

Pilgrims' Way Primary School



Prospectus

Pilgrims' Way Primary School
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Headteacher: Miss Anne-Marie Middleton
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Emma Campbell



As Headteacher, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to Pilgrims' Way Primary School.

Veritas Multi Academy Trust was appointed by the Regional Schools Commissioner as the new sponsor for Pilgrims' Way Primary school and completed its conversion on 1 May 2018 with Mr Graham Chisnell as Chief Executive Officer of Veritas Multi Academy Trust and Executive Principal of Pilgrims' Way Primary school.

Vision and Values

Veritas MAT works in a collaborative partnership with schools with an uncompromising focus on quality education, strong academic standards, high expectations and aspirations for all our pupils. Our way of working is characterised by the creation of a positive working relationship based on our ethos of making learning irresistible for all. We achieve this through our three core values:

Innovative - Through strong collaboration across the Trust, our academies and staff uphold an **innovative** approach to staff development through a deep commitment to being research active. Through a positive and dynamic approach to research based pedagogy, staff across the Trust continuously reflect on their practice to create an environment where innovation leads to **irresistible learning for all**.

Inclusive - With a firm belief that as a Trust we are stronger together; we create an **inclusive** environment across our academies where staff and pupils feel emotionally and physically safe. Our academies are outward facing and create an environment where differences in gender, culture, disability and educational needs are embraced and celebrated; leading to **irresistible learning for all**.

Inspirational - Through **inspirational** leadership, teaching and learning; our academies create a climate where children, staff and parents strive to achieve and aspire for greatness. With strong collaborations we share practice and challenge one another using the principles of mentor-coaching to celebrate success and support improvement. High standards across a rich and diverse curriculum delivered in each academy leads to **irresistible learning for all** that is individual to each academy but reflects the shared ethos of the Trust.





Our Excellent Facilities

Pilgrims' Way Primary School has excellent facilities which enable us to offer a fully inclusive school experience for children from the age of 3 to 11.

The school is situated on the south eastern outskirts of the city of Canterbury. It was built by Canterbury City Council in 1971 and subsequently extended a number of times, including adding our purpose built nursery in 2007. We have a spacious and welcoming reception area and our grounds are developed to support our irresistible curriculum with an extensive Forest School used all year to support the learning of all our children.



The school premises offer plenty of room for learning and play both inside and outdoors, which supports our topic-based approach to the curriculum. We have roomy classrooms equipped with electronic whiteboards, a main hall, curriculum kitchen, in-house catering to provide all our children with nutritious and tasty meals, breakfast and Tea-Time clubs plus a range of free clubs.

The school's proximity to the city centre allows us to make full use of Canterbury's facilities as well our own. Staff plan several local trips a year for their class to complement the children's learning in school.

Creativity

Since joining Veritas MAT, the school has rapidly developed its own creative, topic-based curriculum covering all of the National Curriculum Subjects in Years 1-6, and the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum in Reception and our Nursery. Our topic-based approach is planned by class teachers with the specific needs and interests of their class in mind. This allows children to become immersed in a topic, which excites and enthuses them to learn more. Wherever possible the children's learning is linked to real-life practical activities such as investigations, problem solving and local trips. Parents are kept up to date with the topics each class are studying through regular communication on our website and through invitations to join their children in their classrooms.



We place a great deal of emphasis on creative approaches to teaching and learning, encouraging children to develop independent learning skills from an early age. Our learning environment promotes both creativity and independence, providing children with the resources to take their own learning forward.

Our aim is to achieve a balance of teaching styles between individual, paired, group and whole class work. Teaching strategies vary and provide for differences in learning styles, addressing individual learning needs, whilst challenging the most able, and ensuring that optimum progress is made by all children. Each child's progress is monitored carefully throughout the year and we keep you informed about this with regular parents' evenings and written reports.



Extended Schools

At Pilgrims' Way we are very proud of the range of activities we offer beyond the normal school day. Each term we provide a range of free after school clubs for all different age groups such as a range of sports, cookery and homework.

We also offer a breakfast club which provides breakfast and a range of activities from 8am until the start of the school day for a cost of £1.50 per child. After school each day children can access our Tea Time club which runs until 5pm and gives children the chance to have a snack at school while also enjoying various games with their friends. Children also have the opportunity to complete their homework at either of these clubs, supported by the school staff who run them.

In addition to providing extra activities and services for our children, we also understand the importance of including the whole family in what we do. Pilgrims' Way is a friendly place to be and parents are always welcome in school. Teachers are often available to chat to at the beginning or end of the school day, or appointments can be made through the school office. Many parents help in classrooms.

There are also a number of occasions during the school year when your child will be involved in school events or performances. These will include class assemblies, annual productions, Christmas presentations, summer fetes, sporting displays and sports matches. Your presence on these occasions is really valued by us and the children – you are always welcome.

Nursery

Within the grounds of Pilgrims' Way Primary School is our Nursery class, a beautiful purpose built nursery. Whilst it has all of its own amenities, as a maintained nursery it is actually considered a class within our school.

We are part of the EYFS team working closely with the reception class staff to ensure a smooth transition to school. Additionally, we also use the facilities at the main school including the wonderful forest school, large playgrounds and the school hall.

Following 'Early Years Foundation Stage' guidance, carefully considered, continuous provision is available across both the indoor and outdoor environments. The grounds consist of free-flow access onto our enclosed garden including a sheltered area for all weather learning and access.

We are passionate about providing good quality childcare. We firmly believe in offering rich, stimulating learning environments full of opportunities for children to play, learn and explore in. We encourage the children's independence ensuring the environment and nursery rules and boundaries enable risk taking AND challenge whilst considering the individual needs of each child.



Our aim is to ensure each child's time at nursery is as unique as they are; giving your child confidence and experiences which will help to prepare them for their transition to school. We embrace the three characteristics of effective learning

- Play and exploration
- Active learning
- Creative and critical thinking

We ensure these are at the forefront of all planning, preparation and daily nursery life.

The Nursery class is open from 8.30am-3.15pm, Monday to Friday, term time.

For further details about the nursery or to arrange a viewing please speak to main reception.





Joining the School

Veritas Multi Academy Trust are the admissions authority for Pilgrims' Way Primary School and they delegate the application process and ranking for admissions to Kent Local Authority.

Our admissions criteria are as follows, in priority order:

- Children in Local Authority Care
- A brother or sister attending Pilgrims' Way Primary School (when the child starts)
- Health and Special Access Reasons
- Nearness of children's homes to school



Our full admission policy is available on the school website.