



Victoria

Church of England
Infant & Nursery School

Prospect

Flourishing in learning and love

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Beccy Roberts
Head of School: Mrs Lisa Freeman

Chair of Governors: Mrs Elaine Bunn and Mr Alex Fahey

Welcome

Victoria Church of England Infant and Nursery School is a very special place! We are a happy, nurturing family at the heart of our town and local community, in a beautiful, historic building.

At Victoria, everyone is valued as an individual. We develop a love of learning in a supportive environment where children feel safe. Our curriculum is rich and varied, centred on developing the whole child through memorable and fun learning experiences inside and outside the classroom – on our allotment, at the town library, fire station, castle, or market: it's all on our doorstep!



We work closely with our partner junior school, The Thomas Coram CE School, to ensure that children have opportunities to reach their potential throughout the primary phase of their school life and to prepare them fully for secondary school.

Victoria is no ordinary school: we're an inclusive family where everyone matters; where we explore and go deeper in learning; where every day is extraordinary.

Join us and flourish in learning and love.

Lisa Freeman
Head of School



Castle Church of England Federation

One governing body and executive headteacher oversee both Victoria CE Infant and Nursery School and The Thomas Coram CE Junior School. This is known as a federation. Our exciting partnership provides us with many new opportunities, from children working together across schools, to shared teaching, staff development and joint projects.



Our two schools share a common vision and have the same aims. There is a strong sense of family across the federation and we encourage parents who are considering Victoria as their child's first school to visit Thomas Coram too, to experience for themselves the nurturing atmosphere and full range of opportunities on offer in both schools.





Our vision and values

Victoria was founded in 1897 by a prominent businessman, Thomas Bourne. His Christian values and the determination to make a difference to the lives of others inspired him to provide an education for 20 boys and 10 girls from the local area. These same values are at the heart of our school: **friendship, respect and perseverance.**

Our vision is to **flourish in learning and love within a happy, Christian family.**

We aim:

- To be proud of ourselves and each other for always being the best that we can be
- To be happy and safe, and feel part of a caring school family
- To love learning through exciting, creative opportunities
- To know that we are all special in God's eyes
- To have a sense of responsibility and the confidence to stand up for what is right in our world
- To work together to prepare us for 'life in all its fullness'
- To practise Christian values in everything we do

As a Church of England school, we welcome children of all faiths or no faith. We are proud to be an inclusive family in which our children develop a strong sense of belonging.



Flourishing in learning

Our curriculum

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception classes), children learn through a variety of adult-led and child-initiated activities, which take place indoors and outdoors. All learning is play-based and driven by the children's interests. Themes are chosen by the teachers and the different areas of learning are covered in a cross-curricular way

In Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2), the curriculum is interconnected across subjects and children are encouraged to develop independent learning skills in a range of subject areas, including the core subjects of English (reading and writing), Maths, Science and RE.

"Such a warm, friendly and inspiring infant school – great to see the children thrive and build their confidence."
Parent

A programme of WOW days and whole school themed days – from Superhero and Bear Hunt days in Reception to an India-themed day in Year 2 – enhances our curriculum and provides memorable experiences for children throughout the school.

Outdoor learning

Throughout the school year, we use the environment outside the classroom to enhance learning. We make the most of our central location by using the wide-open space of Butts Meadow, working on our nearby allotment or visiting local places of interest such as the library or Berkhamsted Castle. We also travel further afield for visits to, for example, Tring Natural History Museum, Ashridge Forest or Wendover Woods.

Collective worship

Collective worship is an important part of our school life. It is the time when we get together as a community, taking time to reflect on the values that underpin our learning and our day to day lives. It is an opportunity to listen to stories, celebrate our achievements and learn about the wider world.

Caring for others

We are an Eco and Fairtrade School and have a Green Flag Award. We encourage children to look after the environment by recycling waste, saving energy and walking to school. We have a School Council and Eco Council, both of which meet regularly to discuss ways in which we can work together to improve our learning experiences as well as look after each other and the world around us.

Health and well-being

Our school kitchen offers healthy, nutritious lunches every day which are free for all children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Nursery children who stay for lunch bring a packed lunch in from home. We teach the children about making good choices around what they eat and how to look after their bodies and minds so that they grow up to be healthy, resilient adults, ready for anything.

Enriching the curriculum

We offer a number of extra-curricular clubs, either at lunch-time or after school. They are all run by external providers. These include street-dance, performing arts, football, French and yoga.

Wraparound Care

We have a very popular **After School Club**, which school staff run from 3:00-6:00pm daily. Equally popular is the **Gold Key Breakfast Club**, run by registered childminders from 7:30-8:25am every day in our dining room. Places at either club are available for children from Nursery to Year 2.

"Victoria Infant School has such an amazing and special community – very nurturing – and I feel very lucky to be a part of this community."

Parent



"A separate infant school creates such a lovely atmosphere with it being smaller and close-knit. It enables the small children to feel comfortable in their environment and less intimidated, therefore happier in their learning."

Parent

Flourishing in love



Getting to know us

We take great care to ensure children's first experience of school life is positive. We aim to visit children in their nursery schools or other settings before they start at Victoria and we have a thorough handover with the staff who have looked after them. For those children who have not attended a pre-school setting, we offer home visits. In the summer term, new children are invited to attend a 'transition morning' when they visit us for the first time to meet their classmates and the adults who will be working with them.

Encouraging good behaviour

We encourage children to become independent learners, with internal discipline and self-control. Our positive behaviour policy is based on encouragement and fostering an inner sense of pride. We actively focus on building and nurturing children's self-esteem; praise and a positive attitude work wonders! We celebrate good behaviours such as kindness, good manners and readiness to learn and use a variety of rewards and incentives to motivate the children and establish a culture of aspiration.



Moving on to junior school

During Year 2, we offer children extra responsibilities such as being buddies for Reception children or being activity leaders on the playground. We aim to build their confidence and independence so that they are ready for the move to junior school

Our strong links with Thomas Coram mean that our children are familiar with the junior school by the time they prepare to leave us. They spend a day there in the summer term before they leave and additional transition visits are arranged for those who will benefit from them. Similar transition arrangements exist for other local schools that our children may move on to in Year 3; we are keen to ensure that they all have the confidence to take the move from infant to junior school in their stride.

"Separate infant schools give the children a great sense of self (being Year 2 - the oldest in their school) and security (4 year olds in a closer age group). Whole school integrated learning can be easily established. Altogether, something to be treasured!"
Parent



Partnership with parents

Supporting children's progress

We enjoy strong partnerships with our parents/carers and believe these are a vital part of children's success at school. We share information with parents about progress and attainment at twice-yearly parent consultation meetings and an annual written report. We also offer advice about ways of supporting children's learning at subject-based workshops.

Volunteers

There are many opportunities for parents, grandparents and members of the local community to get involved in the day-to-day life of our school, supporting children in a variety of ways, from one-to-one reading to working on the allotment or accompanying school trips.

Victoria School Association (VSA)

The VSA is our very active parent/teacher association. They organise many fund-raising events throughout the year, such as the Christmas and Spring Fairs, Quiz Nights, a Summer BBQ and various children's discos and film nights. These are a great way of raising money for the school as well as offering valuable social networking opportunities for new families.

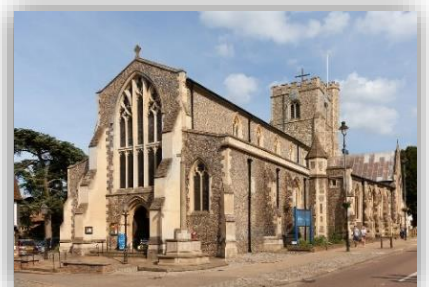
The VSA consistently raises between £10,000-20,000 per year, and this money enables us to enhance the education of the children in a number of ways.



"Victoria Infant School is the school I hoped my sons would go to – small, nurturing and totally focused on infant aged children. It is a perfect start to a child's education and I am delighted my children are at such a lovely school."
Parent

Distinctive Christian character

As a Church of England school, we have very close links with St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted. Members of the clergy lead our collective worship once a week, either at school or in the church and we visit the church at other times of the year to mark important Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Christianity is central to our teaching in RE, but we teach our children about other major world religions too, ensuring that they are able to make links and comparisons between different religions. We believe our Christian ethos and values-based approach are behind the happy, nurturing atmosphere at our school and an essential part of what makes our school such a special place to learn.



Victoria Church of England Infant and Nursery School is a happy, nurturing learning community committed to providing rich, memorable and fun learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our inclusive school family.

Flourishing in
learning and love