

Braywood C of E First School

Prospectus



*"From tiny acorns
mighty oak trees grow"*

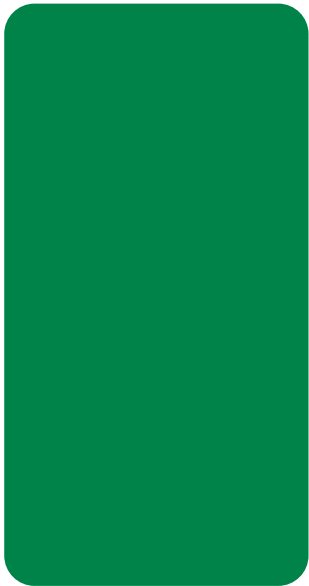


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Welcome to Braywood

Aspire, learn, achieve



Braywood Church of England First is a small Victorian school steeped in history. We are situated on the outskirts of Windsor and Maidenhead in the district of Oakley Green; a leafy, rural location with open farmland and paddocks on all sides. Our school caters for approximately 130 children between four and nine years of age from a larger than normal catchment area.

We have strong established links with our community, excellent relationship with our parents and are closely involved with St Michael's Church in Bray.

We are passionate about providing a creative and challenging curriculum that embraces the interests, skills and attitudes of all pupils. Our children are encouraged to strive for excellence in every area of their learning and our teachers are committed to enabling the personal success and happiness of each and every pupil.

We are fortunate to be situated in idyllic surroundings where the school grounds present further exciting learning opportunities. We have a sports field, secret garden, pond, adventure playground and trim trail.

According to our recent Ofsted report Braywood "provides an outstanding quality of education and pupils' achievement is outstanding." A major factor is the resolute determination and drive of the Headteacher, ably supported by a team of dedicated, passionate staff and a very effective governing body. This is appreciated by the overwhelming majority of parents and carers who are extremely supportive of the school. As one parent wrote,

"We couldn't think of a single thing about the school that wasn't either perfect or near perfect. Our daughter's teachers are exceptional."

Ofsted 2011





Where Childhood is Valued

“... putting learning and the learner at the heart of everything we do.”

Braywood is a school that provides children with a love for learning. Every child comes to the classroom with a different range of skill sets, as well as varying aptitudes and aspirations. Our curriculum reflects this personalisation in the learning process. Our children have clear learning pathways and are encouraged to become independent, fulfilled and lifelong learners. All our pupils are encouraged to reach their full potential, so that they develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Education at Braywood extends beyond the four walls of the classroom – the outside environment is a stimulating part of their experience.

Our early years provision prioritises play as the core for learning. Here, curiosity is fostered and children are encouraged to develop enquiring minds with confident questioning and philosophising skills.

We aim for each child to leave our school having fully celebrated childhood:-

- feeling that learning is fun and positive
- where they set, strive and achieve high standards in their whole learning process
- as fully confident individuals ready to embrace the next level of education

We aim for our children to be confident and independent learners ready to fully embrace the wider world yet still maintaining their own values and interests. Our ethos demonstrates that every voice is valued and that there is no limit to our dreams.

Braywood is a very special school with a welcoming and supportive ethos. Strong, determined leadership steers the school towards continued success. Our core values are reflected in all our actions, by all of our stakeholders. Our staff are dedicated to achieve excellence and always work really hard to ensure that children achieve the high standards we foster, regardless of any barriers to learning.



“From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow – watered and nurtured by God’s love”
(Mission Statement)



Our Vision for Your Child

At Braywood we aspire for all our children to become confident, secure and caring individuals who achieve personal success through a love of learning.

We aim:

- To make Braywood the best place in which to learn – to provide a stimulating and creative learning environment which motivates and inspires confident, independent learners who value success.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which gives children knowledge and practice of the basic skills – a strong foundation on which to build.
- To celebrate personal achievement and encourage an enthusiasm for life-long learning.
- To teach our curriculum on the global stage so that children can appreciate and respect our diverse world and take responsibility for their role within it.
- To provide a happy, safe, caring and Christian environment where we can say what we believe and know we will be listened to - where children are valued and we have time to be ourselves.
- To understand the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle and

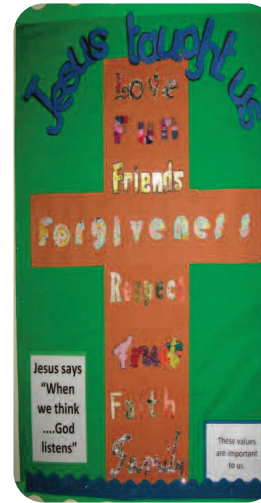
encourage an interest, enjoyment and respect for our immediate environment and the world around us for a sustainable future.

- To promote an inclusive, nurturing environment where we learn together with parents and our community.
- To persevere in all that we do, so that we will be able to achieve our dreams.

Pupils, staff, parents and governors have developed these aims

"The care, guidance and support pupils receive are outstanding. As a result, pupils feel extremely safe and behave in an exemplary manner. They get on very well with each other, lead healthy lifestyles and play a very important part in enabling the school to run very smoothly. Their knowledge and understanding of a variety of religious practices and cultures are excellent for their age. This is because of the excellent links the school has established with a range of partners and agencies to promote the learning and wellbeing of pupils. Consequently, this is a happy school where pupils really enjoy their work."

(Ofsted 2011)



The Braywood Family

At Braywood we devote great importance to providing a supportive and empowering community in which parents, staff and governors all work together to support the education of our children. All children at Braywood are entitled to the best education possible regardless of their gender, race, culture or disabilities.

School Golden Rule

"You have a right to a good education and the responsibility to make the most of it!"

Our school is a community based upon Christian values where young people are inspired to celebrate an ethos which promotes courteous, considerate and well-behaved children for whom we are renowned.

We are a Church of England controlled school but we welcome children from all denominations.

The School Creed

This is our school,
Let peace live here.
Let the rooms be full of happiness
Let love be all around,
Love of one another,
Love of all people,
And love of life and living.
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a School.

Anon.

The School Day

At Braywood our school day starts at 8.45am for all children.

We finish at:-

- 2.45pm for Foundation children
- 3pm for Year 1 and 2 children and
- 3.15pm for Year 3 and 4.

Braywood Extra

We have a successful extended school facility to provide an extensive 'wrap around care'. It is coordinated by Braywood staff to ensure continuity of our school ethos.

Breakfast Club

Children can start school at 7.45am in our Breakfast Club. A warm and wholesome breakfast is provided or children can just drop in depending upon need.

Kiss and Drop

Our 'Kiss and Drop' facility at 8.30am is very popular as it allows parents to have their child collected from the car and delivered to their classroom safely for the start of the school day.

After School Club

Our After School Club runs until 5.30pm and can include a healthy and delicious tea. The club is directed by the children with exciting activities and play opportunities.

Uniform

Uniform is valued at Braywood as it ensures children feel a sense of belonging and pride in the school.

Winter

Boys: *White shirt & Braywood tie*
Grey trousers

Brown/black/blue shoes
Plain socks
School jumper
Fleece and/or coat

Girls: *White shirt and Braywood*
Grey skirt/pinafore
Plain socks or black tights
School cardigan
Fleece and/or coat

Summer

Boys: *Green/White Polo Shirt*
Grey shorts
Black shoes

Girls: *Green and white summer dress*
White socks
Black shoes

School Meals

Children can either choose to have packed lunch or a school dinner at Braywood. For a reasonable price there is a choice of two healthy school dinners prepared on site by our experienced cook. We are a healthy school and children are encouraged to eat sensibly and with due regard towards healthy choices. Children demonstrate excellent manners and a responsible attitude towards sharing a meal.

Mid morning Snacks

In order for children to feel ready and comfortable for learning, a mid morning snack of either fruit or vegetables is provided daily to all children. In addition they have a water bottle which can be accessed any time during the day.



Wake up and Shake up

Regular exercise is a feature of our 'wake up and shake up' and yoga routines in which the whole school gets involved in. The sessions are led by the children who have been carefully trained.



Our Learning Culture

Aspire, learn, achieve

At Braywood we adhere to the National Curriculum objectives and the International Primary Curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy which is enriched with a variety of wider curriculum experiences and opportunities for learning.

The curriculum is delivered using a range of approaches and teaching methods as appropriate to the subject matter and the needs of the children. We are committed to small teaching groups and often additional teachers are employed to ensure that the pupil-teacher ratio is lowered. Smaller group sizes ensure that teachers can support different levels of understanding more effectively.

Our curriculum reflects our belief that children need to be curious, keen to explore and question. To be resilient, learning must be exciting and fun with lessons which are creative, stimulating and which empower the learner to find out more independently. We celebrate hard work and the children are well focused and keen to achieve. High expectations lead to high standards.

Children are treated as individuals receiving the direction and support they need in order to reach their goals and celebrate their success and strengths. We encourage our pupils to engage in their learning and they are involved in setting targets and evaluating their work alongside their peers to enable them to understand the next step in their learning. A range of teaching and learning styles are adopted and the progress of individual children is tracked and monitored closely.

Parents too need to be well informed in their understanding of their child's learning. Homework is essential as it helps us to reinforce and extend their learning. Children will have structured homework and this will vary from year to year. It is broad and varied – ranging from learning spellings, reading, researching information, multiplications/times tables, revision exercises on the work covered during the week etc.

A partnership between home and school is valued and leads to a more secure and rewarding experience for your child.

The Curriculum

The Foundation Stage

'The Little Acorns' acts as a bridge between home and school - a happy introduction into school life. During this stage a stimulating learning environment through play delivers all curriculum areas which need to form the basis of future learning including phonics, early reading and mathematics skills. The curriculum is offered through different themes often led by the children.

In **English** we aim to teach our children how to use language as effectively as they can, including opportunities to speak in front of an audience.

Children are taught the fundamentals of decoding words through an attractive phonics scheme which helps them to start to read and write. They build on these early skills to become accomplished readers. We have an extensive range of books in paper and electronic format to excite the reader.

The skills required to be an author are taught systematically through a creative approach using a cursive handwriting script.

Mathematics is an integral part of everyday life and as such we aim to promote a range of mathematical knowledge. A strong understanding of numerical concepts is essential and care is taken to make sure that secure number facts are fostered to enable each child to apply these strategies to problem solving. Skills are developed using a practical approach where mental agility is developed through practice and confidence.

All children learn to speak **French**. In the early years, this is through song, rhyme and games but in later years the language is taught in specific lessons.



Through our **Science** curriculum we aim to give children a wide range of practical experiences in order to develop early scientific skills and attitudes.

Science helps children to understand more about the world around them and is often taught at Braywood in relation to the topics the children are covering at the time.

The **International Primary Curriculum** forms the basis of our topic work and encompasses Art, History, Geography and Design.

"Great learning, great teaching and great fun..."
(INC motto)

Through this comprehensive curriculum there is a clear process of learning through specific project goals for personal learning on an international stage. The programme is lots of fun with 'Wow' days, associated trips and visitors with an overarching sense of real purpose in the work. The learner is stimulated to discover more through these topics, supported by their parents who are regularly invited into school to participate and share in the learning.

ICT is a popular subject at Braywood and we have a wealth of technological resources to engage the learner. Although technology is continually changing we aim to provide children with a range of stimulating resources to enhance the teaching and learning in our school.



Each child is encouraged to get involved in a wide range of **PE**. We pride ourselves on the opportunities we can offer children in PE and invite many experts into school to extend our provision even further.

At Braywood we are passionate about the **Arts** and this forms a large part of the curriculum. Music is a strength and all classes have a dedicated music lesson. They practice drama and dance and are used to performing on the stage in front of an audience.

All children at Braywood receive **Religious Education**. Our curriculum covers a range of faiths. The subject is vibrant, interesting and involves plenty of visits. The children are involved in Nativity and Easter Concerts in church.

Collective Worship consists of a range of assemblies often supported by our Collective Worship leaders. We have regular family assemblies where we celebrate together.



Our Enriched Curriculum

Pupils have the chance to enhance their learning and development through numerous opportunities at Braywood.

Visits and visitors

Visits enable children to extend their learning and enrich their understanding of the topic area. Usually educational visits or invited speakers are part of every term's topic and range from visits to outdoor spaces, museums, theatres, local places of interest and a residential at Ufton Court.

Special Days/Theme Weeks

We regularly hold theme weeks and special days e.g. Families into School which enable mums, dads and grandparents to share in the learning experience with their child. These are always well attended and hold a special place in our calendar of events. Curriculum weeks help us to focus on a specific topic area to highlight its importance e.g. Literacy Week.

Expressive Arts

We value the creative and expressive arts and feel it should form a vital experience in every child's development. To encourage this we ensure that children have an opportunity to engage in a variety of regular creative experiences, meet and work with resident artists, perform on stage or learn to play an instrument.

Real life Skills

All children have the opportunity to engage in real life experiences such as cooking, budgeting or first aid. We have strong links with businesses who visit Braywood to share their experiences and participate in early workshops involving producing products and sales.



Extra Curriculum

The staff are very committed to ensuring that there is a wide choice of extra curricular clubs for children to participate in. There are a wide range of extra curricular activities organised throughout the year alongside our after school club.

These include:

Rugby, Football, Basketball, Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Tennis, Sewing, Gardening, Cooking, Art and ICT, all of which extend the children's experiences.

Specialist Provision

Peripatetic music specialists visit the school once a week and our Music teacher offers recorder, singing and piano lessons. Children can experiment with a range of instruments during music lessons and have the opportunity to join in our talent show. All children are part of the choir in year 3 and 4 and sing in several festivals. Usually children are involved in Wider Musical Opportunities whereby they can learn to play the violin or cello, guitar or drums.

All Year 4 children have free swimming lessons at the Windsor Leisure Centre.

We have a 'wild area' where all children participate in forest school activities which fosters skills in team building, problem solving and a love of outdoors.





Belonging

Parental Involvement

Parents are their child's first and most enduring educator. At Braywood we want to encourage and guide our parents' continual involvement in their child's education and to work in partnership with them. We value and appreciate the important role they play in supporting their child to develop a positive attitude to school and learning. We have an 'open door' policy where parents can talk to the class teacher on a daily basis.

Effective parental involvement is achieved through regular contact and consultations so that a full exchange of information is possible. We provide annual curriculum meetings to discuss how we are teaching the children in school and how all parents can help. We have termly class meetings where the class teacher discusses what the children will be covering that term.

Reporting to Parents

Parent consultations are held in the Autumn, Spring and Summer term with appointments for private interviews. These coincide with the pupil – teacher

consultations. Children in year 3 and 4 are expected to attend parents' evenings.

An annual and mid-year report is given to parents, based upon continuous teacher assessment and clear targets are set for the coming year. Children participate in writing part of their report.

Homework is chosen to reflect what has been covered that particular week. Parents are invited into school at the end of topics to share their children's work. Children have their homework posted on an electronic learning space or in a folder and have regular access to a wide variety of reading materials.

Braywood Home and School Association

All parents are automatically members of our home and school association, Friends of Braywood PTA. The Parent and Teacher Association plays a vital role in the life of the school. They raise funds through social events, a Christmas and Summer Fair, quiz nights and much more. We value the benefit of a strong partnership between our school and our parents.

Effective Communication

Good communication links are very important to ensure that a school runs smoothly. We have a weekly newsletter which is sent to parents electronically and posted on our website.

Our website is full of information for new parents and our electronic learning platform 'my space' contains areas for parents, children, teachers and governors. It is a vital communication tool. All children have a 'home-school' communication book and family assemblies provide more information.

To support new parents we have an induction session and there is an effective transfer programme to the next school.

We value the role our parents have in contributing to school improvement through completion of questionnaires, regular review of our values and aims, evaluations of activities and general oral feedback.



Behaviour

We pride ourselves on the outstanding behaviour at Braywood both inside and outside school. We have a school charter which encompasses the UNICEF Articles of Rights for Children. These behavioral standards are upheld in every class, by every staff member and promoted wherever our pupils are learning.

Expectations and boundaries are clearly outlined and understood and there is a common and consistent approach to sanctions. Every member of staff has a role and responsibility to ensure that our code of conduct is upheld and that matters are dealt with quickly and effectively.

Children understand that their behaviour is their responsibility and Golden Time is earned through diligence, hard work and kindness towards others. Pupils are practised in 'restorative justice' in order to resolve conflict which works very well.

Children receive many rewards for learning, attitudes, social conduct, attendance and perseverance. We have a 'Star of the Week' in each class, a 'Kindness Award' and books are received for excellent reading. Such achievements are celebrated by having lunch with the Headteacher.

Excellence is rewarded with a Headteacher's Award which is presented in our Family assemblies.

Roles and Responsibilities

The children play a large role in the running of the school by taking on specific tasks and responsibilities.

Each year group has to elect two members for the School Council. Their role is to communicate with the Headteacher on the issues which arise in school. We have an elected Eco-Gang who support the school grounds and ensure that our policies and practices are sustainable.

Year 4 children play a large role at school. They all have turns being a playground monitor and help support staff with issues at playtime such as children sitting on the friendship stop or helping the lunchtime controllers tidy up. Year 4 also assist with Collective Worship and lead the Yoga, music and 'Wake Up and Shake Up' sessions. On Fridays they take turns helping in the classrooms and read stories to the younger children.

Each class has their own budget which they administer and are encouraged to raise funds for toys or games in their classroom.

Community Links

Visitors to our school comment on the polite, friendly behaviour of our pupils and the general welcoming atmosphere. We have many community members visiting and contributing to our pupils' learning and we value this relationship. Our children are regularly involved in fundraising for good causes and raising concerns for individuals less fortunate than themselves.

Equality and Diversity

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We have high expectations of all our pupils to achieve to their potential and we engage in strategies to overcome potential barriers to learning. Pupils with special educational needs are catered for within the classroom through a range of support strategies by trained staff or professions. All children with special educational needs have equal access to the curriculum.

Gifted and Talented

We aim to identify children who are potentially very able and who demonstrate a particular aptitude for any curriculum area. We aspire to nurture these gifts and seek opportunities for extending our provision.

Equal Opportunities

Braywood aims to provide education which is sensitive to individual needs and accessible to each and all its pupils regardless of sex, race, religion, belief or disability. The school seeks to promote awareness, understanding and respect for the diversity of cultures within our world. We value and celebrate the contributions and achievements made by all individuals whatever their backgrounds, culture, beliefs or gender.

Pastoral Care

We believe that there are many areas of learning outside the National Curriculum in particular personal and social development. All staff share the responsibility for pastoral care. We are committed to delivering a consistent approach with the use of social, emotional aspects of learning that provide the basis for our assemblies, Collective Worship and class circle time. This provides children with an opportunity to develop their emotional vocabulary and learn to deal with

issues, voice concerns and feelings. We have trained Emotion Learning Support Assistants to listen to the children on a daily basis.

We encourage the children to play a positive role in the life of the school and to develop a sense of self worth. We teach them about rights and wrongs and they learn that they can make a difference. Bullying is not tolerated within our school and there is a set procedure to identify and deal with this.

Healthy Schools

At Braywood we are a healthy school and we promote a healthy lifestyle. Children have access to water regularly throughout the day and all food on site must be healthy.

Our Personal Social and Healthy Education explores aspects of a healthy lifestyle and the value of regular exercise. We grow vegetables, recycle regularly and explore sustainable lifestyles.

Child Protection

We aim to create an atmosphere in which children feel secure and valued, are listened to and taken seriously. We work in partnership with you, the parents, to support children in every way possible. The Children Act places a clear responsibility on schools to ensure that they work together with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. As a result, if concerns are raised by the school, a child or parent, we would not be able to guarantee confidentiality. In line with Government and Child Protection Policy the matter would have to be referred to the Social Services.



Getting to know Braywood and its history

At the heart of the school is a Victorian building dating back over 150 years. It has a huge amount of character and history, whilst housing three classroom areas, an ICT suite and an additional teaching space, The Tree House. The well stocked library is located in the Clock House. There is a large church owned hall built on consecrated grounds immediately adjacent to the school called All Saints Church. It is where collective worship, instrumental music, singing, drama and Physical Education take place.

In contrast we also have a modern extension of purpose built, bright, open classrooms for our Year 1 and Foundation Stage. These teaching areas are located around an outdoor play area, climbing frame, wild forest area and pergola.

Braywood is situated in an idyllic location and the school grounds are used as an extension to the classrooms. The field is used for sports, we have a trim trail, a well equipped playground, a secret garden and the Millennium Pavilion provides a quiet retreat at lunch times. Our environmental areas have a small pond, wildlife garden and a vegetable plot. We have a dining area where children may have a freshly cooked lunch on the premises or bring their own from home.

Braywood was built in 1857 by Jean Van De Weyer, the Belgian Minister to the English Court, and his wife Elizabeth. They built a grand house, a church and a small school on their Braywood Estate.

Van De Weyer wanted to build a school which served both as a place of public worship and as a place to educate the children on his land. The first service was held in the chapel on 21st February 1858, and the school opened Monday 22nd March 1858. At this time the school educated children from 4 to 11 years old and had 140 children on role with an average of 120 attending. The Headmaster resided in the front part of the school and there was a service held in the chapel at weekends. In the past the Headteachers at Braywood were strict disciplinarians.

There are still a lot of the original features left and the school has warmth, charm and character; a very inspiring place to teach and to learn.



Map of Our School





Admissions

Choosing a school for your child is a very important decision. Parents need to be fully informed, otherwise the process can be confusing and an anxious time for parents. Braywood has an admissions number of 25 children per year group. Parents who reside in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are entitled to apply to our school.

You must only apply through RBWM as it is the LEA who appoint places in their schools.

If you currently attend an RBWM maintained nursery provision then an application form and explanatory letter will be sent out to you automatically.

If you do not attend an RBWM maintained nursery provision, then please register online for an application form and letter to be sent to you.

Applications can be made online via Admissions through the borough website.

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ed_admissions_home.htm

Paper applications are only available by request and are not available to download from this website.

Our school is happy to show prospective parents around our school and we have a series of planned open days. Our older children conduct a tour and the Headteacher is available to answer questions. Please ring the school to make an appointment.

"You truly have a wonderful school and some pretty good teachers too. What sets you apart from other schools is that you genuinely care about the children and make them all feel special; with the time you invest in them which enables you to know and understand them as unique little people rather than just another child."

(Parent - Braywood School)

"Pupils joining the school settle quickly because their needs are accurately identified. As one parent wrote, 'I have found this school very supportive of my child and my family. They are aware of the pressures of modern living.' Transition arrangements between Reception and Year 1 and Year 4 and middle school are excellent."

(Ofsted 2011)

"The strength of the school is the way in which it nurtures the children. The quality of care is rooted in Christian values which emphasises the uniqueness of every individual. Parents speak of the school's Christian ethos and this is, for some, the reason for choosing this particular school for their children. They find staff approachable, sensitive to the needs of their pupils and fully committed to a high standard of education."

(Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools 2011)



*“watered
and nurtured
by God”*



Where Childhood is Valued



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