

*For the most important journey...*



*...Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School*

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Romsey Abbey Church of England Primary School,  
Church Lane, Romsey, SO51 8EP



# Welcome to our school.

I am so pleased that you are considering our school for your child's education. You will find that Romsey Abbey is distinct from other Primary schools in the Romsey area in a number of ways.

We have only about 200 pupils, which means I know every one of them. I know their abilities, their interests and their needs, so that my staff and I can provide every child with the right support and encouragement to ensure that they realise their full potential. I also know all of our parents and I value and encourage their involvement in their child's learning journey.

As a Church of England school, we have a distinct Christian ethos, which has caring and friendliness at its heart. Many people in our local community recognise and value our unique ethos. Our pupils and staff come from many different cultures and faiths; we welcome the cultural and ethnic diversity that this brings to our school.

We continually strive to drive up the quality of our teaching, by adopting best professional practice, and by regularly inviting external experts to advise us about ways to further improve. Each child's progress is carefully monitored and I review this regularly with the teachers, to ensure that we are providing the appropriate level of support and encouragement to meet the needs of each child.

As a feeder school for Romsey School, we liaise closely with them, to ensure a secure transition for those Year 6 leavers who go there.

Behind the Victorian façade of our school lies a complex of new, bright and airy classrooms, a large playing field with an all-weather running track, a woodland play area, safe play areas for the youngest children and playgrounds for the older ones. We use Romsey Abbey as an extension of our buildings; holding lessons, concerts and services there.

Children achieve extraordinary things at Romsey Abbey. All our children learn in a safe and friendly environment and they love coming to school each day. We stimulate the children with exciting new learning experiences and challenges; they have many opportunities to compete in sports competition, act in plays or perform in our excellent choir or orchestra.

OFSTED, at their Inspection in June 2019, clearly liked what they saw. They have rated the school as GOOD overall, and our Year R as OUTSTANDING

If you have not already popped in then I would love to show you round our school, so that you can see it all for yourself. Simply call the office to make an appointment.

Julie-Anne Palfrey  
Head Teacher



## Our Ethos

Everything we do is based on our Christian ethos:

*to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, with love, trust and forgiveness.*

The caring, friendly culture of our school is shaped by this core belief. At Romsey Abbey, our children, families and staff learn how to demonstrate love, trust, to grow in their ability to forgive each other and to aspire to be the best they can be.



Our culture is entirely inclusive. It is valued by many families, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities, gender or ability.

Each morning, our children will start their day with a friendly greeting at the school gate. In class, productive learning is achieved through a relentless focus on exemplary behaviour, underpinned by mutual respect and support.

What OFSTED say about us:

*"Pupils spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is very strong"*

*"Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ"*

*Ephesians 4:32*



## Our Vision

We have a clear vision of the way ahead for our school, and it guides everything that we do.

Our vision is that

**Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School will be a distinctive community whose culture has limitless ambition, professionalism, engagement and caring at its heart. Teachers, parents, and Governors will work together closely to give every child the best possible education and life chances, and the school will be viewed by the local community as a centre of excellence.**



## Habits of mind

We teach all our children the skills that they will need to become successful and thoughtful learners. These Habits of Mind, as they are called, help the children to reflect, question, think things out, to work in a team, and to persevere.



Once learned, Habits of Mind will help the child throughout their future education, and in later adult life, to learn new skills, to adapt, and to prosper. They are:

**Curiosity:**

to explore, discover and ask questions

**Empathy:**

to understand and care how other people feel

**Resilience:**

to never give up; keep on having a go

**Self-management:**

to make good choices, to be ready to learn and set goals

**Collaboration:**

to work together as a team and to share ideas

**Creativity:**

to be imaginative, to take risks and to solve problems

**Reflection:**

to think problems through and decide what to do next.

These Habits of Mind are now well established in the minds of all our children, and in the culture of the school.

We use glove puppets to help the youngest children remember each Habit.



## Teaching and Learning

Achieving excellence in teaching is a core goal at Romsey Abbey Primary School.

We continually strive to drive up the quality of our teaching, by adopting best professional practice, and by regularly inviting external experts to advise us about ways to further improve and to assess the effectiveness of the teaching in our school.

We maintain a relentless focus on the children's progress in the core subjects in the National Curriculum- Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Alongside the core curriculum, we also teach the full range of National Curriculum ancillary subjects such as History and Geography throughout the year and these lessons are enriched with external visits whenever appropriate.

The curriculum for each class is set out in detail on the school's website.

Learning is supported by an excellent school library, state of the art Information Technology, modern visual aids and interactive white boards.

Homework is an integral part of learning, and assignments are set each week to consolidate each child's learning in class. To help busy parents, we offer a lunchtime homework club and an opportunity for some extra tuition groups for those that need it.

Our recent academic results are set out on the school's website, and also in an addendum to this prospectus.



What OFSTED say about us:

*"Strong teaching, learning and assessment is securing good progress for all groups of pupils across the curriculum"*

## Early Years Foundation Stage (Year R)

Our priority within the Foundation Stage is to provide a safe and happy environment for our children in which they feel loved and enjoy learning.

Before the children start school, we carry out a range of home and preschool visits to allow us to assess every child's individual needs and to see what really inspires them. This provides the Foundation Stage team at school with the vital information they need to support each child.

When the children begin school, we strive to bring that safe and loving home environment to school. At each stage, we work in partnership with parents, always encouraging and valuing their contributions.

In the Year R class, the children learn through planned, purposeful play, both indoors and out and we ensure that there are opportunities for child-initiated play that enables choices and decision-making, fostering independence and

self-confidence. The class works in "Free Flow" mode, in which the children can move around at will between classroom and the play area, carrying out their learning assignments for that day at their own speed, either at the guided learning centres, or with the teacher.

The Tapestry online system is used to enable parents to follow what their children are doing during the day and to contribute to their learning.

All the elements of the National Curriculum are incorporated in a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum with good cross-curricular links that will set in place firm foundations for future learning and development in Key Stage 1 and beyond.

More detail on the seven areas of the National EYFS curriculum is available on our website.



What OFSTED say about us;

*"Children settle quickly, are very happy and are extremely well looked after. They get off to a very strong start and thrive as they move through the Reception Year"*

# Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We will identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, whether a child has special educational needs. Our SENDCO and various staff members are trained to conduct a range of standardised tests and these assessments are used by the SENDCO to inform the teachers understanding of the needs of the child and the interventions that will help.

As soon as possible, the child's parents will be invited to meet the teacher who will inform them that their child has been placed on the SEND Register, discuss the outcome of the tests and the provisions that will be made to help their child. We aim to have a well-informed

and collaborative relationship with the parents of SEND children from the outset, as teamwork is the best way to get the best outcomes for the child.

We want children with SEND to participate in lessons fully and effectively with the rest of their class, as this is where they learn best. We also encourage them to participate in every aspect of life in the school, such as sports, field trips, music and performances and they do so successfully and happily and benefit from it.

Our SEND and Equality Policies can be found on the school website.

The school is fully equipped with access aids for children with physical disabilities.



What OFSTED say about us;

*"Disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive good levels of support enabling them to progress well"*



## *Monitoring your child's progress*

Your child's learning will be continually monitored in the classroom by the teaching staff, where it is recorded and the results and trends are reviewed regularly by the Head Teacher at Pupil Progress meetings with their teacher.

At these meetings, the progress that your child has made and his or her level of academic attainment, will be carefully considered by the Head Teacher and her staff and provision made for any additional focussed learning support that your child may need, or to help your child progress further to the Higher Standard.

You will be invited to meet your child's teacher once a term to review their workbooks, to learn about their progress and to discuss how you and the school can work together to provide your child with the best possible support for their learning.

In addition, the you can make an appointment with your child's teacher during the term to discuss any problems as and when they arise.





## Our Wider Curriculum

The school is renowned for its outstanding music teaching. We have an excellent choir, which is in great demand to sing at concerts and in support of charity events throughout the area.

All children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and peripatetic teachers provide tuition for all the orchestral instruments, from flutes through to the double bass. Not surprisingly, the school also has a fine orchestra, which has also won many prizes in local competitions.

French is taught throughout Key Stage 2. As the children progress through the school, they become proficient and confident in speaking a foreign language, they learn about the French culture and this learning journey culminates in a residential trip to France for Year 6 children, where they meet and talk to French people, buy their lunch in the street market and visit places of interest.

Lessons are supplemented and illustrated with many school visits, such as those to the Hillier Arboretum to observe science at first hand, or to Brownsea Island, or to the Southampton Central Mosque. We use the Abbey as a resource, as it provides many insights into history, from the Anglo-Saxons through to the Reformation, and Year 5 spends a night there as a residential.

A forest-style school is held in our own woodland at the rear of the school, where the children learn about nature and woodcraft.

We provide wrap-around care for children from 7.45 am to 6 pm. This can be booked and paid for in the School Office.



# Sport

Romsey Abbey Primary has a commitment to sport and physical exercise as a means of children becoming physically confident and maintaining a good level of health and fitness.

Sports and exercise are part of the curriculum, in which children are taught to swim and to take part in games of football, netball, hockey, basketball and athletics.

Throughout the school year, we also offer a variety of after-school sports activities which vary from one term to the next but can include; gymnastics, football, dance, netball, running, and cricket.

Together, these provide the children with opportunities to enjoy sport, and to compete in intra and inter school competitions, which helps to build character and to embed values such as fairness and respect.

We have extensive and beautiful playing fields at the rear of the school, with an all-weather running track, football pitches and a woodland area.

Sportsmark's assessment of our sports provision has increased every year, and in 2019 we have been awarded their GOLD AWARD



What OFSTED say about us;

*"Sports funding is used extremely well.  
Pupils participation in competitive sports  
events has risen considerably across the school"*

## Our Governors

We have an energetic and fully-engaged team of Governors at Romsey Abbey, several of whom are teachers themselves.

The Governing Body meets every month to review the progress of every aspect of the school's activities to ensure that standards are constantly improving and that our children are receiving the best possible education.

All Governors visit the school several times each term to monitor and report on the progress of the School Improvement Plan, to monitor

adherence to our safeguarding and safety policies, and to provide active support to the Head Teacher and her staff.

We encourage dialogue with our parents at every opportunity and welcome their views about the school and especially on any aspect where we could do better.

The minutes of our meetings are posted on the school's website.

## Working with Parents

Our school has developed an energetic community of its' own, centred on the PTA and our parents play a vital role in making our school a friendly and vibrant place!

We also have a parent forum, held each half term, led by the Headteacher, where parent representatives from each year group can discuss any matter that has arisen in their child's year group or that affects all the year groups. The parent representatives are selected via the PTA. The Headteacher provides an update to all parents after these forum meetings and welcomes feedback throughout the school year.

The PTA holds various events during each school year to raise funds for the school; these include a Summer Fayre, Summer BBQ and rounders, Easter raffles, Christmas Fayre and Discos for the children.

More information about the PTA can be found on the school's website.

What parents say about us:

*"My child has thoroughly enjoyed starting school - this school is a safe, happy place"*

*"My daughter is thriving in Reception. I have been genuinely astonished by her rate of development"*



*that was fun...*



*...and now it's back to class*

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