

Aston Rowant C+E Primary School

Prospectus



Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life.

Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built upon him.

Colossians 2:7

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A Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.

At Aston Rowant, every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. As a small village school, we are able to provide something truly special: a nurturing family atmosphere alongside ambitious expectations for every pupil.

Our children learn in an environment where kindness, curiosity and achievement are celebrated. Rooted in our Christian vision, we seek to develop confident learners, thoughtful citizens and compassionate individuals who are ready for the next stage of their education and for life beyond school.

We are proud of our strong academic outcomes, our inclusive ethos and the wide range of opportunities available to our pupils. From learning to read in Reception, performing in musical productions, competing in sporting events, undertaking leadership responsibilities and exploring the natural world through our outdoor learning programme, our children are encouraged to discover their strengths and reach their full potential.

Our mixed-age classes create a strong sense of community where older pupils become role models and younger pupils learn from their example. Staff know every child as an individual and work closely with families to ensure that all children are challenged, supported and successful.

We are a small school with big opportunities and would be delighted to welcome you to visit us and experience our school family for yourself.

Mrs Helen Hart



WHY CHOOSE ASTON ROWANT?

Small School. Big Opportunities.

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family makes. At Aston Rowant, we combine the warmth and care of a village school with ambitious opportunities for every child.

Every Child Known

Our size is one of our greatest strengths. Staff know every child personally and understand their individual strengths, interests and next steps for learning.

Ambitious Learning

We maintain high expectations for achievement across the curriculum. Children are encouraged to think deeply, solve problems, ask questions and develop independence as learners.

Reading at the Heart of Learning

We place reading at the centre of everything we do. Through high-quality teaching and carefully targeted support, we ensure that every child develops the skills and confidence needed to become a successful reader.

Inclusive and Supportive

We are proud to be an inclusive school where every child belongs. Whether children require additional challenge, SEND support or emotional wellbeing support, we work closely with families to help every child flourish.

Exceptional Personal Development

Children enjoy a wide range of opportunities including:

- School Council
- Eco Warriors
- Courageous Advocacy projects
- House Competitions
- Sporting Events
- Musical Performances
- Residential Trips
- Community Projects
- Leadership Responsibilities

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our Forest Fridays, educational visits, workshops and outdoor learning opportunities help children develop confidence, resilience and a lifelong love of learning.

Strong Community Spirit

We enjoy close relationships with families, our church and the wider community. Parents frequently describe Aston Rowant as feeling like an extended family.

OUR CHRISTIAN VISION

Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life.

"Let your roots grow down into Him and let your lives be built upon Him." Colossians 2:7

Our vision is at the heart of everything we do at Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.

We believe that every child is unique, valued and created with limitless potential. Just as no two plants grow in exactly the same way, no two children follow the same journey. Children arrive at our school with different experiences, strengths, interests and starting points, and we are committed to helping every child make exceptional progress from where they begin.

Our role is not simply to educate children academically, but to nurture the whole child. We strive to develop confident learners, compassionate citizens, courageous advocates and individuals who understand their own worth and the value of others. We want every child to leave Aston Rowant having grown intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically.

Rooted in Christian love and guided by our values, we provide a caring and ambitious environment where children feel safe to take risks in their learning, embrace challenges and celebrate success. We encourage curiosity, independence and resilience so that children develop the confidence to thrive both within school and beyond.

We have high expectations for every pupil. Whether a child joins us needing additional support, ready for greater challenge, or somewhere in between, we believe that growth matters. We celebrate progress, effort and perseverance, helping children to recognise how far they have come whilst inspiring them to aim even higher.

Our vision is lived through our six core values:

- **Gratitude** appreciating the gifts, opportunities and people in our lives.
- **Resilience** showing courage, determination and perseverance when faced with challenge.
- **Outreach** demonstrating kindness, compassion and service to others.
- **Wonder** approaching the world with curiosity, creativity and awe.
- **Trust** developing faith, honesty, hope and integrity.
- **Harmony** building positive relationships through friendship, forgiveness and respect.

Together, these values help us create a school where children are known, nurtured and inspired to flourish; a school where we truly grow together, rooted in God, towards fullness of life.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing the whole child is a central part of life at Aston Rowant. We aim to prepare children not only for their next stage of education but also for life in modern Britain. Through leadership opportunities, enrichment activities, worship, PSHE and community engagement, children develop confidence, responsibility and respect for others.

Our pupils contribute positively to school life through roles including:

- School Council
- Eco Warriors
- House Captains
- Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Sports Leaders
- Worship Leaders

Children regularly support local, national and international charities and take part in Courageous Advocacy projects which encourage them to become active citizens who seek to make a positive difference in the world around them

PUPIL VOICE

All pupils are encouraged to share their opinions through regular meetings with teachers and governors, classroom activities and there are opportunities for them to talk with members of staff. There is a weekly assembly which celebrates individual and community achievements.

THE CURRICULUM

At Aston Rowant, we believe that every child is a thinker.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to develop knowledgeable, curious and confident learners. We provide rich learning experiences which encourage children to think deeply, ask questions, make connections and apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Learning is shaped by our vision and values and enables pupils to:

- Become confident readers, writers and mathematicians
- Develop secure knowledge across all curriculum subjects
- Think critically and solve problems
- Understand the world around them
- Appreciate diversity and respect others
- Work collaboratively and independently
- Develop creativity, resilience and confidence

Whilst we value all areas of the curriculum, we place particular importance on developing strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics.

Children's progress is carefully monitored and teaching is adapted to ensure all pupils achieve their potential.

Curriculum Enrichment

At Aston Rowant, learning extends far beyond the classroom. We believe that memorable experiences inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and help children develop confidence and independence. Throughout the year, pupils enjoy a wide range of enrichment opportunities including educational visits, visitors, themed curriculum days, Forest Fridays, sporting events, music experiences and opportunities to participate in the wider life of the school and community.

Our curriculum enrichment programme is carefully planned to enhance classroom learning, broaden children's horizons and create lasting memories. Whether performing in a concert, taking part in a residential visit, leading a school initiative or exploring the natural environment, we aim to ensure every child benefits from experiences that help them grow academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

We believe that some of the most memorable learning takes place beyond the classroom. Educational visits, visitors and immersive experiences are carefully planned to enrich the curriculum, inspire curiosity and bring learning to life.

Our pupils enjoy a wide range of local and national visits linked directly to their learning. Recent destinations have included the Tower of London, Tring Natural History Museum, Oxford Science Centre, Iwer Environmental Centre, the Look Out Discovery Centre, the River & Rowing Museum, Verulamium Museum, Upton Court and Wallingford Museum. We have also been privileged to offer unique opportunities, including visits to 10 Downing Street and Christ Church Cathedral.

Residential experiences form an important part of life at Aston Rowant. In alternate years, our Year 5 and 6 pupils spend a week at Rock UK in the Brecon Beacons, developing resilience, teamwork and independence through a range of outdoor adventure activities. In the intervening years, pupils take part in an exciting school-based residential programme, ensuring every child benefits from this valuable experience during their time with us.

We regularly welcome expert visitors into school and provide immersive workshops to enhance learning, including Egyptian, Ancient Greek, Anglo-Saxon, Victorian and Great Fire of London experience days. We also embrace new technologies, using virtual reality experiences and live online events to bring learning to life. Through virtual visits and author talks, pupils have engaged with organisations such as the British Museum and enjoyed sessions with leading authors and storytellers, including Michael Morpurgo, Joseph Coelho and Paterson Joseph.

From whole-school cinema visits and festive community events to historical workshops, residential adventures and encounters with inspiring speakers, we seek to create rich experiences that broaden horizons, deepen understanding and create lasting memories for every child.

At Aston Rowant, we seek to develop knowledgeable, curious and compassionate learners. Every subject contributes to our vision of helping children grow academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Below are some of the ways our curriculum brings learning to life.

Early Reading and Phonics

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum because we believe that reading opens doors to future learning and opportunities. Children begin their reading journey through our systematic, synthetic phonics programme, Rocket Phonics. Lessons are carefully planned and delivered consistently so that children develop secure phonics knowledge and become confident readers.

Assessment is used regularly to identify any gaps in learning at the earliest opportunity. Through our keep up, not catch up approach, additional support is provided immediately so that children can keep pace with their peers. Where appropriate, children may also access targeted interventions including programmes such as Toe by Toe and Nessy, ensuring individual barriers to learning are addressed effectively.

Alongside learning to read, we are passionate about developing a love of reading. Children enjoy high-quality texts, daily story time, reading opportunities across the curriculum and access to engaging books that inspire curiosity and imagination.

Our goal is for every child to leave Aston Rowant as a fluent, confident and enthusiastic reader.

English

At Aston Rowant, we believe that language gives children a voice. Through our text-rich curriculum, pupils engage deeply with high-quality literature, exploring ideas, characters and themes that inspire both discussion and writing. We aim to develop confident communicators and thoughtful writers who can express themselves creatively, purposefully and with increasing independence, helping every child discover their own unique writer's voice.

Mathematics

We aim to develop confident mathematicians who understand, reason and explain their thinking. Through carefully sequenced learning and practical experiences, children build strong number sense and problem-solving skills. We encourage pupils to explore multiple strategies, make connections and approach challenges with confidence and resilience.

Science

As holders of the **Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt Award**, science plays a central role in our curriculum. We nurture children's natural curiosity through practical investigations, enquiry and exploration. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions, think scientifically and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them whilst building the skills of observation, prediction, testing and evaluation.

Religious Education

Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum as a Church of England school. Planned by our specialist RE Lead, who has contributed to both the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus and Oxford Diocesan RE materials, our curriculum encourages children to explore Christianity and other world faiths with curiosity, respect and thoughtful reflection. Pupils develop their understanding of beliefs, values and worldviews whilst considering their own place within the wider world.

History

History helps our children make sense of the world and understand how the past has shaped the present. As we work towards the **History Quality Mark**, we seek to develop inquisitive historians who ask questions, evaluate evidence and understand different perspectives. Through engaging topics and historical enquiry, children learn to think critically about significant events and individuals.

Geography

Our geography curriculum encourages pupils to develop a sense of place and responsibility for the wider world. Children explore local, national and global environments, developing an understanding of human and physical geography, sustainability and the interdependence of communities around the world.

Music

We are proud holders of the **Music Mark Award**, recognising our commitment to high-quality music education. Music is taught by specialist staff and provides opportunities for pupils to sing, perform, compose and appreciate a wide range of musical styles. We believe music enriches children's lives, develops creativity and confidence and provides opportunities for every child to shine.

Art and Design

Our art curriculum encourages creativity, experimentation and self-expression. Children explore a range of artists, techniques and media whilst developing the confidence to communicate ideas visually. We celebrate individuality and encourage pupils to take pride in their creative achievements.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology enables children to become innovative problem-solvers. Through designing, creating, testing and evaluating products, pupils develop practical skills, resilience and creativity whilst learning how design can improve everyday life.

Computing

Technology is an important part of modern life and our computing curriculum equips pupils with the skills required to thrive in a digital world. Children learn to use technology safely and responsibly whilst developing their understanding of coding, problem-solving, communication and digital creativity.

Physical Education

Physical activity is an important part of life at Aston Rowant. Our PE curriculum is enhanced through specialist coaching provided by Coach Amy from JR Sports, who holds a degree in Sports Coaching. Children develop physical competence, teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship through a wide range of activities, competitions and sporting opportunities. We aim to foster a lifelong enjoyment of being active and healthy.

PSHE and Relationships Education

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education helps children develop the knowledge and skills needed to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. Learning is enriched through visits from a wide range of specialists including first aid trainers, police officers, fire and rescue personnel, water safety experts and financial education professionals. Through these experiences, pupils learn about wellbeing, healthy relationships, citizenship, personal safety and their responsibilities within modern society.

Forest Fridays and Environmental Education

Our commitment to outdoor learning is reflected in our Forest Fridays programme and recognised through our Eco-Schools and Green Tree Schools Awards. Regular access to the natural environment helps children develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and a lifelong appreciation for the world around them. Environmental responsibility is woven throughout school life, empowering pupils to become active stewards of God's creation.

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

We believe that learning another language helps children develop confidence, curiosity and a greater understanding of the wider world. Our Key Stage 2 pupils learn French through engaging speaking, listening, reading and writing activities, whilst exploring aspects of French culture and daily life. Our whole-school **French Phrase of the Week** encourages everyone, from Reception to Year 6, to practise language skills and celebrate the joy of communication in another language.

TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Timings	Reception/ KS1	KS2
Daily Mile & Skip2BFit	08:30	08:30
Start of Day	08.45	08:45
Break and snack time	10:30	11:00
Lunchtime	11:50/12:00	12:15
End of Day	15:15	15:15

LEARNING IN MIXED-AGE CLASSES

Children at Aston Rowant learn within four mixed-age classes: Hedgehog (Reception), Squirrel (Years 1 and 2), Fox (Years 3 and 4) and Owl (Years 5 and 6). Maths and English are taught discretely by year group to ensure pupils receive learning tailored to their stage of development, whilst the wider curriculum is delivered through a carefully planned two-year rolling programme.

Our mixed-age classes are one of the school's greatest strengths. They create a genuine family atmosphere where children learn alongside, support and inspire one another. Younger pupils benefit from the example set by older children, whilst older pupils develop confidence, leadership and responsibility as role models. This approach nurtures positive relationships across year groups and helps children develop strong social skills, empathy and a sense of belonging.

Small class sizes and strong relationships mean that every child is known as an individual. Staff understand each pupil's strengths, interests and next steps, allowing learning to be carefully adapted, supported and extended. Whether children need additional encouragement, targeted support or greater challenge, we are able to respond quickly and effectively.

Through our mixed-age approach, children learn that they are part of a wider learning community where everyone has something to contribute and everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

THE THAME PARTNERSHIP: THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

As a member of the Thame Partnership, Aston Rowant offers families the best of both worlds: the nurture, care and individual attention of a small village school, combined with the breadth of opportunities often associated with much larger schools.

Our pupils benefit from a rich programme of collaborative events throughout the year, including Science Days, Dance Festivals, Poetry Slams, Maths Challenges, PE tournaments and opportunities for pupils to work at greater depth alongside children from neighbouring schools. These experiences allow children to broaden their horizons, build confidence and celebrate their talents with a wider audience.

Collaboration extends beyond the classroom. Teachers and subject leaders work closely with colleagues across the partnership to share expertise, develop high-quality curriculum provision and ensure that teaching remains ambitious and innovative. Regular moderation of pupils' work helps maintain high standards and ensures that all children receive the very best education.

As a key feeder school to Lord Williams's School, we benefit from strong relationships that support a smooth and successful transition to secondary education. Our pupils leave Aston Rowant as confident, capable learners who are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their journey. Many continue their education at Lord Williams's, whilst others thrive at grammar schools, Icknield School and a range of other secondary settings.

Being part of the partnership means our children enjoy all the advantages of a close-knit school community whilst benefiting from the expertise, opportunities and collaborative strength of a much wider educational family.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

At Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment where children feel valued, listened to and protected.

All staff receive regular safeguarding training and work closely with families and external agencies to ensure children receive the support they need. The welfare of our children is always our highest priority.

We promote a strong culture of safeguarding through effective relationships, high expectations and a commitment to ensuring every child feels safe, respected and able to thrive.

A copy of our Safeguarding Policy is available on our website.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

At Aston Rowant, inclusion is at the heart of our work.

We recognise that every child learns differently and are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to an ambitious, well-sequenced curriculum.

Our experienced staff work closely with families to identify needs early and provide appropriate support. Through quality-first teaching, carefully planned adaptations and targeted interventions, we enable children with additional needs to succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

The SENDCo works alongside teachers, parents and external professionals to ensure that provision is tailored to individual needs. Support may involve specialist resources, intervention programmes, individual learning targets or advice from external agencies.

We believe that every child deserves to feel successful, valued and included. Our aim is not simply to support children with SEND, but to help them flourish as confident learners and active members of our school community.

A copy of our SEND Policy is available on our website.

INCLUSION

At Aston Rowant, inclusion is woven through every aspect of school life. We believe that every child is unique, valued and created with limitless potential. Children join us with different experiences, strengths, interests and needs, and we are committed to ensuring that every pupil feels a genuine sense of belonging within our school community.

We have high aspirations for all children and recognise that success looks different for every individual. Through strong relationships, high-quality teaching, carefully tailored support and close partnership with families, we help every child make excellent progress from their own starting point. Whether a child requires additional support, greater challenge or simply encouragement to grow in confidence, we strive to ensure that everyone can flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Rooted in our Christian vision and values, we celebrate diversity, promote mutual respect and nurture a culture of kindness, acceptance and understanding. We want every child to know that they are valued for who they are and empowered to become the very best version of themselves.

A copy of our Inclusion Policy is available on our website.

ADMISSIONS

Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust family of schools. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body is the Admission Authority and is responsible for determining the school's admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria in accordance with the School Admissions Code. Applications are administered on the school's behalf through Oxfordshire County Council's coordinated admissions scheme.

Parents applying for a Reception place should submit their application through Oxfordshire County Council. Applications for children starting school in September are normally required by the middle of January, with places allocated on National Offer Day in mid-April each year. Families are encouraged to check the OCC website for the deadlines and guidance.

We understand that choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a family makes. We warmly encourage prospective parents to visit Aston Rowant, meet our children and staff, and discover what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow and flourish.

A copy of our Admissions Policy is available on our website. Full details of the school's admissions policy, including oversubscription criteria and arrangements for in-year admissions, are available from the school office and on our website.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our uniform is supplied by Earth Uniform, a local company chosen for its commitment to quality, sustainability and ethical sourcing. Their durable, responsibly produced garments provide excellent value for families whilst supporting a local business that shares our community-focused values.

A copy of our School Uniform Policy is available on our website.

REFRESHMENTS

Reception and KS1 children are entitled to free school meals. Children can choose to use our school lunch provider, The Kids Lunch Company, or bring a packed lunch to school. The Kids Lunch Company provides hot school meals each day plus jacket potatoes and a range of sandwiches, crudities, yoghurts and fruit on a daily basis. These can also be ordered by our KS2 children. As a healthy school lunches are expected to be balanced and nutritious and no sweets or fizzy drinks are allowed. Because of allergies the school does not allow the sharing of foods and we have a strict 'no nut' policy. At morning break children can offered fruit or vegetables or can bring their own snack. Children are also encouraged to drink water.

BEHAVIOUR AND RELATIONSHIPS

At Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, we have high expectations for behaviour, attitudes and conduct. We believe that children flourish when they feel safe, valued and respected and when they understand the positive contribution they can make to our school community.

Our approach is rooted in our Christian value of **Harmony** and guided by the words of Jesus: "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*" **Luke 6:31**

We encourage all members of our school community to act with kindness, honesty, respect and consideration for others. Through positive relationships, clear expectations and consistent routines, we support children to develop self-discipline, resilience and a strong sense of responsibility.

Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated through praise, rewards and opportunities for responsibility and leadership. When difficulties arise, we focus on understanding what has happened, repairing relationships and helping children make better choices in the future. We encourage children to reflect on their actions, take responsibility and, where appropriate, seek forgiveness and restore relationships. Sanctions may be used when necessary, but our primary aim is always to support children in learning from mistakes and moving forward positively.

We do not tolerate bullying, racism, discrimination or deliberate unkindness in any form. We are committed to creating a school community where every child feels safe, valued and able to flourish.

A full copy of our Behaviour Policy is available on our website.

PASTORAL CARE AND HOME-SCHOOL LINKS

In a small village school like Aston Rowant, the staff know the children very well indeed. It is hoped that, as a result, the welfare of the child is well provided for and any problems are quickly addressed, wherever they arise.

The school believes that a successful education depends on a partnership between school and home. Parents are therefore encouraged to take a full and active part in the life of the school and of their children's education. Parents are most welcome to participate in activities such as art, cookery, sewing, technology, maths, reading and playing games.

Parents are invited twice a year to Parent/Teacher interviews. In the autumn term, the major concern is to ensure that a child has settled down to the new school year. The late spring/early summer interviews will focus more on the child's progress, attitudes and behaviour. However, parents are welcome at any time to meet with staff if there are any worries or questions. An annual written report is provided at the end of the year and there is a mid-year report to which parents and children are invited to contribute.

THE PTA

The Aston Rowant PTA is a very active organisation. It organises social activities for the benefit of the children and families within the school. The PTA is also engaged with fund-raising and their efforts have enabled many items to be purchased for the school, including a brand-new library; an outdoor learning classroom; a new adventure playground and IT equipment. The PTA helps the school to promote a friendly atmosphere and welcomes the participation of new parents.

BEING A CHURCH SCHOOL

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, our Christian vision and values are at the heart of everything we do. Our vision, "Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life," shapes our relationships, our curriculum and our aspiration for every child to flourish academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Our values of Gratitude, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Trust and Harmony provide a strong moral framework for school life. They encourage children to become kind, respectful, courageous and compassionate members of society who are equipped to make a positive difference in the world around them.

Whilst our Christian distinctiveness is central to our identity, we warmly welcome and value families of all faiths and none. We celebrate diversity, encourage respectful discussion and provide opportunities for children to learn from different beliefs, cultures and worldviews. Every member of our school community is valued and respected.

Collective Worship is an important part of each school day and provides opportunities for reflection, celebration and spiritual growth. We enjoy particularly close links with the local church and mark key moments in the school year through services held in church, including our New Starters' Service, Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, Spring and Leavers' Services. The church community plays an active role in school life, with the Open the Book team leading weekly assemblies and delivering termly RE Inspired lessons in every class, helping to bring Bible stories and Christian teachings to life.

As a Voluntary Aided school, we also benefit from the support of the Diocese in maintaining and improving our school buildings, ensuring that our learning environment continues to support future generations of children. Recent improvements have included a new school roof, replacement classroom cladding, upgraded classroom ceilings and modern LED lighting, demonstrating a shared commitment to providing the very best environment for learning.

Through these strong partnerships, children experience a school community that is deeply rooted in its values, connected to its local community and committed to helping every child flourish and experience fullness of life.

COMMUNITY

Throughout the year there are events (in addition to the church festivals), which draw us together as a community, including the Parish Fete, Sydenham Fayre, Leavers' Service, and a variety of PTA led social events. With the support of parents and governors we strive at all times to be a warm, caring, enthusiastic and hard-working community. Volunteers from the local community and parents help to enrich the opportunities available for the children. These include teaching chess, offering cycling proficiency, running the school choir, hand bell ringing and a lunch club for our children with older members of the community.