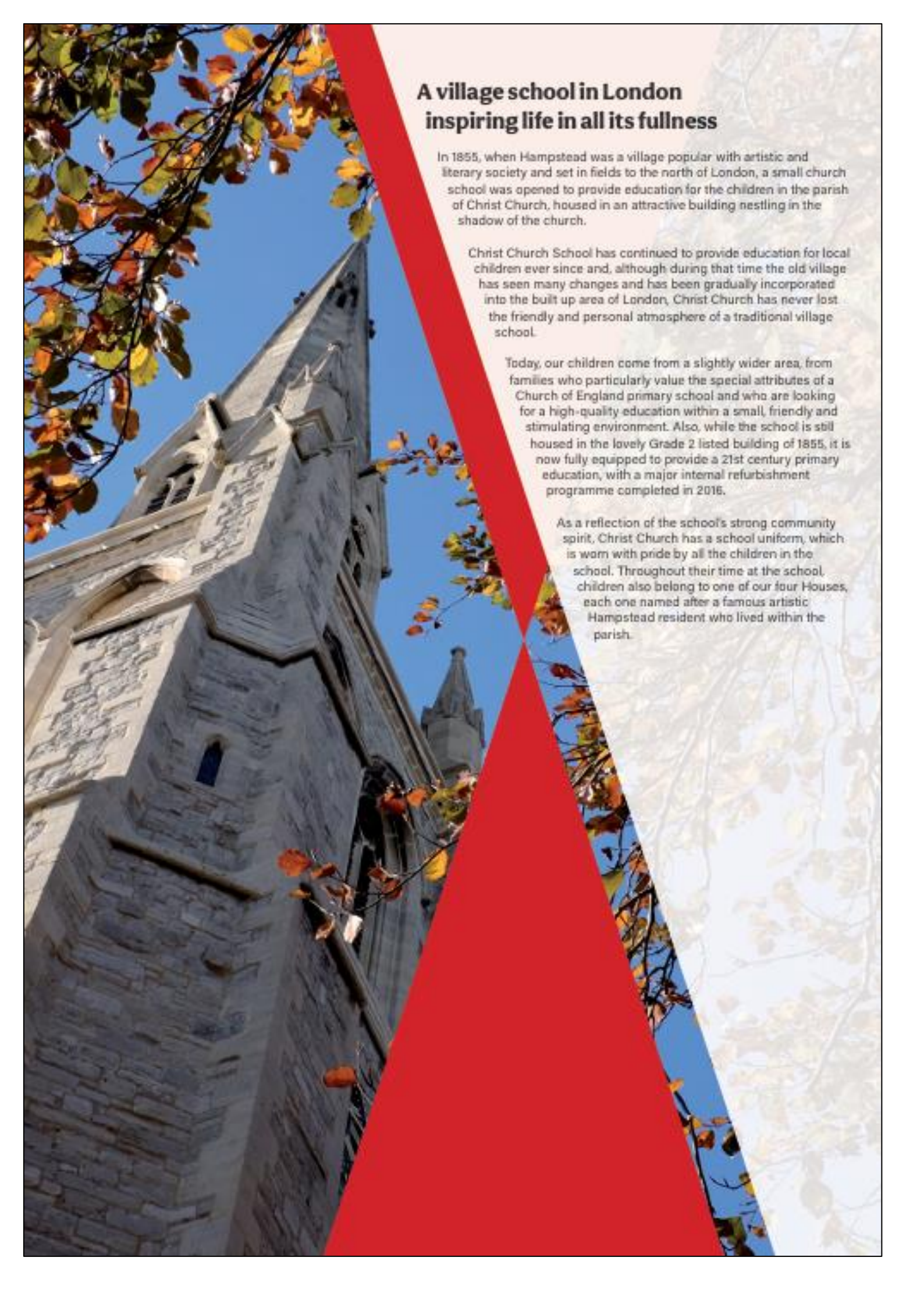




Christ Church School

A village school in London
inspiring life in all its fullness





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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 completed in 2016.

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.



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Links with the Church and Religious Education (RE)

Our Christian vision and values

**Jesus, The Good Shepherd,
promises 'life in all its fullness'**

(JOHN 10:10)

At Christ Church we believe every child and adult in our school should be able both to experience life in all its fullness now and to aspire to life in all its fullness in the future.

Our Christian vision comes to life in our school through our Christian values of compassion, creativity, courage, community and simplicity.



Our vision statement

We all seek to inspire life in all its fullness for all in the school through:

- ensuring a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for children and adults, where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and flourish;
- the pursuit of academic excellence in all areas, with a determined desire for each child to make the best possible progress as a result of high aspirations, hard work and the development of a personal love for learning alongside the highest-quality teaching and support;
- offering the widest possible breadth of curriculum both within school and through extra-curricular activities, enriched by the vast range of opportunities locally and across London;
- creativity and positivity in all we do, mixing innovation with tradition;
- planned and spontaneous opportunities for spiritual development through reflection, discussion and harnessing curiosity, as well as the provision, at the heart of our school life, of daily opportunities for prayer and worship;
- the development and modelling of strong, positive and loving relationships, with peers, amongst the school community and in the wider community;
- the promotion of respect and compassion for ourselves and for all others, by cultivating positive emotional and physical well-being, by celebrating the diversity within and outside our school and by encouraging all of us to be empowered global citizens, guided at all times by the example of Christ's compassion alongside the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- engendering a sense of community, justice and responsibility for others and for our local and global environment and enjoying working together towards our common goals and expecting and valuing contributions from all.

All that happens in our school is guided by our Christian vision of inspiring life in all its fullness for all and by our Christian values of compassion, creativity, courage, simplicity and community. 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 church festivals are celebrated in church, including a Nativity Play each Christmas, and each term ends with a service in church, when parents and families join us. The school choir also regularly takes part in Sunday services each term.

Our school community is a diverse one, welcoming and including children and families of all major world faiths and none and we aim to develop spirituality in all in our school.

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 Religious Education (R.E.) 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.



Behaviour

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

Christ Church School is a Rights Respecting School, 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.

This is our whole school rights respecting charter:

Our School Rights Respecting Charter

	It is our right to:		We all respect those rights by...
	learn to the best of our ability		working hard and giving 100% to all lessons and activities
	offer our views, honestly and be listened to by others		listening to others, respecting others' views and being honest
	play and learn safely and healthily		treating others with kindness and gentleness and respecting property

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 places are full time and all children start together in September, working up from half days to full time over an induction period of two to three weeks.

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, via the eAdmissions site, as well as to the school by submitting a Supplementary Information Form.

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



Our 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 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.

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 fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as problem solving, mathematical reasoning and data handling.

Science

We teach through enquiry, investigation and first-hand experience. We focus on materials and their properties; living things including topics on plants, animals 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 a range of data collection and presentation methods.

Computing and use of technology

Christ Church School is well-resourced to teach computing with sets of tablets and laptops to be used in class 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 and digital world. 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 instill 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, through comparing contrasting localities around the world and by helping them to study the world around them with local practical fieldwork 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 skills using a range of different media. 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 taking part in a range of games and sports as well as 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 an intensive swimming course in Year 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

Our 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 the school and wider community. Our PSHE curriculum is taught through three high-profile whole school 'PSHE weeks' throughout the year, as well as through ongoing teaching in each class.

Pupil leadership groups

Christ Church School has an active, pupil-led School Council, with elected representatives from each class, which discusses pupil suggestions and is consulted by the school leadership team on possible changes and improvements in school. There are also active pupil leadership groups focused on environmental issues and on well-being.

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 on the school website and we share comprehensive information with Year 5 parents before the main RSE teaching. 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 film making, dance, singing, self-portraits and musical theatre and each project includes 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. Ambitious targets are set and progress reviewed for each child in partnership between teachers, senior leadership, children and parents. This enables teachers to provide appropriate challenge and support for each child.

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 and learn 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 to 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.

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 and completing set tasks in a variety of subject areas. Homework is important, but so is time for clubs and activities and time for rest.

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.

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 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.

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. Individual instrumental tuition takes place at Christ Church on Wednesdays after school. There is a charge for after school activities.

Children at Christ Church School also have access to places at a daily breakfast club and after-school playcentre at another local school and a member of Christ Church staff escorts children to and from this provision at the beginning and end of each day.

Food in school

School lunches, cooked on site using fresh ingredients, are available for all children. The school is part of Camden's catering contract for schools. A choice of main courses, including a vegetarian option, and fresh salad and fruit are always available. Information on current charges for school meals (if any) will be shared during parent tours. 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 each day. 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.



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 emergency auto injectors. 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.

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, cake sales, international events 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 supports 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 teams as well as representatives from the church and local authority.

Governors are always keen to hear parents' views; parents can contact the Chair of Governors and other members of the Governing Body through the school office.

The Governing Bod of the school works in partnership with the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), Camden Learning and Camden Council to ensure high standards in the school.

Parental involvement and liaison with school

At Christ Church School we want to work in partnership with parents; we know that children are happiest and make the best progress when home and school work together.

Many parents support us 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 parent 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.



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