



# *Working Together In Partnership*

*"Know that I am with you always," Matthew 28:20*



Welcome to Bentley Church of England Primary School.



This prospectus contains useful information about our small, friendly school. We are proud of our school and value the strong community links we have both locally and further afield. We regularly visit our local church, St Mary's, for celebrations and activities which support our curriculum experiences throughout the year.

At Bentley School, we believe that every child can be confident, successful and responsible, making appropriate choices about how they learn. In close partnership with parents, we promote the development of important key skills and values, encouraging application within a caring and supportive environment.



***Leaders have carefully developed the curriculum and extra-curricular offer with the view to building confidence, success and spiritual development. There is a very strong sense that staff know their pupils' talents, areas for development and personalities. As a result, pupils are confident, capable and reflective learners.***

***SIAMS September 2023***

For a flavour of classroom life and other school experiences please visit our website at [www.bentley.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.bentley.suffolk.sch.uk).

Our federation with Copdock Primary School has enabled us to work closely to improve provision for the children. With one Head Teacher, responsible for leading two small schools, we have promoted the sharing of resources and experiences, developed joint initiatives, trips and sports events and supported each other in our learning journeys.

***All members of the school community comment that Bentley is like a 'family'. People are treated well here they feel valued and cared for. Wellbeing is positively promoted and strongly advocated.***

***SIAMS September 2023***



We hope you will find this information useful. However, we encourage all prospective parents to visit our school during the school day to see classrooms in action. If you would like to make an appointment please contact the school office.



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## School Vision

As a church school, we seek to encourage the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the school family by embedding Christian values into the ethos of every day school life. We approach our vision knowing that God is always with us.

Our vision is for all children to be...

**confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens**

... who are well equipped for future life, whatever that may hold.

### **Confidence**

Rich and varied learning experiences will encourage children to identify possibilities and overcome challenges, becoming independent and responsible members of their community.

### **Success**

High quality teaching, challenging learning experiences and high expectations will ensure all pupils recognise and achieve success.

### **Responsibility**

Positive contributions will be encouraged through the promotion of mutual respect, self-awareness, empathy and the development of effective relationships within a safe and supportive environment.  
To achieve the above vision we aim to:

- ✓ promote high aspirations in every child encouraging determination and perseverance so they can confidently engage with the challenges of adult life.
- ✓ inspire and enthuse children through learning experiences which have a purposeful connection to real life
- ✓ promote active participation in learning
- ✓ develop independence through the provision of well-resourced and accessible learning environments
- ✓ promote pupil's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing, helping them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- ✓ help our children to learn to respect themselves and others, celebrating diversity, sharing and celebrating successes and achievements of all members of the school community
- ✓ develop positive attitudes which encourage possibilities, overcome challenges and provide opportunities to develop new skills and talents
- ✓ set and reinforce boundaries so children feel able to make positive choices in their learning and behaviour, within a healthy, safe and caring environment
- ✓ work closely and in partnership with parents
- ✓ be aware, reflective and responsive to the needs of our school community
- ✓ have fun and be happy!





## **About Our School**

Bentley Church of England Primary School is situated in a rural village south west of Ipswich and convenient for the A12 and A14. It is an attractive, traditionally built Victorian school, nestling in beautiful rolling Suffolk countryside, surrounded by ancient trees. Extensive grounds which include large play equipment, outdoor gym area, a small woodland, allotment plot, all weather pitch and off-site field, enable a wide range of activities and interests and are used for educational and recreational purposes.



As a small school we have the privilege of knowing each pupil as an individual, enabling us to guide them through learning to achieve good levels of progress and personal success. We have high expectations for every child, cultivating a love of learning within a supportive, challenging and friendly school environment. Children actively demonstrate respect, care and concern for others, both in lessons and at play, with older pupils taking initiative in leading activities for the younger children within school.

Belonging to a small school facilitates full participation by all pupils in every aspect of school life. Leadership roles are encouraged through numerous roles, including Head Pupils and School Councils, where pupils make important decisions to enhance provision for the school community. All children have the opportunity to represent the school at sporting events and be part of school productions or events.

Children are at the centre of everything we do and play a large part in establishing a school where all can enjoy work and play.

## **School Organisation**

We organise our classes into mixed age groups and this sometimes changes depending on the number of children in the year groups. In previous years we have had a mixed Year 2,3 and 4 class. Currently we have the following class structure...

| Class                                                                                                       | Year Groups               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1<br>Wolves                                                                                                 | Reception, Year 1, Year 2 |
| 2<br>Hedgehogs                                                                                              | Years 3 and 4             |
| 3<br>Adders                                                                                                 | Years 5 – 6               |
| Key stage two are taught together on 2 days per week;<br>this included wider opportunities music provision. |                           |

All classes are supported by our experienced teaching assistants, who support teaching and learning across the school where it is most needed. Currently we have 2 full time and two part-time TAs, two of these are based in Wolves class to support the mixed age groups. All classes work together as a whole school for some activities enabling younger children to work alongside the older children.



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## **Admission of New Pupils**

The Local Authority is responsible for admissions to our schools and full details of the LA's Admissions Policy and procedures are set out on their website. [Apply for a primary school place 2024/2025 - Suffolk County Council](#)

The annual admission number for Bentley School, set by the Local Authority, is 8 pupils. Current legislation allows all Reception children to attend school full time from September, regardless of the term in which they turn five.

We encourage parents to visit schools, before making an application for a place, to ensure they are well informed in their choice. We would happily welcome you to see our school in action so we can answer any questions.

## **Online Application**

Suffolk County Council offers prospective parents the opportunity to apply online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/onlineadmissions). If we can assist in this process, please ask us.

## **Pre School**

Children who attend Bentley School come from a wide range of pre-school providers in the local area. As part of our induction process the Early Years teacher visits all local Pre Schools to meet the new intake and support transition into mainstream school.

## **Wrap Around Care**

If wrap around care is a consideration when applying for a school place, Bentley is able to support both before and after school care. A morning club runs every school day morning from 8am at Bentley School and provision for after school club is supported in partnership with Copdock and Washbrook Pre School. Children are transported to the after school club by staff, where they can access a range of activities until 6pm each evening. Freshly cooked meals are available at each session. A holiday club also runs every school holiday to support working parents. For more information see their website.

[http://www.copdockandwashbrookpreschool.org.uk/index\\_1914.htm](http://www.copdockandwashbrookpreschool.org.uk/index_1914.htm)



## **Transfer to Secondary Education**

During the final year at Bentley, pupils visit East Bergholt High School in preparation for secondary education. Whilst most children transfer to East Bergholt some have continued their learning at Holbrook High School, Colchester Grammar School or Independent Schools in the Ipswich area. Staff prepare children in good time for this transfer and support parents to make an informed choice about the best school for their child. Further information is available on our website.



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## Curriculum

Bentley Primary School recognises the importance of a creative and reflective curriculum which meets the needs of our pupils. In enabling such a curriculum we cultivate a spirit of enquiry, allowing pupils to investigate and discover new knowledge, skills and talents for themselves.

Our aim is to equip children for life-long learning, developing confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens.



Much of our learning takes place in the outdoor environment, where children are encouraged and inspired to grow in confidence, self-esteem and independence.

We teach all subjects within the framework of the National Curriculum, often linking subjects together through topics or themes to make learning as cohesive as possible. In addition to these statutory requirements we enhance our curriculum by

- ❖ Regularly attending the local church as part of curriculum learning and celebrations.
- ❖ Providing swimming lessons for pupils from Year 2.
- ❖ Introducing the French language from Reception to Year 6.
- ❖ Promoting philosophical debate from an early age.
- ❖ Developing awareness of healthy eating by cooking a range of food.
- ❖ Giving opportunities to engage in enterprise projects involving financial awareness and budget management.
- ❖ Working in partnership with local businesses and other schools, sharing expertise and resources.

## Sport and Physical Education

As a small school, all children have the opportunity to represent Bentley in a range of tournaments and competitions. Regular events take place within our pyramid of schools with potential for representing the County at larger events. We work closely with external clubs, involving qualified coaches to enhance the PE curriculum alongside teachers and lead after school clubs in a variety of sports.





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### Swimming

We believe swimming is an essential life skill and should be taught from a young age to enable children to stay safe and have fun in and near the water. Our aim is to ensure all children leave Bentley School as competent swimmers. Therefore, children from Year 2 upwards attend swimming lessons as part of our curriculum. We currently use First Strokes swimming tutors to deliver our tuition at Oaklands Nursery, Hadleigh Road.

### Extra Curricula Clubs

A range of extra curricula clubs including Lego, sports and cooking are also on offer, utilising internal as well as outside expertise to enhance engagement.



### Forest School



Forest Schools is a unique way of building independence, self-esteem and a positive attitude towards learning in children and young people, as they explore and experience the natural world for themselves. We are implementing basic Forest School curriculum within our on-site copse, encouraging children to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Den building and survival challenges have also been a large part of outdoor activities to support the curriculum.

### Residential Visits

As part of Key Stage 2 learning, we offer children the opportunity to be involved in overnight stays, both at school and off site at residential centres. These begin in Year 4, where children are encouraged to join outdoor fun and games, camp fire songs and a 'sleepover' in the school hall. A further residential visit and outdoor learning week take place in Year 5 and 6. During these visits more emphasis is placed on adventurous activity and physical challenge and children are encouraged to work co-operatively as part of a team, developing self-confidence and self-esteem.



Children from Bentley and Copdock attend these visits together, enabling relationships to blossom socially as well as during formal learning activities within the school day. These experiences are valuable in developing independence in a controlled, safe and secure environment, preparing children for their next step in transition to high school. They are jointly planned and attended by staff and governors from both schools.



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## **Partnership with Parents**

Every opportunity is taken to work in close partnership with parents and our local community, creating real purpose to the learning and activities we share. We encourage engagement through consultation, information evenings, open learning sessions and shared assemblies.

Parents have regular opportunities to discuss their child's progress and next steps throughout the school year and are encouraged to fulfil the important role they play in supporting their children's education.



As we regularly send updates out by email and text it is important that parents keep a close eye on communications to ensure they know about the many activities we provide for the children. The website is always maintained well in advance with dates and information too so parents are well informed.

## **Special Educational Needs / Able Gifted & Talented Provision**

Bentley School aims to provide a challenging learning environment that enhances achievement and enjoyment for all children. This includes those with Special Educational Needs and additional strengths. We regularly encourage pupils to work independently as well as co-operate with others. However, sometimes extra activities may be planned to support or extend learning in particular areas of the curriculum. We work closely with East Bergholt High School, Ipswich School and the Royal Hospital School to offer a wide range of experiences. Activities often extend higher-level skills and talents, and signpost opportunities for further collaboration outside of school.



## **Behaviour**

We aim to develop a sense of community and a feeling of pride within school. Everyone attending school is expected to show respect, courtesy and kindness to all people at all times. We offer our children the opportunity to learn in a happy, supportive environment, helping them to make positive choices about their behaviour and learning. High expectations are reinforced and rewarded through achievement stickers and awards as part of our behaviour policy, encouraging hard work, perseverance, politeness and responsibility. We also have clear sanctions in place so children and parents know how any misdemeanours will be acknowledged. Our behaviour policy is available on the school website.

## **Parent Teacher Association**

We have a very active PTA who work tirelessly to support our small school. We encourage all families to take part in a range of social activities to support our fund-raising efforts. Funds have been raised for computers, reading books, outdoor learning and play equipment, as well as other essential resources. Many trips and events are also subsidised by the PTA.





### **Head Pupils and School Council**

Pupil leadership is a core strength of our personal development. Every year the children are involved in electing the new representatives for a number of pupil led groups. Children stand up in assembly to explain why they believe they should secure a place in these important groups and what skills they feel they are able to offer to improve school life for the children. Sports crew run a number of events and activities for all ages. School Council have members elected from each year group to ensure all have a voice during weekly assemblies. All children are welcome to join Worship Group and support the planning for our special gatherings and services during the year.



In addition to the School Council, we recruit two Head Pupils to support school development priorities with the Headteacher, reporting to the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team. The whole school have the opportunity to nominate and vote for these two representatives but they also have to undergo a formal interview with the Headteacher before being welcomed officially into the role.

### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body has a strategic responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of educational achievement across both Bentley and Copdock schools. We share a passionate belief that all children deserve to have access to high quality teaching and learning experiences and Governors regularly visit school classrooms to see learning in action. Governors work in close partnership with the Head Teacher, staff and parents to celebrate successes and share next steps for development.

More information about our Governing Body can be found on the website.

[www.bentley.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.bentley.suffolk.sch.uk)

### **Safeguarding Children in Education**

We have a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy which is reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governors. All staff, governors and volunteers receive training on Child Protection procedures and how to deal with disclosures. If a pupil discloses information of a sensitive nature to a member of staff, parents will be informed and the LA guidelines followed. Further details of our safeguarding procedures and designated professionals can be found on the school website.

[www.bentleycopdock.co.uk/page/keeping-children-safe](http://www.bentleycopdock.co.uk/page/keeping-children-safe)



## Planned Experiences

At our school, we believe high quality learning experiences should be embedded within each child's learning journey. Therefore, we will endeavour to provide the following as part of our curriculum entitlement.



### Whole School

- Develop an understanding of a healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to experience different musical instruments at each phase
- at least 1 whole school event each year
- cross phase project work through enrichment experiences
- learn and use a Modern Foreign Language
- grow our own food (and visit an allotment)
- produce topic presentations for an audience to develop a pride in sharing learning and work with others
- support community events eg litter picking, singing at the Lodge residential home



### Early Years / KS1

- explore a real castle
- see a theatre production
- visit a local church and synagogue
- plan a shared lunch experience learning important table manners and how to use a knife and fork effectively
- visit a museum
- Invite a range of visitors in to support our learning eg police, nurse, dentist, sports coaches
- experience forest schools
- begin to learn another language
- learn the ocarina

### Y3/4

- visit a different place of worship eg Mosque / Sikh temple
- visit a theatre and live music performance, then perform for an audience
- have a piece of artwork framed and displayed following an artist visit
- experience disability awareness activities
- experience a professional / experienced sports person playing
- prepare a meal
- visit the library
- explore Suffolk life eg Suffolk Farm Fair, Tractors in Schools
- learn the recorder

### Y5/6

- visit and take part in an art exhibition
- opportunities to overcome challenges: theme park visit, residential trip
- good awareness of how to stay safe: bike ability, first aid training, Crucial Crew visit, computer workshops
- take part in a public performance
- represent school by attending a sporting tournament
- plan an event to raise money for charity
- visit a different place of worship eg Buddhist / Hindu temple
- write a book
- explore further education and the world of work
- learn a tuned instrument (eg flute / clarinet)