Dear Parents/Carers,

Whether your child is new to St Paul’s, established at the school or a prospective new entrant it is a great pleasure to welcome you and your child and thank you for your interest in St. Paul’s Church of England Nursery and Primary School.

Our motto for our school is “Foundations for the Future.”

We believe this encompasses everything we try to achieve for your child, during his or her time at St. Paul’s.

We do this by providing a broad, rich curriculum and a range of out-of-hours activities, with high-quality teaching, a stimulating and attractive environment and appropriate resources matched to each child’s age, ability and needs.

St. Paul’s Primary has an excellent team with staff and governors committed to families and the community we serve.

In our last Ofsted in July 2013 we were graded as a good school. We are currently an outstanding school for our Section 48 inspection, which is just for church schools.

We have gained many awards over the past few years including our Bishop’s Commendation, Artsmark, Full and Intermediate International Award, Quality Mark for standards across the school, Sportsmark (three years running) Eco Bronze Award, Bronze and Silver Bike it Awards and the Healthy Schools Award.

We are regularly in the top five schools in the LEA for our Key Stage One and Two standards.

As a Church of England Primary School we have close liaison with St. Nicholas’ Church, which is next to the school, the church of St. Paul’s in West Street, where our school originated and St. Michael’s of All Angels. Each church is visited once a year and the clergy come into school for assemblies and celebrations on a regular basis.

We hope that you find this prospectus both informative and helpful. It gives a clear idea of the way the school operates. More formal consultations are provided in the Autumn and Spring Terms.

I am always pleased to talk to parents when they are being shown around the school and there is always a proportion of the day when I am free to discuss issues or concerns. If you choose St. Paul’s Primary School, I look forward to meeting you and your child very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Dupret, Headteacher
“Foundations for the future”

OUR VISION STATEMENT

At St. Paul's we will provide valuable experiences in all aspects of school life, enabling our children to be happy, fulfilled and keen to learn. We aim to do this in the context of a warm and welcoming Christian ethos, so that all children have the opportunity to develop Christian values. We endeavour to provide a creative and balanced curriculum, encouraging every child to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to prepare them for the future, in an ever-changing and diverse world.

OUR AIMS AND VALUES

- To view education as a partnership between church, home and school.
- To provide high-quality education that prepares and equips every child for the 21st century.
- To encourage individuals to develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, intellectually and physically, to achieve their full potential.
- To create a nurturing, caring, stimulating, healthy and safe environment for the whole school community.
- To value and respect other faiths and cultures.
- To recognise every child matters and to provide appropriate educational and social opportunities.

OUR SCHOOL HISTORY

St. Paul's was founded by Arthur Henry Wagner in 1887. After 83 years in Little Russell Street and Russell Place it moved to its present site in 1970. The pupils today enjoy modern buildings with good facilities, recreational areas and landscaped gardens. In recent years these have been improved tremendously and lessons take place both inside class and in our gardens.

The school takes pride in its Church of England foundation. At the same time we have, in recent year become a very multi-cultural school and we celebrate this diversity.
The Organisation of the School

THE SCHOOL IS GROUPED INTO THREE PHASES

The Foundation Stage - children in the nursery and reception classes, aged three to five.

Key Stage One - children in years one and two, aged five to seven.

Key Stage Two - children in years three to six, aged seven to eleven.

Children are placed into classes according to their age. Within the class the children may work as individuals, in pairs, as a group or as the whole class, according to their ability or the task. In Key Stage Two pupils may be grouped for mathematics according to their ability or experience. In the nursery the class size is 25 and for reception and Key Stage One it is 30. We like to keep classes in Key Stage Two to 30 too.

THE CURRICULUM

The school aims to make learning an enjoyable experience. The curriculum is broad and stimulating, but is also designed to provide a sound grasp of fundamental skills.

Much learning takes place with cross-curricula projects or topics, which are designed to ensure progression in National Curriculum subjects. This has been further developed from September 2014 with the introduction of the new National Curriculum.

THE FOUNDATION STAGE

The Foundation Stage begins when children enter nursery at the age of three and continues to the end of reception, age five. The Foundation Stage team works to ensure progression and continuity for pupils in all curriculum areas. This ensures that the children develop the basic skills needed to lay the foundations for life and learning and to embark on the National Curriculum.

STARTING SCHOOL

Care is taken to ensure the new pupils enjoy a successful start at St. Paul’s. Children beginning their school career are invited, with their parents to make introductory visits. Examples include an induction evening just for parents, afternoon visits in small groups to meet the teacher and discuss their child and a lunchtime, to share a delicious lunch, buy uniform and visit the class. All members of the school community know the importance of supporting children who are new to the school.

St. Paul’s School is a small community; its members know each other well and share responsibility for each other. This is particularly true of children new to the school, who are welcomed and made to feel secure.

THE CARE OF CHILDREN

Every care is taken to ensure that children are safe and secure whilst at school. The school has a single point of entry, staff are vigilant and children are trained to be alert to danger. All staff are now first aid trained and we have a new medical room with good first aid facilities. We maintain a record of emergency contacts in addition to parents home, mobile and work numbers. We have a clear texting system and most correspondence is now sent through the email system, straight to parents.

If a pupil is seriously injured or falls ill at school, we make every effort to contact parents. If this is impossible, or the need for treatment is urgent, we use our judgement and act in the best interests of the child. We recently introduced the “sickly app” so parents can inform us very quickly and efficiently of a child’s illness.
The Foundation Stage

Children can join our nursery from the age of three. We offer 3 hours of nursery education from 9a.m. to 12 midday. The children learn in the classroom and in the outside learning environment which is shared with the reception class. They cover a range of topics that incorporate the Early Years Curriculum, with numeracy, literacy, knowledge and understanding of the world, personal and social development, creative and physical education being taught. This good work is continued and developed further in the reception class. At the end of the Foundation Stage a profile is completed to track the children’s progress in all subject areas and inform the Key Stage One teacher of their next stage. In September 2015 the profile will change to a new baseline assessment.
THE CURRICULUM

From year one to six the children at St. Paul’s study the creative curriculum. Within this they learn English, maths, science, art, music, physical education, religious education, personal and social education, design technology, computing. Spanish is taught from nursery.

These subjects are taught within topics linked to the National Curriculum and each begins with a stunning start, often include a visit and ends with a fabulous finish. We want the learning at St. Paul’s to be a memorable and enjoyable experience for the children. At the same time our standards in Maths and English are very high and from 2007 – 2010 we have been in the top 200 schools in the country, twice for our Key Stage Two SATs results. We recently gained our Quality Mark for consistently high achievement throughout the school. This was recognised in our last Ofsted in 2013 where the children’s progress and the curriculum were graded as good.

During their time at St. Paul’s the children go on residential and many trips, locally and further afield. This enriches their learning and gives them first-hand experience. We are also passionate about outside learning and have improved our premises greatly in the past four years with stunning play areas and equipment.

Children’s learning can be enhanced by after school clubs and these include, Spanish, drama, multi skills, choir, flamenco, football, comic arts club, art revolution and music lessons in keyboard, violin, clarinet, guitar and drums. We are always looking for new clubs to develop the children’s interests, so clubs may be different each term.

We have a general after school club, for childcare, run by Class of Their Own and parents pay directly to the club for this service. This is an excellent service for working parents. They also offer holiday clubs either in our school or at another school nearby.

The behaviour at St. Paul’s is outstanding. We reward good behaviour through stickers, certificates, golden time, prizes and other awards. The children feel valued and cared for. There is very good support for children who have challenging behaviour and bullying is rare. Any incidents are dealt with promptly and appropriate sanctions set.

Our lessons are enhanced by excellent ICT resources including: 15 computers in a computer suite, 30 laptops in a recharging unit, interactive whiteboards in the hall and all classes except nursery, digi blue video recorders, digi voice recorders, digital cameras and a flip camera. We have a new school website and our parents have helped us to set this up. It holds valuable information and a regularly updated calendar of events. Homework and class pages are developing well.
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & PUPIL PROGRESS

All children are valued equally. The school aims to meet the special educational needs of individual pupils through a systematic, considered and co-ordinated response, providing additional support if necessary. Staff work in partnership with parents and other agencies, such as the Learning Support Service for Literacy and the Schools Psychology Service. Together we aim to help children reach their full potential and promote success, confidence and self esteem. We have regular meetings with outside agencies who liaise closely, with the Special Needs Co-ordinator, Headteacher and class teachers to discuss and support specific children. We gain parental permission to do so and set the intervention programmes to support the child.

We also have a weekly visit from the School Counsellor, who supports children who may be experiencing emotional difficulties, because of bereavement, family breakdown or other changes. We have our own Family Support Officer, through our local schools cluster, who will meet with parents to offer specific advice on behaviour, family agency support, health, finance. The officer also organises information afternoons for parents.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The curriculum – which responds to the cultural, linguistic and spiritual diversity of pupils and their families - promotes equality of opportunity for all children to learn and make progress, regardless of age, gender, attainment or special educational need. We welcome children from all over the world, with different experiences and a wide range of ability.

REVIEWING THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is the subject of continuous review and development. Periodically, each area of the curriculum is examined and an assessment made of how effectively it helps children to learn and make progress. In September 2009 the whole school began the creative curriculum and in September 2014 we updated our curriculum in line with the new National Curriculum.

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF

All teaching, support and administrative staff are involved in training and development, which enables them to be effective members of a team committed to delivering high-quality education. We also have many parent helpers who – once a DBS check and two references are in place – can support in any class. Every year we have students from Brighton, Chichester and Sussex University and they complete their teaching practices with us. This is very good for pupils and staff as it makes them reflect on their practice. We also have students from Spanish universities who come to us through the Erasmus plus funding and spend a term supporting our Spanish language development.

MONITORING PUPIL PROGRESS

Teachers use a range of strategies to monitor each child’s progress over the school year. They carry out and record individual assessments of each child’s work and use standardised and national tests to measure progress.

Particular attention, from these records, is given to our Gifted and Talented or more able children, so we make sure they are suitably challenged and developed in class. We track children termly through Pathways to Progress meetings and make sure they reach their targets and support those specifically who find them more challenging. Assessment methods will be changing in September 2015, so we will be reviewing and refining our systems.
Parents Partnership & Our Parents and Friends

HOME & SCHOOL

We consider it essential that parents are involved in their children’s education and life at school. Teachers are happy to talk to parents and exchange information about your children’s work and progress if an appointment is made.

In addition, there are opportunities throughout the year either to talk to the teacher about your children’s progress or to see their work. Those of you who are parents of children who receive additional support in class will be invited to discuss their children’s education, share information with teachers and contribute to your children’s provision maps.

At the end of the school year we send all parents a written report recording their child’s progress in each area of the curriculum. Parents and children are invited to make a written contribution to the report and parents are invited to discuss the report with teachers.

The school website provides parents with information and the office is open in the morning at drop off time and at the end of the school day for specific information.

There are regular fortnightly newsletters to parents informing them about events, dates, sporting fixtures and other items on the school calendar. These are now updated on the school website.

The schools administrative assistants can give advice or help about routine matters. The headteacher is sometimes available at short notice and will be pleased to talk to parents.

PROBLEMS

From time to time all families experience financial, domestic or other difficulties, and children may have problems at school. Please tell us about matters which might affect a child’s behaviour or progress at school so that we are better able to help him/her. We will respect your confidence.

We have our own Family Support Worker who runs events to support families or will happily talk individually to a parent to give advice.

PARENTS WORKING IN SCHOOL

Parents make an important contribution to the work of St. Paul’s. Mothers and fathers listen to children read, cook with small groups, help in the class, talk to children, assist with administration tasks, accompany trips out and do much to enhance the work of the school. We do require a DBS check and two references to enable you to come and work in the school and these can be requested at the office.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL’S SCHOOL

All parents and carers of children attending are members of “The Parents and Friends of St. Paul’s School” and are welcome to meetings. The association’s objective is to support the work and aims of the school and to assist in the provision of resources for education not normally provided by the Local Education Authority. Each year they have a range of super fund raising fairs, discos, quiz nights, talent shows, bingo and film evenings and on average raise about £6,000 a year. Items purchased in the past few years include: digital cameras, small world play, a projector laptop and screen in the hall, musical instruments, tyre park and picnic benches.
General Information

opportunities for cross-school working and training, which has brought on excellent development for teachers and children.

St. Paul’s is part of the Brighton and Hove Deanery and Chichester Diocese where items that are particular to church schools are discussed and developed. Schools Officers from the Diocese give excellent support.

The school runs a Bike it project and it has close links to Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club which supports projects.

St. Paul’s is a leading school for the teaching of Spanish, which children will learn from Nursery to Year Six and during their time at St. Pauls they make wonderful progress in learning this modern foreign language. Many children have reached the equivalent of a C grade GCSE by the time they leave us. We are also an international school and have links with a school in Zaragoza, near Madrid in Spain and a church school in Uganda. We have regular visits from our link schools and some of our teachers go to visit those schools too.

We have many children from different parts of the world and many languages are spoken in school. We celebrate this diversity and have a cultural day at least once a year or more. So far these have been a Spanish day, Indian day, a Chinese day, East African day and world music day.

If you think St. Paul’s may be the right school for your child, please ring for an appointment for our December or January visits. Look very carefully at the over-subscription criteria and priest’s form on the website. Please apply online but make sure the over-subscription criteria and priest’s form are given into the office before the deadline.

We look forward to welcoming you at St. Paul’s.
Contacts

Mrs L. A. Dupret,
Headteacher,
St. Paul’s Church of England Nursery & Primary School,
St. Nicholas Road,
Brighton,
East Sussex BN1 3LP

Office: 01273 721001
Email: admin@stpauls.brighton-hove.sch.uk
Website: thelifecloud.net/schools/StPaulsCEPrimary/

OFSTED GOOD 2013 | SECTION 48 (CHURCH SCHOOL INSPECTION) OUTSTANDING 2009
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AS SCHOOL FOR THE TEACHING OF SPANISH AND PART OF
A DFE BILINGUAL PROJECT | PART OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE DEANERY | PART OF
THE CITY CENTRE CLUSTER