



# The Pilgrim School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England  
Primary School and Nursery  
For children aged from 3 – 11 years

He who would valiant be,  
let him come hither



[www.thepilgrimschool.co.uk](http://www.thepilgrimschool.co.uk)

# THE PILGRIM SCHOOL

A voluntary controlled, Church of England, Primary School

**Head Teacher:**  
Mrs J Taylor BA (Hons)  
AST NPQH



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Email address – [office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk)  
School website – [www.thepilgrimschool.co.uk](http://www.thepilgrimschool.co.uk)

## Head Teacher

Mrs J Taylor BA (Hons) AST NPQH

## Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs A Mepsted

## Chair of Governors

Mr M Wilkes

**He who would valiant be, let him come hither**



# STAFF

Head Teacher	Mrs J Taylor BA(Hons) AST NPQH	Child Protection Co-Ordinator
Deputy Head Teacher	Mrs A Mepsted	Deputy Child Protection Co-Ordinator
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator	Mrs J Gibb	
Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator	Mrs T Bell	
Foundation Stage Co-ordinator	Miss B Howland	
Teachers	Mr J Sverha Mrs J Libbeter Miss K Goy Mrs R Lock Mrs A Louden	Mrs A Mepsted Mrs B Unger Mr M Lyndsey Mrs R Parry Mrs T Bell
Home School Support Worker	Mrs L Everhurst	
Nursery Nurses	Mrs J Wadlow, Miss E Turner	
Office Manager	Mrs D Adams	
Finance Officer	Mrs E Callaghan	
Clerical Assistant	Mrs Z Hill	
Teaching Assistants	Mrs L Bacon Mrs J Monk Mrs J Nixon Mrs A Richardson Miss L Flynn Miss N Wood Mrs J Dell	Mrs K Greenhow Mrs J Perry Mrs H Costas Mrs J Burd Mrs C Fovargue Mrs J Sacre Mr T Barrance
Breakfast Club Supervisors	Mrs C Fovargue Mr T Barrance Mrs J Hearn	
Caretaker	Mr J Wicker	

We also welcome a number of volunteer readers into our school.



# The Governing Body

The Governing Body is comprised as follows:-

Parent Governors

Mrs J Allotey-Pappoe  
Mr P Dodson  
Mrs R Galea-Baker  
Mrs S Hehir

Foundation Governors

Mr T Aylward  
Revd A Bennett  
Ms M Jefferies  
Mrs Y Poynter

Community Governors

Mr M Wilkes (Chair)  
Mrs Y Poynter  
Mrs J Larney

Associate Member

Mr P Buss

Headteacher

Mrs J Taylor

Staff Representatives

Mrs A Mepsted

LA Governors

Mr J Garvey

Clerk to the Governing Body

Mrs J Perry

## PTFA

Chairperson: Ruth Thomas

Treasurer: Sian Walker

Secretary: Lydia Smith



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our school. We are a school for the community, which seeks to prepare your child for life as a responsible and caring member of society. Your child is helped to fulfil his/her potential in every aspect of school life; intellectual, emotional, spiritual, moral and physical.

The Pilgrim School is a wonderful opportunity for the children, parents and teachers living and working in the village of Borstal. I strongly believe that children thrive in environments where parents and teachers work together, in an atmosphere of friendly professionalism, to ensure that each child is valued and their successes celebrated. As parents you are partners in providing the best possible educational experience for your child and we welcome your support and interest. By working together we can be sure that we have made every attempt to lay a solid foundation for each child to be happy, secure and confident; an individual, unique in his or her own right, who is growing up to be a valuable member of the community.

As a Voluntary Controlled Church School we have close links with St Matthew's Church. We are fortunate that the Incumbent is a regular visitor to our school. We celebrate major festivals together. We maintain close links with all village institutions and your child will have opportunities to see beyond the confines of the school. The Pilgrim School is a vibrant and exciting place for children and staff where the emphasis is placed on endeavour as well as achievement.

We welcome new and prospective parents to our school and we are very happy to provide them with a tour of our school. Please contact the school office if you would like to make an appointment or require any further information.

Yours sincerely

J Taylor

**Mrs J Taylor**  
Headteacher



## School Aims

As well as giving the children a sound grounding in all twelve subjects and stretching them to reach their full potential, we also instil Christian values which support the children, both in their academic progress and in their general path, through life.

We:-

- Provide a happy, calm and stimulating environment that promotes effective learning and successful teaching,
- Ensure that The Pilgrim School is a happy place where children feel secure.
- Encourage, challenge and motivate children to achieve their full potential.
- Link closely with St. Matthew's Church to understand and demonstrate essential Christian values.
- Provide opportunities for children to achieve their potential in a wide range of areas.
- Steer children towards self-discipline by a calm insistence on the highest standards of behaviour.
- Teach children the value of co-operation, communication and initiative.
- Instil self-confidence through rewards and praise.
- Foster an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Create an atmosphere where individual achievements are praised and rewarded.
- Work closely with parents to broaden the educational experience available.
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## The School

The Pilgrim School was formed from an amalgamation of St Matthew's CE Infant School and Borstal Manor Junior School. The fantastic new school building was opened by the Right Reverend Dr Michael Nazir-Ali in November 2008.

The school grounds are used extensively as a resource to deliver the curriculum. The play areas, tarmac and grass, are a credit to the site and offer plenty of opportunity for play, nature observations and PE activities. Beyond the school, we use the village of Borstal to explore geographical and historical principles that allow children to see themselves as part of a much wider community.

The school is a vibrant and forward thinking organisation that will always look for new and invigorating ways to ensure children achieve high standards.

Parents and children who are new to the school will be shown round by a member of staff to familiarise themselves with the layout of the buildings.

There is a fortnightly newsletter sent home with your child. The newsletter will keep you informed about forthcoming events, teaching points and any organisational changes.

You have access to our school website [www.pilgrim.medway.sch.uk](http://www.pilgrim.medway.sch.uk). We see it as a vital link with some parents who have difficulty attending the school. School events, news and reports are posted here.

## St Matthew's Church

The school enjoys an excellent relationship with St Matthew's Church. As a Voluntary Controlled school three of our governors are representatives of the Church and we take part in approximately five services a year at the Church. These are: a welcome service for the year R children, a leavers' service for the year 6 children, a Carol Service, Harvest Festival and an Easter Celebration service. These are focal points in the children's lives as well as the lives of the Church and are very well attended by parents.

Informally, we make many journeys to the Church to learn about its role and place within the community and a representative from St Matthew's takes a weekly act of worship within the school.

We also have good relations with other local religious societies.



## Our relationship with parents/carers

We recognise that parents/carers have a key role to play in the educational achievement of their children. All children need balance and breadth as they grow to provide a broad foundation on which to build. Parents have many skills that can enhance the education of children and we know that many parents will enjoy being a fully active partner in their child's educational development.

Parents new to the Pilgrim School are embarking on an eight year relationship with the school. During that time you will have concerns and so will the school. The most effective way to deal with these concerns is to communicate. We are both trying to achieve the same goal for your child and by talking and working together, your child will feel happy and secure enough to succeed.

We have the traditional three parent's evenings a year to discuss each child's progress; however issues that arise along the way can be dealt with far more effectively if they are raised at the earliest possibility. Never think that things will just go away, they rarely do, if anything they get worse. Children have a right to be happy and it is vital for their success, therefore if you have a very small worry talk to Mrs Adams, Mrs Taylor or Mrs Everhurst before school or the teachers come out onto the playground at the end of the day.

Contact is best if it is personal so either make an appointment or talk to your child's teacher. If that's difficult, a letter or e-mail will be answered promptly.

A fortnightly newsletter is sent home to parents providing up-to-date information on events happening at the school.

The website is updated regularly and is a good source for any letters sent home. Photographs are also placed on the website of recent trips and events. You can also communicate with the school via the school website. If there is anything you would like to see included on the website, please see Mrs Callaghan in the school office.

Our home-school agreement is sent home to all new parents and this is then signed by the child, parents and class teacher and a copy is kept in the child's school file.

You are invited and encouraged to bring your child to pre-school visits in the term prior to starting school or nursery. Informal visits can be arranged at other times for parents moving into the area or changing schools. During these visits you will be given details of school policy and procedures.

The Reception is the first port of call for all enquiries and Mrs Adams will be pleased to solve your problem or point you in the right direction.



## Our school values

We firmly believe that children work best in an atmosphere of calm, self-discipline and respect for others and we ask for your support in maintaining this. Before your child starts at our school they and you will have to sign a code of conduct that will be consistently and fairly applied whilst your child is with us. This ensures that everyone knows what our high standards are and how they will be achieved. Our values are few and easily understood.

- We TRUST all members of our community to behave at all times in a way that takes into account the needs of others.
- We treat each other with RESPECT at all times and show FORGIVENESS when others are truly sorry.
- We behave in a kind and COMPASSIONATE way.
- We take responsibility for PERSEVERING with our own learning.
- We help create and follow classroom values to help keep our school clean and tidy.
- Respect other people's property and look after your own.

We are most concerned that all children feel happy and secure in school. If you have any concerns about behaviour please don't hesitate to contact us.

Of course, we expect most of our contact with you to be concerning your child's successes in school. Each year group operates a reward system as well as a class system which operates throughout the entire school. Children who have made a particular effort in any aspect of school life are congratulated and given a certificate to take home. We have celebration assemblies each Friday when good work and effort are celebrated. Each class has a 'Worker of the Week' and a 'Trier of the Week' whose photographs are on display in the entrance hall.

## Complaints procedure

As required by the Local Education Authority, we have a complaints procedure. When a complaint is received we deal with it as positively and promptly as possible.

Parents have the right to make a complaint about aspects of the curriculum or collective worship in schools. The first person to speak to is your child's class teacher and then, if they are unable to resolve the issue for you, you should speak to the Headteacher. For more information on the complaints policy please contact the school office.



## Information on classes

Children are grouped into classes according to age. We address each child's individual needs as accurately as we can. In order to do this a number of different strategies are employed. Children are taught individually, in small groups or as a whole class, according to the demands of the situation. On occasions children are grouped by ability for sessions with either their own class teacher or with another member of the staff. There are procedures for identifying and supporting those with Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented Children.

We are a one-form entry school and our Planned Admission Number is 30 children per year group. As will be seen from the staff list, every effort is also made to ensure that adequate classroom assistance is provided in each class.

## The Pilgrim School Nursery

Admission to our nursery is in September, January and April (the term after your child's third birthday). Places are free and children attend a three hour session each day either in the morning or afternoon. Progression from our nursery to the reception class is not automatic and a separate admission form has to be completed and submitted to the Local Authority during each child's last year in the nursery class and the process for joining our reception class is dealt with by them.

Our nursery is under the supervision of experienced and qualified teachers, who are supported in their role by a Nursery Nurse and Teaching Assistants.

The children learn through play experiences in a happy, secure and safe environment and through a combination of choosing activities and short focused group time. Children are placed in groups according to when they start in Reception class, so that they start school with children they know well, and have the best possible start. If you would like to view our nursery, you are



# Arrangements for admission to The Pilgrim School

Arrangements for admission to reception class differ from those above and you should contact the school office to receive a Primary Admission Booklet and Application Form. The completed forms are then sent to Medway Council for administration and parents are informed separately by them if they are successful in gaining a place. We have a planned admission limit of 30 and parents who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at the school have a right of appeal via the Education Authority. Full details are available from the school office.

The admissions criteria for Medway Council are shown below: -

- Children in public care.
- Current family association (a brother/sister in school at the time of application – this does not include the nursery).
- Denominational preference.
- Child's health reasons (medical evidence must be provided).
- Nearness of children's homes and ease of access to schools.

If there is a tie with any of the above criteria, then distance from home to the school would be used as the tie-breaker.

Casual admissions to any year group are handled by the Local Authority and you should contact Medway Council for more information on this.

## Early Years Development

Children may join the nursery the term after their third birthday. Both the nursery and Reception do work within the Foundation Stage in preparation for the National Curriculum.

## Home - School Links

During the first few weeks in school or nursery you will be invited to come into the classroom and stay for a while to settle your child. You are, however, encouraged to leave your child in the care of the class teacher. This is so that your child becomes used to the idea of being in the care of another adult.

When your child has had time to settle in to the school routine he/she will be given a library book to take home and later, during the course of the year, your child may take a reading book home. Your child will also be given a short list of words, which we hope you will encourage him/her to learn.

Regular parent's evenings are held after school when you can discuss your child's progress and can raise any other matters of concern. You will also be able to see your child's teacher before and after school. Written reports are sent home at the end of the summer term.

You will receive regular information concerning special events and fund raising activities via our fortnightly newsletter.



# School opening times

## Breakfast Club

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. (Last admission is 8:30 a.m.)

A breakfast is available every day and games and activities are also provided for the children. Breakfasts include juice or milk, cereals, fruit, toast and other seasonal food items. Breakfast is £1, 50 per child each day.

## Nursery

Morning - 8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

## Reception Class

Morning - 8.50 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.

Afternoon - 1.15 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.

## Year1

Morning - 8.50 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Afternoon - 1.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

## Year 2

Morning - 8.50 a.m. – 12.10 p.m.

Afternoon - 1.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

Children may enter classrooms from **8.50am** onwards. Please do not send children before that time as staff are not available to supervise them. The children work for 21 hours 15 mins per week on the curriculum. There is also 30 mins a day for registration and assembly.

## Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Morning - 8.50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Afternoon - 1.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Children may enter classrooms from **8.45am** onwards. Please do not send children before that time as staff are not available to supervise them. The children work for 23 hours 45 mins per week. This includes times for registration and assembly. The lunch break for children in Key Stage 2 is between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m.

## Office Opening Times

The school office is open between 8.30am – 3:30p.m. If you wish to make an appointment to see the Headteacher, or wish to make an enquiry, please phone or visit during these times.

# Transfer to Secondary School

A key factor in forming The Pilgrim School is to ensure that children in Borstal can start school at three and leave at 11 without changing school. When children reach 11 they move on to secondary school. There are a number of local schools and it can be a very difficult process for parents to decide which school is best for their child. Currently there are Comprehensive and Selective Secondary Schools within the immediate area and other schools throughout Medway. Being on the border of Kent Education Authority also allows parents the opportunity to send their children to a wide variety of schools. But which one is best?

During your child's time at our school, they will undertake tests and assessments that, coupled with their teacher's professional understanding, will allow us to give you an accurate account of your Child's needs and strengths. We will work with you to ensure your child is correctly placed in a school in which both you and they are happy.

The decision about whether or not to take the selective test (11+) is one that you as a parent have to make. Schools no longer make recorded judgements about the suggested Secondary School Placement. At the Pilgrim School we work with parents to make an informed decision. We also help parents to properly prepare their child for the selective test.

All children will be prepared by their host schools and by us to ensure that the transfer to Secondary School is seen as the next big adventure in life.



## School dinners

All children except those in the nursery may stay to the midday meal. These are provided at a cost of £1.79 per day payable in advance. This is currently provided by Chartwells. Forms for free school dinners are available from the school office. Although, all children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a universal free school meal. Children may also stay for packed lunch. No sweets or drinks in glass bottles please. At playtimes children may only bring a snack of fruit. Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage pupils are given free fruit at break time. For Key Stage 2 the year 6 pupils offer a fruit tuck shop at break time.

## Attendance

If your child is absent, please telephone the school and then send a note when they return to school. Any unexplained absences have to be recorded as unauthorised absences. If your child has to leave school during the day (to go to the dentist or to a hospital appointment) please telephone the school office or send a note. We are then able to issue a pass. We do not allow children to leave the school unless they are accompanied by a recognised adult during the school day.

If you take your child on holiday during school time you will need a holiday form, which is then signed by the Headteacher. These are available from the school office. As of September 2013 no holidays can be authorised by the Headteacher unless there extenuating circumstances.

If a child is frequently late they miss a vital part of the lesson, disrupt the lesson for everyone else and have their name put in the late book. If this happens we will refer them to the Attendance Advisory Practitioner. A child will be deemed late if they arrive at school after 9.00am. Any child who arrives after the close of registration (9:20 a.m.) will have that session marked as an unauthorised absence (please note that this is a requirement of the Attendance Advisory Service).

Children who achieve over 95% attendance during the year will receive a reward which, in the past, has been an opportunity to attend a school fun evening/barbecue, pantomime.

Please contact the school office or see the school website for an up-to-date list of term dates.



# Uniform

The school uniform consists of:

- a. Grey or black school trousers, grey skirts or pinafores and plain tights.
- b. Plain white polo or school shirts.
- c. Purple gingham summer dress.
- d. Purple sweatshirt embroidered with the school logo.
- e. Footwear should be appropriate to the activity. Trainers should not be worn as school shoes. No open-toed sandals or high heels.
- f. Long hair should be tied back.
- g. PE kit – black shorts, purple tee shirt with logo, black plimsolls.

In addition, the following items with school logo are available

- a. A purple fleece.
- b. Book bags.
- c. PE bags.

Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE bags and book bags are available to order from the school.

In addition could you provide your child with an art/craft overall to protect their clothing during some activities. (An old shirt would suffice.)

Please make sure that your child's clothing is **clearly marked with his or her name**. As you will realise, items such as school sweatshirts are almost identical and without a name we have very little chance of identifying garments. Lost property is kept for half a term then disposed of if unclaimed.

# Jewellery

If you're thinking about getting your child's ears pierced, it is best to wait until the beginning of the summer holidays. They can then stay in for six weeks. It is only permissible for children to wear either very plain studs or sleeper earrings to school. **If your child has pierced ears, then earrings must be removed for PE.** Teachers cannot remove earrings. They and Medway Council do not accept responsibility for loss or damage to any form of jewellery. Watches may be worn but no other form of jewellery.



## Money and valuables

Children should not bring money to school, except for making essential payments, when it should be handed in to the school office.

Please do not bring toys/favourite teddy to school unless it is for a specific topic. We cannot accept any responsibility for items brought in from home. Children are allowed to bring mobile phones to school but these must be kept in the school Mobile Phone locker. These must be switched off during the school day. They remain the responsibility of the child.

## Medical matters

Every child is given a full medical examination, to which parents are invited, usually during their first year at school by the school health service. Other examinations and yearly follow-ups are given if requested by yourself or staff at the school. You will, of course, be kept fully informed about this and all medical matters such as eye and dental checks, speech therapy and the Medway Child Health Department.

If your child is sick in school we will contact you to collect them. It is therefore very important that you keep your emergency contact numbers up-to-date.

If your child needs to take medicine during the school day, please leave it at the office. Please note that we will only give medicine prescribed as 4 times daily, by the doctor, it should be properly packaged and labelled. We do not give proprietary medicines. Your child should not have medicine in school for any other reason.

Parents of children with asthma inhalers, or who are taking regular medication, should discuss their child's individual needs with the school prior to them starting at The Pilgrim School.

Appropriate first aid will be administered by qualified staff, where necessary.



## Safety in school

The following rules apply for the safety of our children as they arrive and depart from school.

On arrival children walk quietly into class. Doors are opened at 8:50 a.m. This is an opportunity for you to pass brief messages to a member of staff on the gate if you wish.

Your child should not be at school before 8.45 a.m. as the doors will not be opened.

On departure please wait outside the building for your child to come out. Parents wishing to talk to teachers should please wait until all the children have been dismissed before coming into class. Appointments can be made for non-urgent matters.

Please do not bring your car onto school premises as this constitutes an unnecessary risk for your children and please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school.

The only entrance to the school during the day is via the school office.

The school operates a strict No Smoking Policy in all buildings and on all grounds.

Dogs should not be brought onto school premises.

## Parent helpers

We welcome help from parents in many of our activities. If you can offer help on a regular basis, even if it is just one hour a week, we would be pleased to hear from you. You are assured of a friendly welcome, support and direction from the teaching staff; a rewarding experience in helping children learn and - if you're around at break time - a cup of tea and a chat.

## Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA)

We have an active Parents Association who meet regularly and organise many events. If you are interested in joining please speak to Mrs Adams in the school office and she will let you know the date of the next meeting.

## Policies and procedures

The school has a myriad of policies and procedures covering all aspects of school life, which are reviewed and updated regularly. These are available for you to look at upon request. As they are updated so they will become available on our school website.



# Curriculum of study

The school follows the National Curriculum programmes of study, giving the children a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated educational experience.

## Literacy

We provide a language-rich environment within which all pupils can learn to communicate efficiently and purposefully and with enjoyment through the spoken, written and printed word. We aim to teach the children to read independently both for practical purposes and for pleasure as early as possible and to encourage them to become competent communicators in the written word. They will be made aware of the conventions of written language, grammar, syntax and spelling and be guided into using the style or form most appropriate to their particular need.

The school fully implemented the Primary Framework for literacy in January 2008 and will move to the New Curriculum (2014) in September.

## Numeracy

As part of our commitment to your child's education we continue to develop mathematics. The National Numeracy Strategy forms the backbone of our mathematics curriculum. Through our teaching of Numeracy we aim to equip children to be independent thinkers. We believe that independent thought is best achieved by providing opportunities for the exploration of order pattern and relationships in number. We do not view mathematical development as a linear process; our curriculum is flexible and is adapted to meet the needs of individual children.

Particular attention is paid to Attainment Target 1 by providing regular opportunities to develop problem solving skills through applying knowledge.

The school implemented the New Primary Framework for numeracy in September 2007. This is based on a process of Review, Teach, Practice and Apply.

## Science

The children follow a balanced science programme, partly linked to topic work and partly taught as a subject in its own right. They are given opportunities to predict, investigate, hypothesise, formulate fair experiments, to record this process and to draw reasoned conclusions from the evidence they have observed.

## Religious Education and Collective Worship

The Pilgrim School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. We teach the children to follow the basic moral code of the Christian Church. We want children to understand the infinite variety of human experience and, whilst most lessons will have a Christian bias, they will learn about the beliefs and practices of the major world religions. We will follow the Medway Agreed Syllabus.

According to the Education Act 1988 Section 9 (3), parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE or collective worship. The responsibility for supervising pupils withdrawn remains with the school. It is hoped that parents with any concerns about the RE programme at this school will confer with teachers before requesting that their child be withdrawn.

The school has a daily Act of Worship. Bible stories are sometimes told, as are stories from other religions and cultures. Prayers and reflection time are part of the experience. We link with the church in celebrating the main Christian Festivals. The Vicar of St Matthew's Church (or her representative) is a regular participant in Worship.



## **ICT**

All children have experience of using a wide range of ICT equipment including video and digital cameras, interactive whiteboards as well as computers, laptops and i-pads, to help in storing, retrieving and organising information to present work in different ways and to form and test hypotheses.

The school recognises that educational standards will increasingly focus on the use of information technology. The nursery and Key Stage 1 have timetabled access to computers. We develop the use of computers throughout the curriculum. We also have computers in the classroom and interactive whiteboards. All our children will be able to access the internet as part of their studies.

Children will only be allowed to access the internet in the presence of their class teacher or a member of staff. All access is subject to Medway's filtering security systems.

## **Physical Education**

All children take part in physical activities, unless there is a medical reason which prevents them from doing so. There are opportunities for children to develop their physical skills in a wide variety of activities, both in teams and as individuals. We currently take pupils in Key Stage 2 swimming at Strood Swimming Pool. They go in groups during the whole school year.

## **Sex Education**

The school has a Sex Education Policy in line with statutory requirements and the overall aims of sex education.

The aims include encouraging pupils to have due regard for moral considerations, to promote responsible behaviour and respect for oneself and other people, and to develop the ability to make informed and responsible decisions.

The policy, which is available for parents to see, includes schemes of work for teaching sex education for each age group of pupils. This covers progressively all aspects of life and the problems and emotions which may occur as children grow older.

## **French**

The children in Key Stage 2 take French as part of their enriched curriculum delivery.

## **The school teaches the following subjects in a themed approach: -**

### **Design Technology**

Children are involved in working in 4 main areas of technology, generally linked to their topic work. Firstly they will be involved in identifying a need for a design and technological activity; secondly in developing a design to fulfil that need; thirdly in planning and making their design and fourthly in evaluating the success of their design and adapting it in the light of practical experience.

### **History**

Children are given opportunities to develop skills which encourage them to raise questions and make deductions about historical evidence. At all stages emphasis is placed on developing a knowledge and understanding of history, interpretations of historical events and the use of historical sources. We will draw heavily on local history as we teach children about their local environment.

### **Geography**

Geography is taught as part of a topic, as a subject in its own right and as a link between subjects. Five main areas are covered throughout the school, once again closely linked to the National Curriculum. They are: geographical skills, knowledge and understanding of places, physical geography, human geography and environmental geography.



## Art

All children have the opportunity to participate creatively in artistic projects, both individually and in groups. A variety of techniques, mediums and methods are used and studied. The children will also be introduced to the art of different cultures and in differing styles.

## Music

Children have the opportunity to perform and listen to music from a wide variety of cultures, times and styles. They are encouraged to create works of their own and to record them in various ways so that they or others can repeat the performance. Outside agencies provide guitar and keyboard lessons.

## Homework

The homework set will vary with your child's age and ability. Younger children will tend to be set activities related to reading and learning number bonds. As they progress through the school, homework may involve using a library for research, and a wider range of mathematical work. It is our policy that Key Stage 2 children have regular homework in all classes. We look for your support in encouraging your child to complete work that is set. At the start of each school year you will be told on which days to expect your child to bring homework home. If you are unsure of what is required please see your child's teacher.

If your child fails to return homework, you will be contacted so that you are aware that the homework is not being completed.

## Extra-curricular activities

Thanks to the voluntary commitment of the teaching staff, a number of clubs and activities take place during lunchtime and after school. If your child is involved in any of these and will be leaving school later than normal, you will be notified in writing and you will need to give your written consent.

## Enhanced Curriculum

The school believes that it is our duty to education children to live life in the world. Many of these skills cannot be taught in a classroom and we therefore have an extensive range of additional activities, both in school and on school trips. Currently all classes from the nursery up to year 6 take part in at least two school trips which will be linked to their curriculum areas.

The Governing Body have a policy on charging for school activities. Please speak to Mrs Callaghan in the school office if you would like to receive a copy. The main activities that are charged for currently in school are educational visits and workshops held at school.

The school is reliant on parental contributions for school trips and, where trips are not financially viable, they may be cancelled.



## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

At The Pilgrim School we strive to promote opportunities for all pupils regardless of ability, gender or race. If a child has a particular need we provide a curriculum that is differentiated and allows them to experience every area of the National Curriculum at an appropriate level. We work hard to enable children to reach their full potential and develop fruitful relationships with peers and adults. We seek to involve parents and pupils in all areas of learning and to invite a range of external professionals to help us in assessing, monitoring and responding to a child's need.

There are a whole team of people working with children with special needs. We have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator who is responsible for children with special educational needs. All our teachers work with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator to create individual education programmes. Some extremely talented learning support staff who specialise in working with children in 1:1 or group situations back them up. Learning may take place within the classroom or in other designated areas that allow the person working with your child to focus directly on your child's needs.

We are a well-resourced school and use a wide variety of equipment that allows your child to access the National Curriculum, whilst concentrating on the main English and Maths skills.

We wish to create an environment that allows your child to flourish; we work hard to achieve this.

## Gifted and Talented Children

From an early age we look for those children who are potentially more able than their peer group in a variety of areas. Gifted children tend to be those who have a natural aptitude for the core subjects of English, Maths and other written subjects. Talented children are those who have skills in more practical areas such as technology, sports or arts.

Children are identified by results in tests and observations from those teaching them. Parents may also have knowledge of a skill not taught in school but one in which we may be able to offer support.

Once a child has been identified we plan a programme of support with the parent and class teacher to ensure that every child's potential is achieved.

## Statutory Obligations

The school will work closely with any parents of a child who has any disability. Should you feel that your child needs specific help, please contact the school office as soon as possible. The school implements its disability policy to the full to ensure that all children are treated equally regardless of ability. The school is fully compliant with DDA requirements.



# Medway Council

The Medway Council assumed responsibility for education in this area following its formation on 1 April 1998. It has adopted the local management scheme formerly applied by the Kent County Council without major amendments. Medway has declared its educational aims, objective and values in the following terms:-

## Medway Council Aims, Objectives and Values

### Our overall aim

Enabling everyone to realise his or her full potential and make the best possible contribution to society.

### Our Objectives

- ◆ Raising aspirations
- ◆ Promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning
- ◆ Encouraging lifelong learning and active citizenship
- ◆ Providing high quality and cost effective services.

### Our Values

- ◆ Working in partnership
- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Seeking to improve
- ◆ Ensuring equality of opportunity for all
- ◆ Valuing our staff.

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