



St James' CE First School

School Prospectus



“Relationships between pupils and adults are strong, underpinned by the school’s excellent provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral and social development. Pupils speak enthusiastically about their lessons and learn in a very positive climate, which helps them to achieve well over time.”

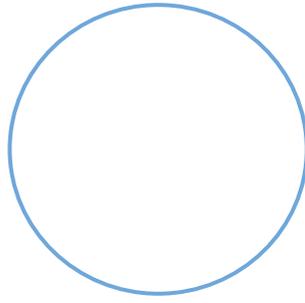
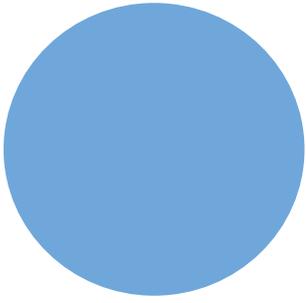
OFSTED Inspection Report—October 2013

**Proud to be part of:
The Heath Academy Trust**





*We are all God's family,
and we will try our best,
to love and learn,
and care for others,
as Jesus taught us.*



St James' CE First School



Welcome to St. James' First School!

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. We understand that choosing a new school for your child is a very important decision and it can be an anxious time in your lives. We would like you to feel as we do, that St James' is an amazing school where your child will feel happy, safe and confident and you will feel proud to be part of our community.

We will encourage your child, so that they move on from our school feeling confident, knowing their own skills, talents and interests as well as understanding that they are a significant member of the village, the wider community and the world.

Taking full advantage of our beautiful woodland grounds, we love to be active in our learning – from exploring our dedicated Early Years outdoor area or enjoying role-play in the courtyard or bird watching in the wildlife area to sports on our large playing field. Children love to learn outdoors and we aim to get outside frequently, whatever the weather!

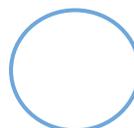
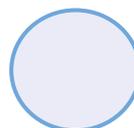
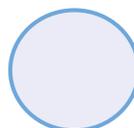
Your child will have the chance to enjoy many different opportunities during their time at St James'. We aim to ensure that every child:

- takes a role in a school production, show or concert,
- experiences a new musical instrument,
- has art work displayed,
- has their own views listened to and acted on via our School Council,
- takes part in learning experiences beyond the classroom,
- represents the school in a sporting or performing role,
- has the opportunity to attend lunchtime and after school clubs,
- has their talent celebrated by other children, staff and parents.

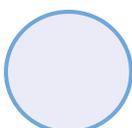
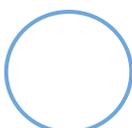
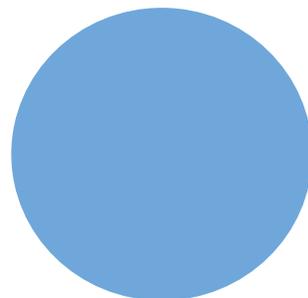
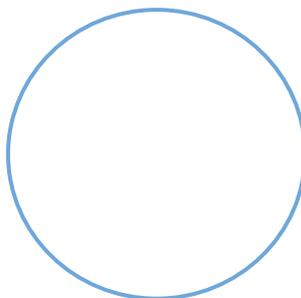
We benefit from strong links with the community, through St. James' Church and Alderholt Chapel who contribute to our Collective Worship and organise many different events. We also have a packed social calendar thanks to our excellent Parent Teacher Association, The Friends of St James'.

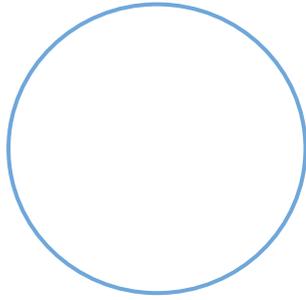
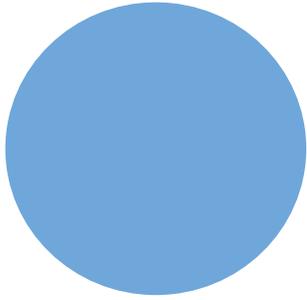
We are really proud of our school and all of its children. Please join us. We look forward to welcoming you as part of the St. James' family.

Clare Hewitt
Executive Headteacher



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Learning Environment

St. James' is proud of its beautiful grounds, its purpose built design and its diverse range of facilities. We believe that learning should take place in the whole school environment and we work hard to ensure this.

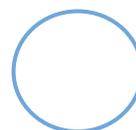
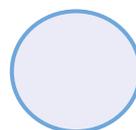
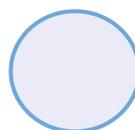
Our classroom learning areas boast interactive whiteboards, a host of creative resources as well as large practical areas, for the more messy, creative learning opportunities, such as art, science, design and practical mathematical learning such as measuring capacity, distance and mass.

Our Reception children enjoy the benefits of their own exclusive outdoor learning area, where their imagination and creativity is nurtured and encouraged. Our children in Early Years and Infant classes use the internal courtyard every day as an independent 'thinking, learning and role-play area' as well as using this space for guided teaching opportunities.

All children have access to our large sports playground and play trail. Surrounded by tall trees, we also benefit from a huge field which can accommodate a full school of activities, including sports, den building, science investigation, geographical research, creative writing opportunities and story telling. The reading and story telling area was constructed by parents of the school.

Our pond area is surrounded by an amphitheatre, which we use for whole school worship, small group activity sessions, drama and musical activities.

In addition to the school hall we also have a large studio which allows us flexibility for worship time, community use and the teaching of PE, Music, Drama and small group activities.



Rights Respecting School - Happy, Safe, Successful Learners

St James' First School has achieved the UNICEF Level 1 Rights Respecting school award.

Children, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Support Staff, Lunchtime Supervisors, Parents and Governors worked together to shape the values of the school. We agreed that everybody at St James' has the right to:

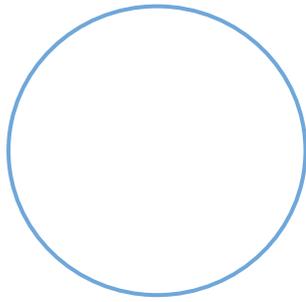
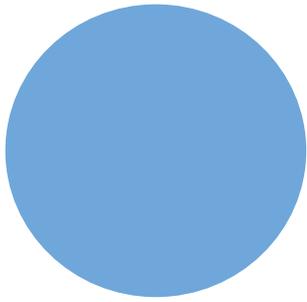
- Be Happy
- Be Safe
- Achieve as Successful Learners

All of our learning, as children and staff is built upon these values and all policies now reflect these values.



“Pupils respond exceptionally well to the school’s ‘Rights and Responsibilities’ programme and ‘Values’ system, having a very clear understanding of the behaviour that is expected of them. They are very keen to celebrate each other’s successes during worship time.”

OFSTED Inspection Report—October 2013



Behaviour Policy

Our behaviour policy is centred on our Rights Respecting approach to whole school life.

We believe that praise and reward are great encouragement and help to inspire all members of our school community. For example, our children collect reward points for reading regularly and we will shortly be introducing a whole school merit point system so that children experience frequent rewards for their progress, achievements and positive behaviour.

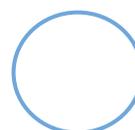
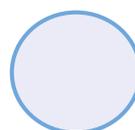
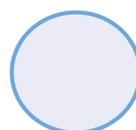
There may be occasions where a child is sanctioned for behaviour which contradicts our whole school Rights and Responsibilities. These steps are taken in a measured and carefully thought out way, which allows the child to correct their own mistakes and take responsibility for their behaviour.

A copy of our behaviour policy is available from the school office upon request or can be viewed on our website.

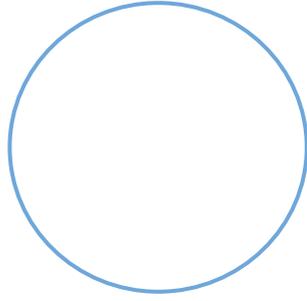
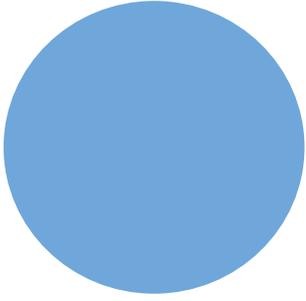
Safeguarding & Child Protection

The safety of everyone in the school community is a primary concern at all times and is everyone's responsibility. The school recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in its care. If appropriate, the school will seek the advice and help of outside agencies in dealing with any specialised concerns.

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you. The Dorset Safeguarding Children Board has determined the procedures we follow. The Headteacher is the Designated Senior Person responsible for child protection.







Teaching and Learning

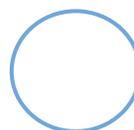
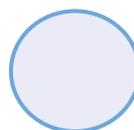
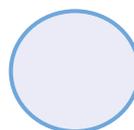
We are committed to ensuring that our learning is *Child Centred* and plan our curriculum to allow children to be responsible for their own learning and develop their own interests, alongside a more formal curriculum.

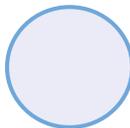
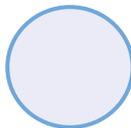
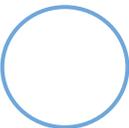
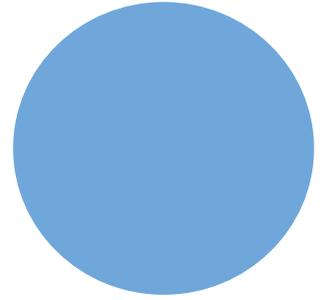
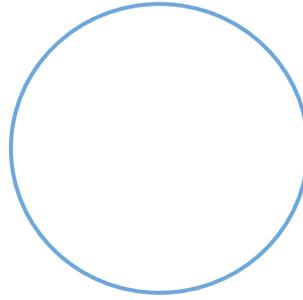
We have whole school English lessons, where every child across the school is assessed and placed in a group appropriate to their current level of achievement, ensuring a more personalised learning approach, using the Read Write Inc programme for phonics teaching in Reception and Infant Classes.

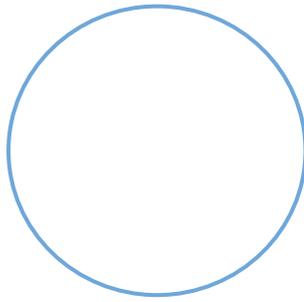
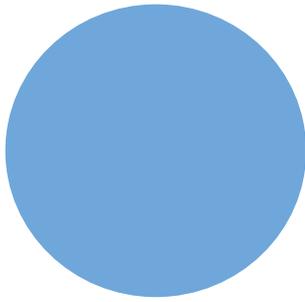
Children's academic learning and social development is further enhanced through the embedding of learning values. These help to instil resilience, imagination, problem solving, co-operation, planning, questioning and creativity.

We have a wealth of specialist teaching assistants and higher level teaching assistants, who lead groups and individual sessions, providing additional challenge for some children, as well as help and guidance for those who need more support in their learning.

At St. James' everyone has the right to learn and to achieve.







The Curriculum

The National Curriculum in England sets out a legal framework to which all schools in England must teach. This covers the subjects of:

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education (R.E.)

Foundation Subjects

- Art & Design
- Computing
- Design Technology
- Geography
- History
- Languages
- Music
- Physical Education (P.E.)

At St. James' we believe that learning best happens when it is built upon previous knowledge or where it is linked to a range of related subjects and so we plan our curriculum in a creative and integrated manner. For example: we arrange for maths skills to be used in PE and science , and for historical learning to mirror our English writing topics. Through this approach, we know that children achieve more, they understand and remember and they are far more excited about learning and being at school.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we follow the EYFS Curriculum which features three characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing & Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating & Thinking Critically

The EYFS Curriculum is separated into Prime areas of learning and Specific areas of learning. As you will see, the principles behind the Early Years Curriculum match the care we take with our whole school curriculum.



Prime Areas

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Communication & Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design





School Structure for 2016-2017

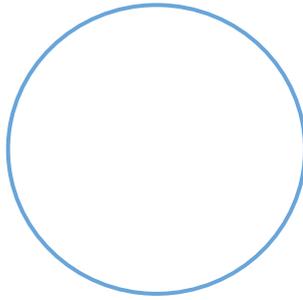
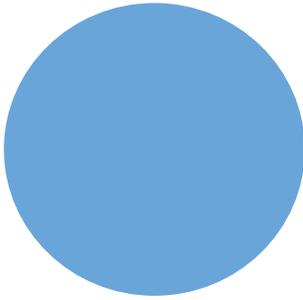
We currently have 102 children in our school and these children are split across 4 classes.

- Hedgehogs Reception & Year 1
- Foxes Year 1 and Year 2
- Squirrels Year 3
- Badgers Year 4

How the children are currently split across classes

	Total	Year Group	Pupils	Year Group	Pupils
Class 1	26	Reception	13	21	5
Class 2	27	Year 1	5	Year 2	22
Class 3	23	Year 3	23		
Class 4	28	Year 4	28		

The make up of classes is flexible from year to year depending on pupil numbers. This is regularly reviewed to ensure we are doing the absolute best for the children in our care.



St James' CE First School



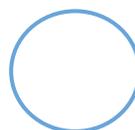
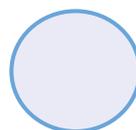
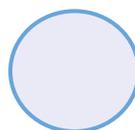
The Heath Academy

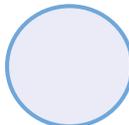
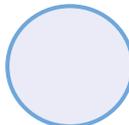
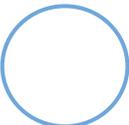
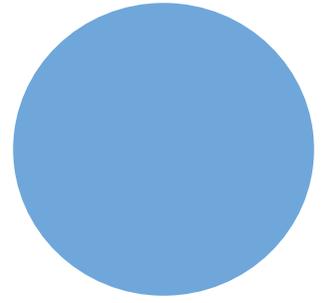
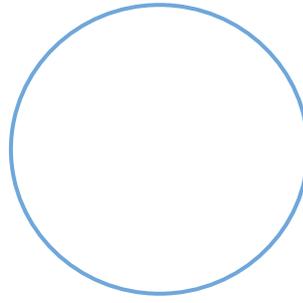


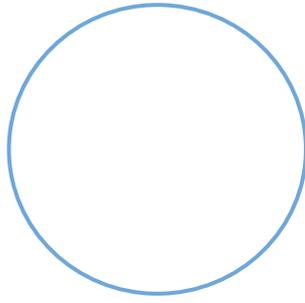
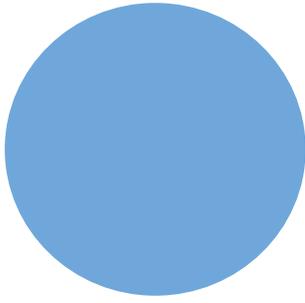
Growing Excellent Learners

On 1st December 2015 St James' CE First School became an Academy and joined together with Sixpenny Handley First School, Oakhurst Community First School, St Mary's First School, St Ives Primary School and Three Legged Cross First School to form The Heath Multi Academy Trust.

We are all very excited about the opportunities this will open up for the children, staff and school community as a whole.







Staff Team 2014-2015

Leadership

Clare Hewitt - Executive Headteacher
Kathryn Cousins - Head of School

Senior Teachers

Catherine Almond

Teachers

Vicki Nutburn
Sarah Ward
Ben Spinks

Teaching Assistants

Nicki Cooper * Val King *
Vanessa Chapman Clare Morris
Jacky Dale * Sophie Skinner (*)
Nikki Steer
(* Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

Midday Supervisors

Nicki Cooper (Senior MDSA)
Karen Bowler
Sabrina Paine
o Pearson

Kitchen Assistant

Cushla Wedderburn

Office Team

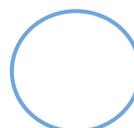
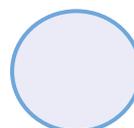
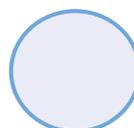
Helen Bishop - PA & Admin Officer
Sarah Riley - Receptionist

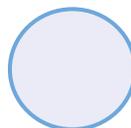
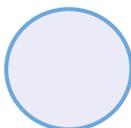
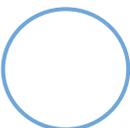
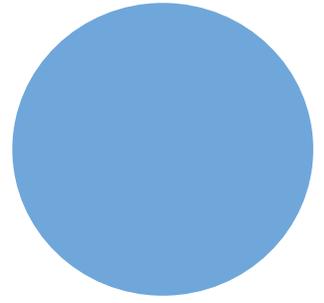
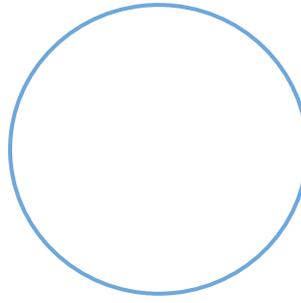
Caretaker

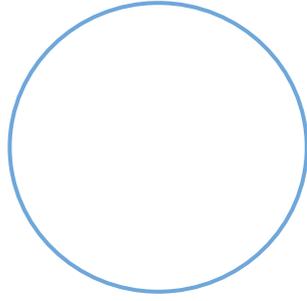
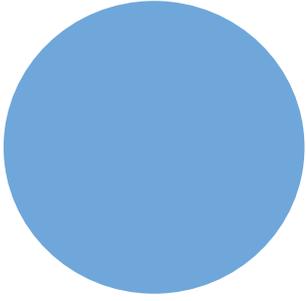
Alan McKenzie

Breakfast Club

Clare Morris
Karin Gould







The Governing Body

The Governors have an important and responsible role to play in the successful running and conduct of the school and its relations within the community.

The whole Governing Body meets at least once a term and minutes of these meetings are available in the school office. In addition, smaller groups of Governors meet regularly to focus on particular areas of responsibility:

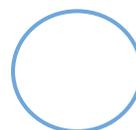
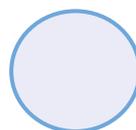
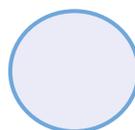
- School Improvement Group
- People and Finance Committee
- Environment Committee
- Teaching & Learning Committee
- Foundation Governors

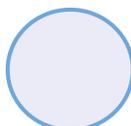
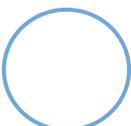
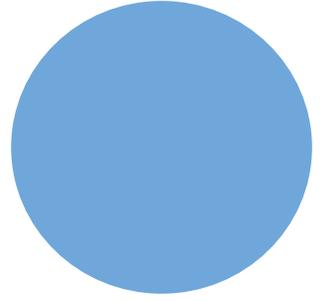
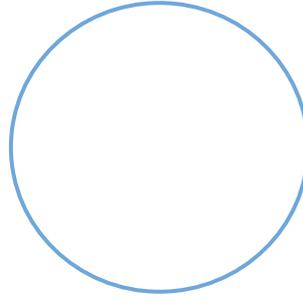
Each Governor is encouraged to spend time in school, getting to know the children and staff and often working alongside them.

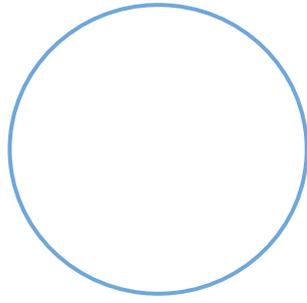
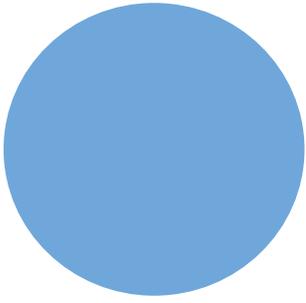
The Governing Body's composition reflects the partnership of:

- Parents
- Local Community
- Staff
- Church (Foundation)

We welcome enquiries from anyone interested in joining.







Term Time Holidays

In line with Department for Education regulations, holiday during term time will not be authorised other than in exceptional circumstances.

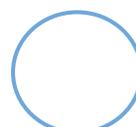
Exceptional circumstances may include for example, compassionate reasons, supporting education in music or sport, or if there are family members in the armed forces.

Equality Policy

At St. James' all members of our school community have the right to be treated fairly, and without prejudice.

All children have a right to a quality education, which should be personal to them and should allow them to achieve their potential.

The Single Equality Policy can be found on our website.





School Ethos

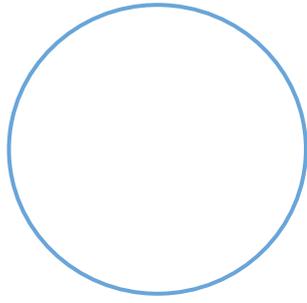
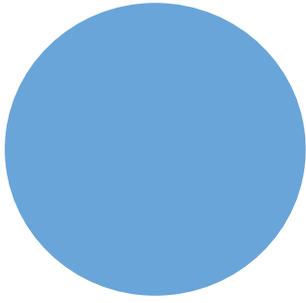
St James' School aims to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience our school offers to all its pupils.

Recognising its historic foundation, St James' School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

Collective Worship

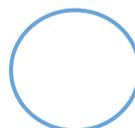
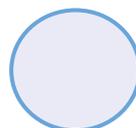
Collective worship (known as 'Worship Time') plays a very important role in the life of the school community. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for calmness and reflection in what is always a busy, active day for our children. We also teach about other world faiths, particularly Judaism, Hinduism and Islam and encourage children to see similarities and differences, fostering curiosity and respect.

Reflecting our strong community links, we regularly welcome visitors from St James' Church and Alderholt Chapel to lead our worship time.



By wisdom a house is built,
and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled,
with rare and beautiful treasures.

Proverbs 24 v 3-4





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