



FREELAND CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS FOR PARENTS 2025-2026

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Freeland CE Primary School.

As a church school, our vision, rooted in the parable of the mustard seed, drives everything we do. We are a community where every member, from the tiniest seed to the fullest tree, is nurtured and cared for. Everyone can flourish and be ready to fly the nest and soar high. We come together to grow, learn, love and be loved.

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED (*Matthew 13*)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

As a small school we get to know our children and families very well and our pastoral systems promote the development of excellent relationships between pupils and the whole staff team. The children have a strong sense of belonging to a school family and by the time children leave us at the end of Year 6, they are responsible, independent young people, and we are very proud of them.

Our school is very much part of our local community, and we welcome the community into school in roles such as reading volunteers. We also visit our local care home where the children sing for the residents, they spend time chatting over a drink and a snack and enjoy craft activities together.

We endeavour to work in partnership with parents, as we know this allows children to flourish. We have many events throughout the year to support parents in helping their child at home.

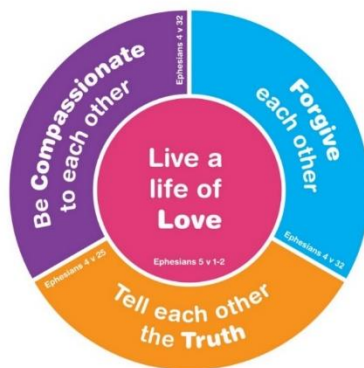




Our curriculum aims to give our children rich learning opportunities and valuable experiences, to encourage them to be life long, inquisitive learners. We believe it is integral to children's development to understand their place within the school community and relate this to a much wider global community, thus providing the children with experiences and knowledge of different world religions and faiths so that they can become tolerant, compassionate citizens. We aspire for our children to leave their primary education having the integrity, values and inspiration to enter the next step of their journey with confidence and embrace and influence the world that they live in.

Freeland CE Primary School is part of the EPA Trust, an academy made up of a large 11-19 outstanding secondary school, an all-through primary/secondary school, and nine primary schools which host seven nurseries. The EPA family of schools is dedicated to high academic achievement and developing well-rounded children. Our schools enable children to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Our school values are woven through our curriculum and everyday life at Freeland CE Primary School. The whole school community has contributed to the composition of these values.



Safeguarding Statement

All the governors and staff at Freeland CE Primary School share an objective to help keep the children safe by contributing to:

- Providing a safe environment for them to learn
- Identifying children who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action, with the aim of making sure that they are kept safe both at home and in the education setting.

To achieve this objective, we:

- Aim to prevent unsuitable people from working with the children
- Promote safe practice and challenge any poor or unsafe practice
- Identify instances where there are grounds for concern about a child's welfare and initiate or take appropriate action to keep them safe
- Contribute to effective partnership working between all those involved in providing services for our children

For more details, please read the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which can be found under the policies tab on the website.

Organisation of Freeland School

Freeland C of E Primary School was relocated to its present site in 1964, extending and replacing the former schoolhouse that was built in 1871. It is in an attractive setting with six good-sized classrooms. There is a large playing field, which has been enhanced with the construction of a trim trail.

Nursery is for children from 2 years old.

Foundation Stage (reception) is for children aged 4-5 years old.

Key Stage One (Year 1 & Year 2) is for children aged 5 to 7.

Key Stage Two (Year 3 to Year 6) is for children aged 7 to 11.

Classes for 2025-2026

As a school of five classes and seven year groups, some of our classes have mixed year groups. This is organised annually, according to year group numbers that vary each year, and allocated according to age.

Nursery - Wrens

Reception - Robins

Year 1 children – Owls

Year 2 and 3 children – Red Kites

Year 4 and 5 children - Kingfishers

Year 5 and 6 children – Golden Eagles

Within each class pupils are taught individually, as a group, or as a whole class, but always according to their individual needs and interests.



Parents in Partnership

There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the school, and to gain a greater understanding of its work. Parents' support and expertise can be used in many ways and is greatly valued. Police checks and DBS checks are carried out on all adults working in school.

If you are able to help, please talk to your child's teacher.

Communication with Parents

We communicate with parents and carers in various ways, such as regular bulletins, newsletters, questionnaires, workshops and informal social events. Parent/Teacher meetings are held three times annually, and a formal written report is sent to all parents in the

spring term.

Parents are invited to 'Stay and Learn' sessions which

allow parents to take part in a lesson with their child and understand more about the

curriculum for their year group. Each year we hold

information evenings related to aspects of the

school curriculum. Information about what is being taught in each class and about class routines is shared with parents each term via the school website.



Members of school staff are always happy to meet with parents and carers to share any concerns. Teachers are generally available after school for brief discussions. If more than a brief discussion is needed then we encourage parents to make an appointment.

The school has a Home School Agreement to support the partnership between home and school, and foster shared dialogue. The School's website has a wealth of information including regular news postings, letters, class pages and key policies.

Governors

The Governing Body of the school is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds. The school governors are a group of individuals, who are elected, nominated, or co-opted and are representative of parents and staff, the Church, the Local Authority and the local community. School Governors work with the Headteacher and staff and are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school.

Freeland School Society (FSS)

The School Society is an organisation, run by parents. Fund raising and social meetings are held from time to time and new ideas (and volunteers) are always welcome.

The AGM is held in September each year. All monies raised by the Society go immediately back into improving the school environment, providing equipment and enhancing opportunities for all our children. Fund raising activities include:

- Christmas Fayre
- Summer Events
- School discos
- Cake sales

The Freeland School Society (FSS) identifies both long term and short term projects for funding. Previous fundraising by FSS has paid for new iPads, Christmas Theatre trips, curriculum enrichment opportunities and much more. Your help or support for these events is greatly appreciated as is your membership of the committee!



Joining the School

Admissions

Children are admitted into school full time in the September of the academic year in which they celebrate their fifth birthday. As a Church of England (controlled) Primary School all administration of admission arrangements to County Primary Schools is dealt with centrally by Oxfordshire County Council; for more information please see the Oxfordshire County Council Learning and Culture



Starting School booklet, or visit the OCC website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk or contact Schools Admissions Team on 01865 815175.

All parents of children starting school for the first time are invited to a 'welcome meeting' during an evening in the summer term. Children will also be invited to attend some sessions at school, giving them the opportunity to meet the teaching staff and their peers.

Moving On

At the end of Year 6, (age eleven) children transfer to secondary school. The large majority of Freeland children go on to Bartholomew School in Eynsham. As a member of our Academy, we have strong links with Bartholomew School and share many curriculum and community events. Year 6 pupils make several visits to Bartholomew during their final year as part of an induction programme. This is a very positive process ensuring a smooth transfer.

If children are moving away for other reasons, please inform the school as soon as possible so that we may prepare the necessary transfer documents.

Curriculum

The school's curriculum is developed with regard to the National Curriculum and our own philosophy. We adopt a cross-curricular topic approach to curriculum planning. Our teaching methods are centred on a thematic, or topic approach, where children are encouraged to take an active part in their own learning. English and mathematics are taught daily with links to our topics wherever possible, so that our curriculum is exciting and relevant for the children. As a Church of England School, we hold a daily act of worship (parents have the right to withdraw their child, please contact the school for further information).

Children are taught:

- Art
- Literacy
- Geography and History
- Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship (PSHCE)
- Maths
- Music
- Physical Education including Dance and Swimming
- Religious Education

- Science
- Information and Communication Technology
- Design and Technology
- Languages -mandarin

Further detailed information about specific subjects is available on the school website.



Homework

We have researched the impact of homework on primary school pupils and have based our Homework Policy on what we have learned. Each week children are set times tables, spellings and are expected to read at least 4 times a week with an adult at home. In Robins and Owls there may be some phonics work to reinforce learning in school. Reading to an adult and being read to are key in a child's development. This supports language skills which feed into their writing as well as improving reading skills.

Wrap Around Care and Extracurricular Activities

Our school runs it's own Breakfast Club and After School Club which provides wrap around care from 7.30am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday. This can be booked directly through the school office.

We have a range of extracurricular clubs and activities that vary over the year to encompass the interests of all children.

Freeland School Choir meet weekly and have represented the school in musical events throughout the year. Ignite sport run a lunch time sports club every Wednesday. This

changes from term to term. There may be a small fee for activities run by outside organisations and a request for a contribution towards resources for clubs run by staff. Knitting club takes place weekly and is provided by Knitting for All. We also have music lessons available in piano from Year 2 upwards.



Inclusion and Equality

Equality

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, faith or 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.

Behaviour

At Freeland CE Primary School, we expect a high standard of behaviour from the children. We believe in giving first attention to good behaviour through offering verbal praise, certificates and Dojos. Class Dojo allows children to win Dojos for themselves and be awarded certificates for their achievement (bronze-100 Dojos, silver-200 Dojos, gold-300 Dojos, platinum 500 Dojos). It also allows pupils to work together in their teams to earn Dojos. The winning team is awarded the Dojo trophy for the term. The children also get awarded Head teacher's awards and Star Awards. The best discipline is self-discipline, and

children are taught to take responsibility for themselves in all matters. However, sadly there are occasions when this breaks down and this is where the School's agreed Positive Behaviour Policy is evoked.

'Behaviour is very good and pupils are courteous and respectful of one another and of staff. Pupils know the school rules and respond to the high expectations the staff have of them. Pupils understand what bullying is. They told inspectors that if bullying is reported it is dealt with well.'

OFSTED 2022



Special educational needs & disability (SEND)

Freeland CE Primary School recognises that each child has individual and unique needs. We aim to respond to these diverse needs by setting suitable learning challenges to enable children to overcome barriers to learning and to achieve their potential. Teachers have a responsibility to meet the needs of all pupils through adapting the way the curriculum is delivered and through individual or small group support where needed.

The school has a Special Educational Needs coordinator (SENCo) who oversees provision for those children who are experiencing difficulties in accessing the curriculum, or who are particularly able. Children with special needs are identified through informal and formal assessment and appropriate support and learning programmes are organised through an Individual Education Plan for the child. Outside agencies may also be involved as necessary. Parents are kept informed and consulted at all stages.

Leaders are ambitious for what pupils can achieve academically, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Staff are well trained to support pupils with SEND. They understand the additional challenges pupils with SEND face. As a result, teachers plan well for these pupils, providing clear and achievable targets to

support their learning. This is also the case in Reception, where staff adapt their plans to make learning relevant and interesting. This means that children can easily access what they need to help them develop and learn.

OFSTED 2022

School Council

Freeland School Council plays an important role in the school community to effect positive change. Each academic year, each class nominates and votes for two candidates to represent their interests on the School Council. The council holds regular meetings throughout the year and are able to deal with issues that are of concern to the children. They are involved in a number of areas of decision making within the school and represent the views of their classes to allow pupils to have a voice.

Detailed School Information

Our School Day

The school day starts at 8.45am when children should be in their classrooms ready for the register which is taken at 8.50am. The school day finishes at 3.15pm (3.10pm in reception). Parents are asked not to enter the classrooms. If you arrive at school after the register at 8.50am parents should take their child to the office to sign them in.

Morning playtimes

Morning break is from 10.40 – 10.55am.

Lunch

Lunchtime is from 12.00pm to 1.00pm. All children have lunch in the school hall and time to play with friends. Y6 Playleaders lead activities for the younger children and will support them with finding friends to play with.

Drop-off and collection

At the beginning and end of the school day, parents are encouraged into the playground. This helps to build up a close relationship between home and school – we want to have good links with all parents. Please let the class teacher know in advance if someone other than yourself

will be collecting your child.



Getting to school

To get to and from school, walking is definitely the best option! There are lots of benefits: it's healthier than travelling by car, it improves the safety of pedestrians and road-users, and it respects nearby residents and parking regulations. **If you do need to travel by car, please park wisely, leaving the area opposite the school gates as free from cars as possible.** Children are welcome to arrive at school by bicycle or scooter, we have bike racks at the rear of the school but for reasons of safety these must not be ridden on the school premises. Children and parents should use the playground gate to enter the school premises. The main school gate is for vehicle access and staff only.

Lunches

Hot lunches are freshly prepared daily, on-site by 'Dolce'. Parents are able to choose their child's meal in advance using School Grid or children can choose in school. Parents will be issued with a log in to Live Kitchen when they join the school.

Children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal due to the Universal Free School Meal initiative. For KS2 children, the cost of a school meal is £3.08. All payment for school meals is through the School Grid portal.





Provision is made for the children to eat packed lunches and all children have lunch in the hall.

In line with our Healthy School Policy, it is requested that 'fizzy' drinks and glass bottles should not be used at school and sweets are not included in packed lunches. There are children in school with serious food allergies to a variety of foods. As a precaution, we are a 'nut free' school and ask you please to avoid bringing nuts in any form to the school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We are also trying to educate children on minimising the use of plastic and so ask you consider this when packing their lunch using reusable lunch boxes and water bottles and avoiding the use of cling film.

Snacks

You may like your child to have a mid-morning snack. Only fresh fruit/vegetables are allowed. Children in the reception and KS1 are provided with fruit every day as part of the National Fruit Scheme.

Drinks

All children are encouraged to bring water into school daily in a spill-proof reusable bottle that they can take home at night to rinse and refill. Drinking water is available in each classroom for children to refill their bottles. WATER ONLY PLEASE.

Children under 5 are entitled to 'Free School Milk' which can be ordered via www.coolmilk.co.uk. Parents of older children may also order milk at a cost, from 'Cool Milk'.

Uniform

All children at Freeland School are expected to arrive at school looking smart and wearing correct uniform. Just as we encourage children to feel positive about themselves and their learning, we encourage them to take pride in their smart appearance. **Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly named.**

Freeland school uniform consists of the following:

- Navy blue jumper, cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece (available with school logo)
- Navy polo shirt (available with school logo)
- Grey skirt, pinafore or black or grey school trousers
- Black, grey or white socks/tights
- Hair fastenings should be school colours

Summer

- A sun hat
- Blue gingham dresses
- Grey shorts/culottes (about knee length)

Shoes

- Smart black shoes/sandals (not open-toed) or boots, for use indoors

- A pair of trainers for outdoor play, not in class (as well as PE – see below). These should be available in school at all times

For PE/Games

- PE bag (available with school logo)
- Trainers
- Plain navy blue shorts
- Navy T-shirt (available with school logo)
- Navy blue hooded sweatshirt (available with school logo)
- Navy blue jogging bottoms or tracksuit for winter outdoor games
- Additionally, if your child is wearing tights they will need a spare pair of socks
- Long hair should be tied back.

PE kit should be worn on the days when children are doing PE – this will be shared with you at the start of each term.

For nursery and reception children only

Waterproof over trousers, waterproof coat and wellingtons

All school uniform, book bags and PE bags can be purchased from www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk.

Personal property, valuables and jewellery

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery to school, other than a simple watch or stud earrings, which must be removed for PE and swimming. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss of any item of jewellery. Nail varnish and make up are not permitted at school.

Hair that is long enough to be tied back should be tied back for school. This is both safer and healthier for all.

Valuable items such as mobile phones, personal stereos and other electrical equipment are not to be brought into school. Please do not bring valuable personal items and toys to school as these can be lost or broken and the school cannot accept any responsibility if this happens.

Illness in School

Staff who are trained in First Aid, deal with minor cuts, grazes and bruises. In cases where we suspect illness, parents are contacted by telephone. Sick pupils are cared for by staff until their parents arrive. Children who have sickness or diarrhoea should not attend school for 48 hours from the last time they were sick.

It is vitally important that parents make sure that the school always has up to date emergency telephone numbers, so that we can contact you in cases of accident or emergency.

Absence

If your child is absent through illness please contact the school office by 8.30am. Please let us know each day they are off after that. We are responsible for safeguarding of your child during school time and need to know why they are not in school every day. If your child has a tummy bug then he/she should not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Medical/hospital appointments during the day may be unavoidable, but to minimise disruption to your child's education, please try to make dental and doctor appointments out of school hours.

Holiday in term times should not be taken as it is detrimental to a child's education. Please note that the headteacher is unable to authorise any absences other than in 'exceptional' circumstances. If you wish to take your child out of school for any reason, please complete a leave of absence form which is available from the school office. Please note that any holidays taken out of term time may incur a fine from Oxfordshire County Council on your return. Please see the school's attendance policy located on the school website.

Medicines

If your child is well enough to be in school but needs to take prescribed medication during school hours, please hand it in to the school office in the original packaging,

with the prescription label stating the child's name and dosage clearly. Parents will be asked to complete a written request for the school to administer this beforehand. Alternatively, parents must come in and administer it themselves or arrange for a responsible adult to do so.

Non-prescribed medicines will not usually be administered in school but this is at the headteacher's discretion.

Please provide the school with full information about your child's medical needs so that staff can exercise appropriate levels of care. Children with long term medical needs will have a care plan created, after discussion with the headteacher, to ensure their needs are met in school.

Emergency Closure

If the school has to be closed in an emergency, e.g. severe weather conditions, heating power or water failure, the closure will be publicised via:

- local radio stations
- school website
- Parentmail (either by text or email)

Complaints

Issues of a minor nature can usually be dealt with quickly by talking with a member of staff. More serious issues should be referred directly to the Headteacher. Our complaints policy will be followed and can be found on our website.

Charges

A full description of the charging and remissions policy for school activities is available in the school office and published on the website. Most activities in school are charged as voluntary contributions. Parents are under no obligation to contribute, and registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether a contribution has been made.

However, with some activities, a lack of support from parents could lead to their cancellation. Residentials are chargeable and parents can choose if their child attends. If there are any difficulties with payments for residentials, parents should talk to Mrs Nickelson.

