

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 C of E Primary School!

We are a village school where children thrive in the friendly learning environment. The mixed age group classes encourage a caring family ethos where children learn to work and play together.

We are well supported by parents, Governors and the church ensuring a thriving community spirit.

Children in our care grow into rounded, confident individuals. We set and expect high standards of behaviour and we seek to provide a creative, stimulating learning environment underpinned by Christian values. The school endeavours to meet the needs of all pupils helping them to reach their full potential.

Aston Rowant School is a member of the Thame Partnership of Schools. Our philosophy is one of co-operation and collaboration whilst respecting the individuality of each school. We work together on a regular basis pooling ideas and resources for the benefit of all pupils.

We are a small school with very big ideas and learning opportunities. We hope to be able to welcome you to our school family.

Mrs Helen France



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

ADMISSIONS

Admission is according to Local Authority (LA) guidelines. Priority for admission is given first to children who live in Aston Rowant, Crowell and Kingston Blount, secondly to those who have siblings already attending the school and thirdly to those who live nearest.

In line with Oxfordshire guidelines children are offered full time places during the school year that they turn five. However, families are welcome to send their children part time or to defer attendance until after the child's fifth birthday when it is a statutory requirement for them to attend full time.

Prior to their Foundation year children are invited to visit school. These visits are made by appointment. Shortly after their admission the class teacher will offer interviews to discuss individual children.

The children are taught in four classes: Hedgehog (Reception) Squirrel (Year 1 and 2) Fox (Years 3 and 4) and Owl (Years 5 and 6). Groups will be taught separately for some subjects as appropriate.

We are a feeder school for Lord William's School in Thame and the majority of our pupils follow this route, with others going to Icknield or grammar schools. The partnership of schools has good arrangements in place to ensure a smooth transfer and Lord William's and Icknield report that our pupils continue to thrive there. Some families do select different schools to meet the needs of their children and the school helps to facilitate this.



After a visit from Aston Rowant Nature Reserve Staff, a collage was created by some of the children out of recyclable materials.

A CHURCH SCHOOL

As a Church School in the Oxford Diocese, we aim to provide an education that is based on Christian principles and teaching. An act of worship is made every day within the framework of the assembly. The majority of our assemblies are specifically Christian in form. Themes are drawn from our Christian values, British Values, seasonal festivals, and the PSHCE (Personal Social Healthy Citizenship and Emotional) topics.

Our R.E. teaching is based on the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus, which includes education about different faiths and practices. In promoting the spiritual and moral development of our pupils, we emphasise the principle that every individual is valued, child and adult. This embraces the whole school community and is embodied in both our school values and our school prayer.

Regular services are also held at the Parish Church. These include New Starters', Harvest Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' services. Other festivals are celebrated in school. The Rector plays an important part in school life as a source of advice and support to staff and children. Both the Rector and members of the parish team lead worship on a weekly basis.



Christmas Service in
St Peter and St Paul's church, Aston Rowant



Prayer Space



Harvest Service



MISSION STATEMENT

Aston Rowant Church of England School welcomes children into a safe and secure community where they will be nurtured, encouraged to achieve their full potential and to flourish in every area of life.

Our Mission statement to reflect this is:

Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life.

We base this on the following Bible verse:

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

The life of the School is rooted in traditional Christian values. Our core values spell the word GROWTH and are:

G	GRATITUDE	(Thankfulness)
R	RESILIANCE	(Courage, Bravery, Perseverance)
O	OUTREACH	(Love, Compassion, Generosity)
W	WONDER	(Awe, Wisdom, Creativity, Respect)
T	TRUST	(Faith, Truth, Hope)
H	HARMONY	(Friendship, Teamwork, Forgiveness)

The School seeks to create an effective partnership between pupils, staff, families, Governors, the local community and the Church.

THE SCHOOL PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for our school.
We pray that you would help us to grow to have:
Grateful hearts for all that you give us
Resilient spirits to keep learning
Opportunities to reach out to others
Wonder-filled minds
Trust in you
Harmonious attitudes towards one another.
Keep us rooted in you as we grow together. Amen.*

The goal of education in Aston Rowant C+E Primary School is to enable our children be **curious** in their approach to learning, to be **courageous** in their attitude to learning, to be empowered to work both **independently** and **collaboratively**, to understand the impact their learning has had on them so far and be inspired to **keep learning**. We seek to fulfill our Mission Statement in the following ways:

- To encourage pupils to develop lively enquiring minds, the ability to question and argue rationally, to apply themselves to a variety of physical and creative skills and to be active participants in their own learning.
- To encourage pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to their futures in a fast changing world.
- To encourage pupils to use Language, Mathematics, ICT and Science effectively.
- To encourage pupils to understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.
- To encourage pupils to develop understanding and tolerance of the differences between people.
- To encourage pupils to realise their own self-worth and their place in the community.

THE CURRICULUM

We aim to provide a course of study appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of all the children, in a happy, caring atmosphere where all are encouraged to work hard and do their best. At the same time we aim to develop in our pupils the self-discipline so essential in life and learning through a behaviour policy that is based on rewards as well as sanctions.

We are aware of the differences between children and of the differing rates at which they grow and develop and we try to cater for these differences in our organisation and teaching methods.

As a primary school we prepare our children so that they retain a love of learning and are fitted with the basic skills and understanding to enable them to benefit from, and enjoy, the future stages of their education.

In particular we aim to:

- Help pupils to develop lively, enquiring minds, the ability to question and argue rationally and to apply themselves to a variety of tasks and physical skills.
- Help pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to adult life, in a fast-changing world.
- Help pupils to use language and mathematics effectively.
- Help pupils to understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.
- Help pupils to appreciate past and present human achievements and aspirations.

The National Curriculum for Primary Schools comprises of:

English	Mathematics	Science	ICT	Design & Technology
History	Geography	PE	Art	Music
Personal, Social & Health Education		Modern Foreign Languages		RE

The curriculum changes in emphasis and develops throughout the years a child is at the school. Where there are natural links and opportunities for creativity these are taken. At all times though, our overriding concern is to produce literate and numerate young people. Great emphasis is placed, therefore, at all stages, on the acquisition of communication skills, especially reading and writing, and in gaining understanding of mathematical concepts and the acquisition of basic maths skills. Children are taught in different groupings depending upon the subject and their ability.

The school seeks to produce creative thinkers and problem solvers. Through our small caring community we also seek to develop caring and emotionally literate children.

Children's progress is tracked and targets are set for learning. National standardised tests are used to summarise achievement but throughout the school formative assessment is used to inform planning and to encourage the children to understand their own learning.

Alongside this goes a desire to enrich the children's curriculum through:

- Educational visits to art galleries, museums, theatres, concerts etc
- Organising workshops led by experts
- Encouraging children to take up the learning of musical instruments in school
- Participating in a variety of sporting and dance opportunities offered locally
- Providing French and chess lessons
- The use of volunteers and specialists
- After school clubs

Health education, including sex education, is seen within the context of the disciplines already mentioned and forms part of the syllabus for science. However, as and when questions arise naturally in these areas, they are answered at the time.



We also utilise our outdoor space with Forest Fridays each week enabling the children to use our outdoor space to support and develop a lifelong positive relationship between the learner and the natural world.



PE

We make full use of our school, field and playground. However, the older children also travel to the St Andrews School in Chinnor for swimming lessons and to use the large hall for dance/gym. Aston Rowant Cricket Club also kindly allows us some use of their grounds.

The school participates in interschool activities benefiting from Lord Williams's sports status e.g. Thame Leisure Centre netball tournament, Lord Williams's Dance Festival and from inter school tournaments.



PE lessons and after school sports clubs for girls and boys making use of our MUGA and football/ hockey pitch



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Some children have special educational needs. These needs will be discussed with parents and addressed through an individual educational programme. In some cases it is appropriate to seek further support from outside agencies. If this is the case, the school can ask for the services of, for example, a Special Needs Advisory Support Teacher, an Educational Psychologist or a Speech Therapist.

A copy of the School's Special Needs Policy is available on the website.

DISABILITY

The school has an access plan and makes every effort to ensure that all pupils can fully access the curriculum, detailed in our Accessibility Policy and Plan on the website. It also seeks to know if it can support families/carers in enabling them to access school activities/communications fully. Families are asked to inform the school if they have any individual requirements.

MUSIC LESSONS

Instrumental lessons including guitar and piano, are available at school through private companies. Curriculum music lessons are taught by a specialist music teacher.

HOMEWORK

All children are expected to participate in appropriate reading activities every day and keep a reading diary. All pupils receive regular homework activities. These tasks complement the curriculum and reinforce learning (e.g. Spellings, English, Maths and topic activities). The amount of homework given increases as the children progress through the school.

PUPIL VOICE

All pupils are encouraged to share their opinions through regular 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 School Council is elected by fellow pupils and run by the elected student president. The group discuss issues and assist the school in resolving them. It also leads social and fund raising events e.g. talent show, charity bring and buy. The school council is involved in regular monitoring activities such as monitoring how the children learn, how they keep healthy and how they manage transition from one class to another.

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 replacement ICT equipment and new adventure playground.

The PTA helps the school to promote a friendly atmosphere and welcomes the participation of new parents, either on the committee or whenever help is required.



The PTA regularly fund raises and have paid for a new adventure playground, outdoor classroom and iPads.

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.



Working with volunteers



The pupils are encouraged to support local events and as appropriate support national and international charities. This year the school is supporting Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, One Can Trust and Wycombe Homeless Connection.

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

If a child is unable to attend school for any reason, the school should be informed by telephone as soon as possible and this should be confirmed by letter.

If a child has been prescribed a course of medication the school is prepared to administer such medicines under the guidance of its 'Administering Medicines Policy'.

Children may not bring medicines into school under any other circumstances.

Minor accidents in school are dealt with by a First Aid trained member of staff and are recorded in the accident book. If anything more serious should occur or if a child is taken ill, every attempt is made to contact his or her parents. If such contact is impossible, a member of staff may act on behalf of the parents who will be notified as soon as possible.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform colours are red, grey or black. Uniform consists of:

- Red or white polo shirt.
- Black or grey school trousers/shorts or school skirt/pinafore dresses (skirts are to be of a suitable and appropriate length i.e. only just above or below the knee);
- *Red sweatshirt (with or without school logo), or cardigan (no hoods).
- A red and white dress can be worn during the summer months.
- Dark sensible shoes. Shoes must be able to stay attached to the feet and lace up shoes must be able to be tied up safely by the pupil.
- Socks or tights (red/grey) should be worn with all shoes.
- Children are expected to have an outdoor coat except when the weather is warm.
- Jewellery, with the exception of small studs and watches, is not permitted.
- Hair should be tidy, tied back if touching the shoulder and kept off the face.
- No make-up or nail varnish.

For P.E. the children need:

- 1 pair of dark trainers
- 1 pair of black shorts
- *1 school PE T-Shirt
- *1 black sweatshirt with school logo (no hoods)
- 1 pair of black tracksuit bottoms/joggers

*** These items are available to order directly from Mapac**

PE kit should be brought into school in a separate named P.E. bag on a Monday and remain in school all week. Jewellery must not be worn during P.E. lessons. Hair should be tied back.

Swimming (Families will be informed when pupils are having swimming lessons)

For the safety of all children when participating in swimming lessons the following is required:

- All children are required to have a named swimming hat.
- Girls are to wear a one piece suit.
- Boys are to wear close fitting trunks.

Goggles may only be worn after a letter of request has been received and assurance given that the child knows how to use the goggles correctly.

No jewellery at all is allowed to be worn in the pool.

The school runs a lost property box system. The lost property box is located on the playground where it is easily accessible by children and parents.

All possessions in school need to be named.

REFRESHMENTS

Reception and KSI children are entitled to free school meals. Children can choose to use our school lunch provider, The Kids Packed 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.

No glass bottles or glass lined flasks 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 have a snack of fruit or vegetables. Children are also encouraged to drink water.

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 school asks that it be kept informed of any circumstances which may affect a child in school.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Rules and Discipline

High standards of behaviour and manners are expected from all the children. The value Harmony, with its supporting Bible verse, "**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you**" (Luke 6:31) guides our behaviour management policy.

The school has a set of rules concerned with safety, orderliness and consideration for others.

Pupils should:

- Work hard and to the best of their ability
- Listen carefully to adults and do what they say
- Be careful with books and equipment, tidying everything away neatly when finished
- Work sensibly with other children in the classroom, talking quietly, sharing and valuing the contribution of others
- Behave sensibly when moving around the school at lunch times and break times, taking good care of the school environment and doing what is asked by the Headteacher, teachers, ancillary staff, mid-day supervisors and other adults.

Where punishments are necessary, these take the form of a loss of privileges, break times etc., in addition to an appropriate reprimand. A sound attitude to a high standard of work is constantly encouraged, with self-discipline being the ultimate goal in this area as in all others.

The school will not tolerate any forms of bullying, racism or deliberate unkindness. Aston Rowant's Behaviour Policy is available on request.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

Aston Rowant School has always considered that educational trips are a valuable part of a child's whole learning experience. Children's participation in sport, drama, dance and music is equally important.

Many of the opportunities and experiences that we offer the children we are able to do at no cost. However, for some trips and activities, such as the annual residential trip, we ask parents for voluntary contributions. The school policy adheres to The Department for Education document 'Charging for school activities' gives full detail on what schools can and cannot charge for and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charging-for-school-activities>.

In essence the policy is:

- If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the parents will be notified of this from the outset.
- No child will be excluded from an activity because the parents are unable to pay.
- If insufficient contributions are raised the trip or activity may be cancelled.
- If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.



Our annual residential trip.



ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES PROCEDURE

This procedure should be followed whenever a student requires medicine to be administered during school hours (with the expressed permission of the parent/carer)

No medicine should be administered to any student where the following procedure has not been adhered to:

1. The parent/carer approaches the school office and informs them of the need for medicine to be administered to their daughter/son
2. **If a medicine is a prescribed medicine, all the relevant prescribing information must be either on or with the medicine. If the medicine is an over the counter medicine, it must be in the original packaging showing dosage, instructions etc**
3. The parent/carer should be asked to complete the Medicine Form (held in the school office) giving all requested details and give the medicine to the school
4. The parent/carer must sign and date the above document. The Head teacher (or nominated representative) must also sign the form.
5. The medicine and form must then be kept together using the small zip bags provided by school, which will then be placed in the small fridge (if refrigeration is required) in the staff room in a locked box. If the medicine does not need to be refrigerated, the bag should be kept up high in the staff room. If the medicine is classed as a Controlled Drug (CD) under the Misuse of Drugs Act then it must be stored in a locked non portable location (cupboard or fridge as required). A named member of staff shall act as the nominated key holder for this medicine and all access to it should be logged (see point 6 below).
6. The nominated staff member will take responsibility for administering the medicine as requested and each dose given **MUST** be recorded on the Medicine form.
7. The parent/carer should ensure they collect the medicine at the end of each day from the office/staff room.
8. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to bring the bag with the form and medicine to school on each day it is required to be administered.
9. Should any dose be missed, the parent/carer must be informed asap in order that school can then follow their advice – all conversations regarding changes to the administration of medicine must be logged and kept with the medicine bag and form.
10. The school will endeavour to do their best to ensure medicines are administered as requested.
11. The school will retain the signed medicine form for six months following the completion of the course for every child, in case any concerns arise at a later date.
12. The school may refuse to administer medicines if it has reason to do so.

ASTON ROWANT C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 24-25

A full copy of our policy is available on the website and from the school office

1. Introduction

Our policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989; and in line with the following:

- “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2024”
- “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023”
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board guidelines

At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School our Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility under Section 11 of the Children Act and duties under “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019” to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer harm.

We recognise that all our staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child’s welfare is our paramount concern.

Our school should provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

This policy applies to all our staff, governors and volunteers working in our school.

This policy has been written in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

This policy should be read alongside KCSIE 2024.

2. Policy Statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

3. Definitions

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children’s **mental and physical health** or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is an aspect of safeguarding but is focused on how we respond to children who have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm.

The term **staff** applies to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. This also includes parents and governors.

Child refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday. On the whole, this will apply to all pupils of our school; however, the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other establishments.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example, adoptive parents, step parents, guardians and foster carers.

Abuse could mean neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse or any combination of these. Parents, carers and other people can harm children either by direct acts and / or failure to provide proper care. Explanations of these are given within the procedure document.

4. The aims of these procedures are:

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the school.
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children.

Principles and Values

Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so.

All children have a right to be protected from harm.

All staff have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the school or in the community, taking into account *contextual safeguarding*, (Annex 6) in accordance with the guidance.

We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children.

Whilst the school will work openly with parents as far as possible, it reserves the right to contact Children's Social Care or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

We will always act in the best interests of the child and ensure that our decisions around safeguarding take a child-centred and coordinated approach.

5. Leadership and Management

We recognise that staff anxiety around child protection can compromise good practice and so have established clear lines of accountability, training and advice to support the process and individual staff.

In this school, any individual can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy (DDSL) if they have concerns about a young person.

Our Headteacher takes overall responsibility for safeguarding, ensuring the DSL team of herself and Mrs Olsen are fulfilling their role

There is a nominated safeguarding governor, **Mr Tom Sowerby**, who will take leadership responsibility for safeguarding and our Chair of Governors **Dr Steve Taylor**.

As an employer we follow safer recruitment guidance as set out in KCSIE 2024