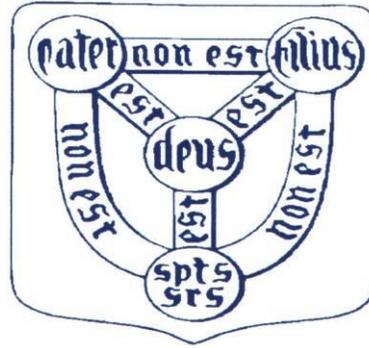


# Shellingford CE (A) Primary School



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

## PROSPECTUS

2025-26

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## Welcome

We hope that our prospectus will give you a good idea of what our school is like and what we feel are the important values that make our school a special place. Our website will also give you an overview of our school: [www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk)

Our school motto "Inspiring hearts and minds" is intrinsic to school life.

Our core aim is to build 'roots and foundation in love' (Ephesians 3: 17-18) within our school community.

We are proud of our school community, and if you would like to visit us to see us in action, we would be delighted to show you around.



## About Us

The school is situated in the southwest corner of Oxfordshire in the Vale of White Horse, in the village of Shellingford.

We are a beautiful, rural primary school providing excellent education for children between the ages of four and eleven.

Our school is judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and as 'living up to its foundation as a church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish' by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

Founded in 1873, the school used to be based in a cottage opposite the church until 1966. Our present school is situated on the site of a mediaeval castle, which was replaced in the sixteenth century by a manor house, which, in turn, was destroyed by fire. When the grounds became derelict they were given to the Mann Trust in 1946 - enabling the present school to be built.

Our school building consists of an original part, plus an adjoining 'new build' which opened in September 2008. A separate Foundation Stage Unit was opened in June 2011.

Attached to the school is a Community Hall which was built in 2000.

The school has extensive grounds and access to several acres of woodland owned by the village.

We are a small village school and enjoy close links with St Faith's church and the local community, which is an important part of school life. The children work and play with different age groups which results in a strong family atmosphere amongst pupils, parents, staff and friends.



## Ethos and Aims

At our school we talk about the 'Shellingford School Family.' We value each individual and the whole school community seeks to celebrate and identify the values by which it lives. These values are derived from Christian teaching and the Church. The school places Collective Worship and spiritual development at the heart of its daily life.

Our school vision statement is underpinned by four core values: Creativity, Respect, Spirituality and Belonging. Children speak about these values in their everyday work in the classroom and out on the playground.



### *A Prayer for Shellingford School*

*May our school be a place of peace,  
Where everyone is valued,  
Where every action is caring,  
Where every day brings a new sense  
of God's love in our lives.*

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Our Curriculum

We provide all children with a wide range of learning opportunities delivered by skilled and experienced staff. We aim to help each child develop in knowledge, skills and understanding and to become confident and independent learners by nurturing a growth mindset. We place our children at the centre of their own learning and our curriculum is meaningful and engaging. We work in topics and make links across individual subjects. Themes have included Inventions and Invaders, Tales from other Lands, and Waste Not Want Not. We use our outdoor learning environment to develop practical life skills through different physical activities and environmental issues.

### Specialist Teaching

Every week each full-time teacher spends half a day away from their teaching duties to concentrate on planning and evaluating their pupils' learning. We sometimes use specialist teachers to provide cover during this time which allows the children to benefit from PE, Art or Music.

## Assessment

We aim to develop within children the language of learning, enabling children to be more involved in their learning by being able to know their strengths and areas for development. We encourage children to identify their own particular learning needs and help them to find ways of meeting them.

Through this we believe children's problem-solving skills, independence and self-esteem will be improved.

Assessment opportunities are a natural part of teaching and learning, and constantly take place in the classroom through discussion, listening and analysis of work, along with more formal assessment tests at the end of a unit of work or at the end of the year / key stage (SATs).



### Outside school

We enjoy strong links with other local schools in the partnership and often take part in music festivals, engineering days, sporting events or junior citizens.

We also enjoy going on residential and day school trips. Recent adventures have included We The Curious Bristol Science Museum, The Tate Modern Gallery London, Warwick Castle and the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. Every year our oldest children go on exciting five-day residential visit to Yenworthy Lodge on the North Devon coast.

Our oldest children also go swimming one morning a week for a term.

### School and home

Not only do we welcome your child, but also you and your family, as it is our view that staff cannot fully educate children without the whole-hearted support and co-

operation of parents. We consider that the important foundations of your child's education will best be served by home and school working closely together. We encourage this partnership through Parent-Teacher Interviews, curriculum meetings and presentations, home-school readings diaries and weekly information sheets, and 'Celebration Assemblies.' All our children receive an appropriate level of homework. This encompasses a wide range of possibilities to do with everyday life that reinforce what we learn at school.



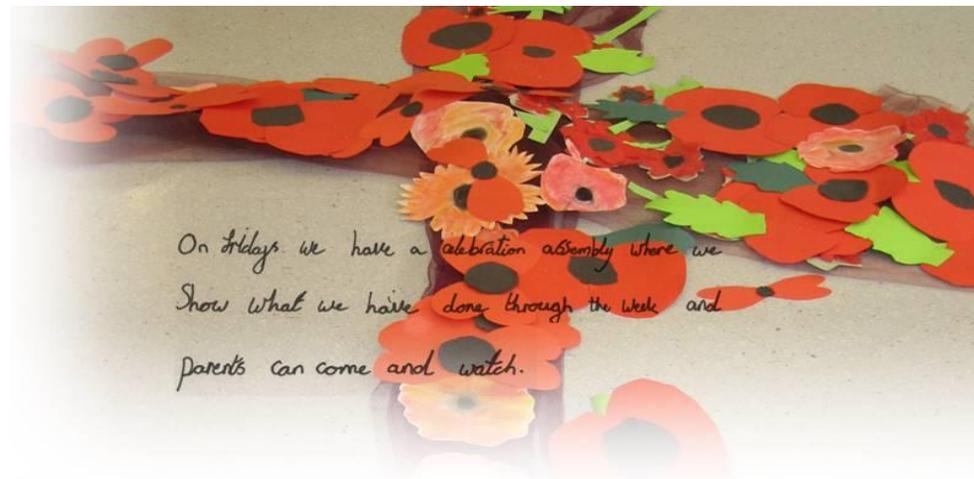
## Community

### Local Community

Our school is at the centre of our community. Local businesses and people give us their support and are always very generous when we are fundraising for a school project. We have many visits from people in the community, including police officers, fire crew, farmers, historians, authors and musicians who tell us about themselves. We also have school 'open events' such as Art Weeks or Musical Productions when local organisations or individuals are invited to attend.

We also visit people and take part in community activities such as delivering gifts to households or organising Community Lunch Picnics.

We have a strong link with St Faith's Church in Shellingford. Our Vicar visits the school weekly to lead collective worship and to provide pastoral support. The celebration of the main Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Ascension, together with Harvest, Remembrance and our school Leavers' Service is also an important tradition of the school which is held in the Parish Church of St Faith's. Members of the community are also invited join us at significant times such as at our Remembrance service.



## **Our School Community**

### Children

We are a friendly school who look after each other and work together. The older children often act as 'buddies' for the younger children with 'family group' activities, in reading and playground games at lunchtimes. We also have an active School Council who regularly meet together to discuss and improve our school.

### Parents and Friends of Shellingford School (FoSS)

Our parents are welcoming and friendly to each other when they collect their children at the end of the school day. All parents are automatically members of FoSS, and our parent body is always very busy organising support for the school in many different practical ways, including social events.

### Governors

Our governing body is made up of 12 governors, selected from staff, parents, and the local community, including church representatives. We currently operate three main committees: Curriculum; Resources; and Admissions.

We welcome your active involvement in the life of the school, from governance to fundraising support with FoSS, and through working alongside the children during school.

## Activities

### Extra-curricular Activities

We are very grateful to staff and parents who volunteer to run our clubs, enabling the children to have an extended and varied educational experience. Some clubs are offered at a small charge by outside coaches and teachers.

Clubs vary according to season but regularly include:

High 5 Netball

Football

Choir

Dance

Tag Rugby

Wild Club

Cross-Country

IT / Computing

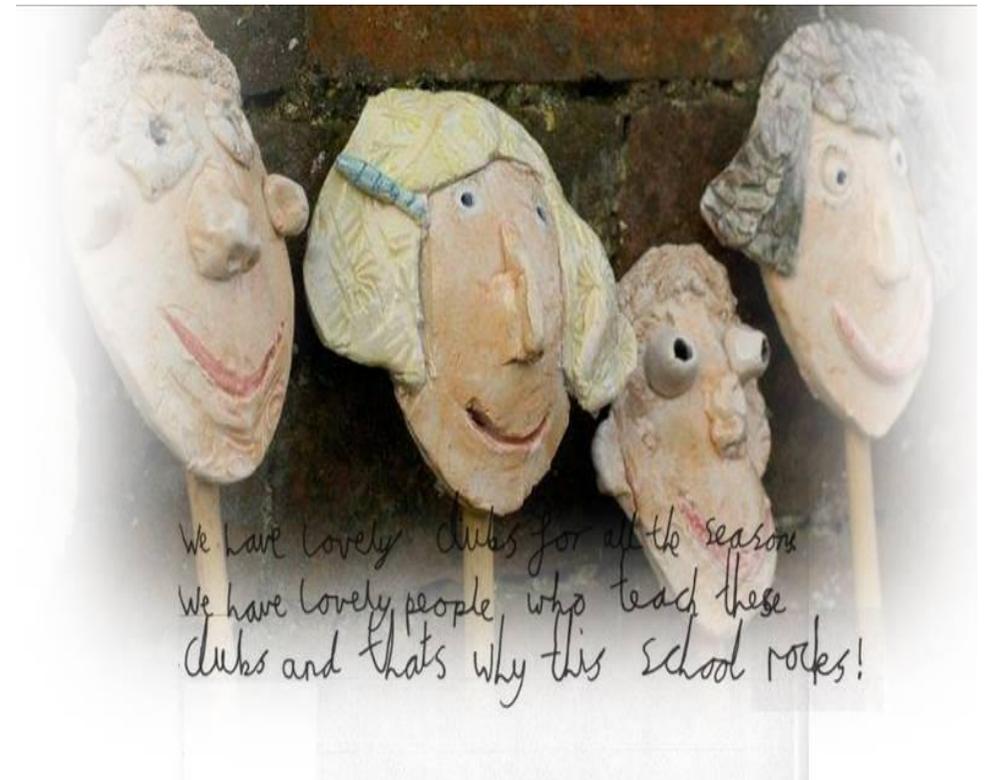
Lego

Spanish

Cricket

Art and Craft

Gardening



## Facilities

### Outside

We enjoy lots of space outside at our school. The school has wonderful grounds with an attractive school garden; a large hard surfaced play area; an early years foundation stage area; an extensive playing field with a trim trail; an outdoor classroom; a vegetable plot and a pond that is used for environmental studies.



### Inside

We have a number of iPads and a laptop trolley which moves around the classrooms to enable all children to access Information Technology (IT). Other multi-media equipment includes an interactive screen in each classroom. We have a book corner in each classroom, as well as a library that is used by all the children. Our classrooms also have practical areas for creative activities.

We have a designated resource area which is used for individual and small group work by our Teaching Assistants. We also have two specialised SEN Rooms known as 'Tom's Room' and 'Anne's Room', for those children requiring extra support.

Collective Worship takes place in the Community Hall, which is also used for PE, musical productions and FoSS events. Our school lunches are also served in the hall.

We take pride in our school displays which not only enrich our learning environment, but which celebrate and value the children's work and their achievements.

## Well-Being

Great importance is attached to the development of social and emotional skills. Children are encouraged to be self-disciplined in their behaviour, to build good relationships and to develop a sense of responsibility towards the needs and feelings of others and of their environment.

Our school feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems in place for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare, throughout all the activities which the school undertakes.



## Being happy and healthy

Ensuring a happy and healthy environment is central to our school ethos. We do our utmost to ensure that children feel able to approach staff with any problems or concerns. We do not tolerate bullying, and this is never an acceptable behaviour. We promote healthy eating through fruit snacks and encourage everyone to drink water throughout the day. We make the most of our extensive school grounds and whenever we can we use our outdoor environment to learn.

## Supporting each other

We encourage a supportive and caring learning environment where everyone can feel safe, happy, and valued as part of the Shellingford School Family. Older children help younger children spontaneously in the playground as well as in more organised class activities.

We expect all members of the school community to play a part in fostering our four key values of creativity, respect, spirituality and belonging. These are central to our school vision of **'Inspiring hearts and minds.'**

We use a 'Peaceful Problem Solving' strategy, with a language of 'choice and consequence' to resolve conflict or upset. This approach uses peer mediation to build, maintain and repair relationships.



## Policies



Enclosed are a number of policies that underpin our school:

Attendance Policy  
Admissions Policy  
Assessment for Learning Policy  
Behaviour for Learning Policy  
Collective Worship Policy

Curriculum - Teaching and Learning Policy  
Home-School Agreement  
Homework Policy  
Safeguarding and Child-Protection Policy  
Religious Education Policy

A number of other key policies can be found on our website.

## Contact Details



### Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

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