

Dear Prospective Parents,

In order to give you as much information as we can about Holy Trinity School, we have put together these FAQs. If you have any further questions, please do call the school office (01344 620716) or email holytrinitysunn@holytrinityprimary.org and we will do our very best to answer all your queries.

Please do explore our website as well <https://www.holytrinityschsunningdale.co.uk/> as there is a huge amount of information there. It also gives you a flavour of our school.

The Head Boy and Head Girl have also produced a virtual tour for you so that you get to see our facilities and classrooms.

Good luck with your applications – please do contact us if you need to.



Mrs J. Griffith
Headteacher

How do I apply for a school place at Holy Trinity?

For Reception place:

Please take a look at your Local Authority's website – you will apply online via your local authority. You can apply for up to 6 schools (we recommend at least 3). The schools don't have to be in the local authority in which you live. The order in which you place your choice is crucial – the Local Authority Admissions Team will always try to offer your first place choice, then go down the list from there. For further questions on admissions procedures, please call Mrs Lawson in the school office.

For places in other year groups this year:

Please call Mrs Lawson in the school office who will be able to explain the application process to you.

How many places are there?

There are 30 places per year.

We usually have a very high number of applications for Reception places but this fluctuates every year. It's important not to be put off by this number, as many applications won't necessarily name Holy Trinity as a first preference. As a school we do not see the preference information for each application. Our job is to rank applications purely according to the oversubscription criteria detailed in our Admissions Policy which is available on our website.

How many adults are in each classroom?

There is one teacher and at times one other adult designated per year group. Additional adults are dependent on pupil needs in that particular year group.

In Reception Class, the teacher is Mrs Tones. We also have an additional Teaching Assistant.

'I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.' Ecclesiastes 3:12

If I am offered a school place at Holy Trinity, what happens next?

You will be notified by your local authority of your school place offer in April. If you have been offered a place at Holy Trinity, we will then be in touch with lots of information about uniform, school lunches etc and to discuss the transition process.

The transition process starts in June when we invite parents in to school to meet with us and hear about the plans for transition. We then arrange dates to visit your child at their pre-school or nursery setting and we will offer you a home visit should you wish. We also invite the children in to school to spend some time getting to know their new school, the teachers, the environment and meet some of their new classmates.

This really helps with the change for the children and goes a long way to reassure them of what to expect when they start in September. It also gives you plenty of opportunities to ask questions and for staff to start to get to know the children and families.

When September arrives, the children are usually in school for mornings (until 12.30pm) for a week, and in full time thereafter. This is dependent on each child's needs and we work with parents to plan this.

How do you teach Reception class?

In Reception class, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This is a continuation of the provision in Nursery and pre-schools and so will feel very similar to those settings. The children have some guided, teacher-led sessions including phonics, reading, writing and number.

The curriculum is play based and child led, so the children have 'free-flow' access to the Reception classroom, a large outdoor area and an additional outdoor classroom. These areas are for Reception children only.



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We also have a Forest School on site (part of our grounds) that Reception class go to for two afternoons per week. Please see the [Forest School](#) information on our website. This is a very important part of our Reception Curriculum and provision and we're really lucky to have the space in our grounds to have such a wonderful facility.

Reception children enjoy our Adventure Playground in their outdoor area too. This is another key area of learning and development for the children. They have the choice to be inside or outside most of the time; they mostly choose outside whatever the weather and we have plenty of activities to keep them busy and happy, such as bikes and scooters, building blocks, a mud kitchen, footballs, train sets and many more!

Please take a look at the [Reception Class Page](#) on our website for more information about the curriculum but also to see lots of photos of the types of activities the children take part in.



What facilities do you have at Holy Trinity?

Aside from the facilities for Reception children only described above, we have large grounds that we use for playtimes, PE lessons and clubs.



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We have an indoor hall for PE, Collective Worship, lunch and clubs.



We have a Research Hub that is a library and computing station with 30 laptops and 17 iPads for pupil use.

We have a Pastoral Hub that provides support for children that may have additional emotional or friendship needs.

We have a kitchen on site where fresh hot food is prepared daily for school lunches.

As well as the classrooms, we have a number of smaller rooms that are used for small group work.

How do parents get involved in school life?

Once you are a parent at Holy Trinity, you automatically become a member of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This is run by parents to organise events such as Christmas Fairs, discos, Bake Sales, Film Nights etc that raise funds for the school but also provide opportunities for families to socialise, have fun and get to know one another.

We also welcome parents into school to volunteer to help with reading, running the library and helping out on school trips.

As a church school, we have four events a year at Holy Trinity Church that we invite parents and family members along to: Harvest Festival, Christmas Service, Easter Service and a Leavers' Service.

We also have a class assembly for each class in the school hall once a year that parents are invited to attend. This is your opportunity to see what the children have been learning in a very creative and entertaining way!

What are school lunches like?

School lunches are cooked fresh on site daily. You can see our current menu [here](#).



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In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 the children are provided with a free school lunch (government funded). Most of the children do have a school lunch but there is the option to provide your child with a healthy packed lunch should you prefer.

My child has a food allergy – will this be a problem?

The kitchen will cater for all allergies and intolerances. We will ask you if your child has any dietary requirements and inform the kitchen staff of their needs. Special dietary requirements may also be for religious reasons. We are a 'nut free' school and the majority of our staff are trained in the administration of auto-injectors should your child have an anaphylactic reaction of any description.

Do you have a uniform?

Yes, please see [here](#) on our website for further information on our uniform and PE kit and how to purchase them.

How do you teach the curriculum?

From Year 1 to Year 6, we teach the National Curriculum. This is a statutory requirement in all schools nationally. This involves school trips and exciting activity days for the children to engage in and to enthuse them in their learning. This is explained in more depth on our website [here](#).

How do you celebrate diversity at Holy Trinity?

We are a very inclusive school. Being a Church of England school does not mean you have to attend church, be a practising Christian or indeed follow any faith. All children and families are welcome in our school. We include festivals from other religions in our RE teaching (we include teaching about Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism in our RE lessons) and invite parents in to share their faith with us in school.

We actively look for ways to ensure diversity is taught and celebrated in our curriculum. For example, we celebrate Black History Month and the children across the school learn about black artists, scientists and other successful people who can inspire us.

What happens if my child has SEND?

Our SENCO (Mrs Fargher) will work with you to ensure we are making reasonable adjustments for your child. Please see further information about SEND on our website [here](#).

How do you support children in their learning?

We get to know your child very well and make sure they are supported through the type of activity, the level of difficulty, the amount of adult support they receive and the additional resources available. We also challenge children to challenge themselves! The teachers will encourage children to choose the level of activity that is a challenge for them.

The teacher or teaching assistant will often work with smaller groups of children to make sure they are making progress and understanding their learning.

Where do children go once they've left Holy Trinity?

Most of our Year 6 children move on to Charters School. A small number go to other schools in the area.

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I live out of catchment area, can I still apply? What are my chances of being offered a place?

You are still welcome to apply if you live out of our catchment area. In all honesty, each year is slightly different and the demand from catchment families varies from one year to the next. Please see further information on our website [here](#) or call the school office to speak to Mrs Lawson.

Will younger siblings automatically receive a place at Holy Trinity at a later date?

Places are allocated according to our oversubscription criteria which can be found in our Admissions Policy on the school website.

If you live in our catchment area, and your child already has a sibling at the school, then you are more likely to be offered a place.

If you already have a child at the school and you live out of catchment, we cannot guarantee that you will be offered a place for the younger sibling. This is because school places for children that live in our catchment take priority according to our Admissions Policy.

Again, please call Mrs Lawson in the office for further advice.

What does it mean to be a Church of England school?

We exist to provide an education to the children of the Parish. You do not have to be a practising Christian to attend our school. We make no discrimination and accept children of all faiths and none.

We do hold daily Collective Worship, which means we gather together and spend time reflecting on our values and the way we can be good citizens. You can find out about our vision [here](#). We are lucky enough to have a wonderful vicar (Rev Jon Hutchinson) at our local Holy Trinity Church and he often visits to share Collective Worship with the children. As part of our Collective Worship, we invite children to pray with us if they would like to.

As a Church of England school, we follow the exact same national curriculum as all other schools and we learn about other faiths in RE. Our ethos is what a lot of visitors tell us makes us stand apart. The respect and value we show to all children and adults is very important to us. We are a community school that has a real family feel.

Do you teach a wide range of subjects?

Yes, we teach all national curriculum subjects. We have a specialist Spanish teacher for Y3 – Y6 and specialist sports coaches throughout the school. The children receive 2 hours per week of PE lessons but we encourage physical activity throughout the days too.

Our art and design technology is often linked to our topic work. Computing also links well. Please take a look at our [curriculum page](#) on our website for more details about each subject.

How do you deal with any bullying at Holy Trinity?

We have an [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) that we follow should any incidents of bullying arise. These incidents are rare as we work a lot with the children on their friendships and valuing each other. We celebrate difference and actively encourage acts of kindness. Our behaviour rules are positive and we reward and recognise demonstrations of good behaviour. You can find out about our Behaviour Policy [here](#).

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How do the children get involved in school?

We are a very child-focused school that actively involves the children in how their school is run. Children can be elected by their peers to our School Council. The School Council meet with school leaders to offer suggestions and to work with us to make improvements happen. They have been involved in the development of the Running Track, the Adventure Playground, the Spiritual Garden area in the playground, playground games & equipment and many other projects around the school. The children's voice and input is key- it's their school and they spend a lot of time here!

As children move up the school, they also have the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities such as House Captains (sport leaders), Digital Leaders, Librarians, Eco Warriors and Playtime Leaders.

We have a Growth Mindset approach to learning at Holy Trinity. This is explained [here](#) but essentially encourages the children to take a very active part in their learning – don't give up, keep trying and accept that we all find things hard at times and end up in the Learning Pit! We know that teaching the children how to learn, is vital to their progress and self-confidence.

Do you run any extracurricular clubs?

Yes, we have a good range of clubs. Please see our website [here](#) for details.

What provision is there for working parents?

We recognise the need that working parents have for 'wrap around care'. Some of our families use childminders or a nanny. But we also provide a Breakfast Club (from 7.30am) in school for a fee. The details are [here](#). The pre-school staff in Sunningdale Pre School next door to us provide after school care. They collect the children directly from school. Their details are [here](#).

What are the times of the school day?

We have a flexible drop off time of 8.30am to 8.45am. Children can come into school in that window of time. This helps to alleviate the traffic congestion outside. We do encourage parents to walk to school wherever possible or use the car park at Broomfield Park and then walk up to school as it does get especially congested outside of school.

We have two entrance gates; one on Church Road (Reception children come in this gate as it leads directly into their classroom area) and another on Station Road. This is our main entrance.

School finishes at 3.15pm.

Do you go on any school trips?

Children enjoy a wide range of trips and visits. Teachers organise trips that link to their topic at least once per term in Y1 – Y6.

In Years 4, 5 and 6, the children enjoy a residential trip away for 1, 3 or 5 days.

How do you help support a child that has emotional needs?

All of our class teachers are able to support the emotional needs of the children. They deliver PSHE lessons and discussion times as part of the curriculum but more crucially, the adults that work in the year group know the children well and provide very effective pastoral support.

There are occasions when a child may need additional emotional support due to a variety of circumstances such as parental separation, a bereavement or maybe friendship issues. In these cases, our Pastoral Support

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assistant will work with the child to offer further support and a safe space to share. This work takes place with parental knowledge and consent.

What happens if my child doesn't make any friends or settle well at school?

When the children start with us in Reception class, they are paired up with a Year 6 pupil. The children love having this 'buddy' support. They help them get to know the school, the grounds and make friends. They support them at playtimes and eat lunch with them for the first few weeks to help them get to know new routines.

If a child is finding it hard to settle in Reception class, the class teacher will have regular contact with the parents and work hard to facilitate friendships and ensure the child is supported.