STONE

CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMBINED PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU
(John 13:34-35)
HELPING EACH OTHER TO REACH FOR THE STARS

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HEADTEACHER'S **WELCOME**

Welcome to Stone, a 'Skills for Life' school. Here, your children will develop the skills to enable them to be lifelong learners. At Stone, we all work to enable each child to discover their unique gifts and talents and to reach their full academic potential.

We strongly believe that helping children reach their full potential is a shared responsibility. We encourage our children to 'Reach for their Star' and with our help, their parents' help and the help of their peers - our children are successful.

Our vision is therefore: **'Love one another as I have loved you'... helping each other to reach for the stars**. The Bible verse, 'Love one another as I have loved you' (John 13: 34-35) sets the vision for the children in a Christian context and the story of the Good Samaritan helps children understand how we should all help each other.

The whole community aspire to fulfill this vision through our Christian values of Safe, Respect, Courage and Collaboration each being a '**stepping stone'** to success. We acknowledge that children today have to navigate a complex and ever-changing world, facing challenges and pressures in many aspects of their life. Therefore, as well as providing an excellent education for our children, we support them further in developing their wellbeing and the skills they will need to navigate successfully through life. We provide opportunities for becoming more active and healthier and for developing the social and emotional skills, knowledge and behaviours which will help them to build resilience and set the pattern for how they will manage their mental health and wellbeing throughout their lives. Happiness and well-being lessons are woven into our PSHE scheme of work and our curriculum has been adapted to promote wellbeing. We enjoy close links with our local church and we make full use of our beautiful school setting and excellent facilities, which include a fully equipped school kitchen, extensive outdoor learning resources, an amphitheatre and an amazing, well - stocked library.

In a secure and caring environment, we offer a rich and engaging curriculum which enables children to develop enquiring minds and the self-confidence to succeed throughout their lives. Children are encouraged to explore a range of interests, including music, art, sport, languages and drama, both through the curriculum and our wide range of extra-curricular activities.

We work closely with parents and encourage you to take an active role in your children's learning. Detailed information about your child's progress and targets for improvement are given at regular intervals through the school year. You will be invited to frequent workshops detailing our curriculum and methods.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Mrs Bethan Jones
Headteacher

OUR
VISION AND VALUES

The school vision is:
Love one another as I have loved you' (John 13: 34-35)... helping each other to reach for the stars.

The whole community aspire to fulfil this vision through our values of:

- **Be Safe** - We invest in pastoral care and wellbeing. We teach personal development to a very high standard so all children leave Stone knowing how to love and care for themselves as well as others.
- **Be Respectful -** We expect everyone to be respectful, inclusive and compassionate at at all times, celebrating the differences that make us unique.
- **Be Courageous** - We inspire our children to persevere and be courageous in their learning, enabling them to take risks and try new and challenging experiences.
- **Be Collaborative -** We teach the skills to enable children to work collaboratively with others and as a school we work together with all community members to ensure we all grow individually and as a collective

Why send your child to Stone?

- Each child is at the heart of everything that we do and is recognised as a unique individual
- We maintain our strong Christian values and ensure that families and children of all faiths are respected and welcomed.
- We deliver a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum where all children are supported to reach their full potential
- The children experience excellent teaching & learning through evidence based practices
- We shape and nurture the whole child to develop self belief, perseverance and respect for all
- Children's behaviour for learning is excellent
- We build strong & collaborative relationships with our families to ensure academic excellence and development of children's wellbeing
- We collaborate & connect with families, the church and the wider community to provide opportunities that extends beyond the academic.
- We inspire our children to be courageous in their learning enabling them to take risks and try new and challenging experiences
- We recruit and retain the best staff and provide opportunities for development, progression and excellence.
- When children leave Stone school they know how to be safe, they are and have all the skills to be life long learners

OUR DISTINCTIVENESS

WE HAVE THREE PRINCIPLES WHICH UNDERPIN ALL WE DO:

OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our Christian values are central to our school life. Children are encouraged to care and take responsibility for each other; as a result, our older and younger children mix well together. Playground leaders also promote safe and healthy play for all. Bullying and racism are never tolerated. We encourage children to resolve differences through discussion and learn to make amends if they make mistakes. Positive behaviour management is a feature of our school, with House Points, Stepping Stones Certificates and Child of the Week certificates being regularly awarded. Community spirit is developed through our school council who have been responsible for a number of initiatives. They meet regularly to help improve our school and the experiences and learning of our children. Children are allocated to a house team when they enter the school which also encourages bonds and team spirit across the school. Our Christian Values provide children with the stepping stones they need to be successful members of the community of the world. Children learn how to treat others and how to be effective members of the community

SKILLS FOR LIFE

We are passionate about our 'Skills for Life' approach. It underpins everything we do and provides a foundation for our exciting and personalised curriculum. As a result, children are more confident in their learning and are excited to 'grow their brains'; they relish being challenged in their learning. Our 'Skills for Life' approach is evident in planning, in learning in every classroom, on the playground and in all aspects of school life, preparing children for life beyond Stone School and providing them with the skills they require to be lifelong learners – responsibility, readiness, resourcefulness, resilience and reflectiveness.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Five Ways to Wellbeing We believe that our children's wellbeing is central to their success as confident lifelong learners. We therefore encourage our children to play an active role in their own learning, in their own mental health and in developing healthy lifestyles. The school values are an integral part of our curriculum and influence interactions and behaviours providing consistency and security for the children.

The 'Five Ways to Wellbeing': 'connect', 'be active', 'keep learning', 'take notice' and 'give' provide the children and staff with practical ways of taking responsibility to develop their own wellbeing. We provide a number of opportunities for children and staff to practice these, which include growth mindset education, teaching children and staff about taking notice of their mental health and strategies to support them, Peer Mental Health Heroes, daily mindfulness, a wealth of enrichment opportunities and promoting and celebrating acts of kindness in school. The children are nurtured and cared for by teachers and the children feel safe and secure at school.

OUR CURRICULUM

We believe that all children are entitled to a curriculum which develops not only their knowledge but the skills they require to be effective learners. Our Skills for Life curriculum provides children with life skills to support life-long learning and wellbeing so they are well prepared for the next stage of their education. We believe that children should be eager to discover new learning and excited by the experiences they have in school. We aim to inspire and challenge them in their learning and have developed an exciting topic based curriculum to achieve this. Each half term the topics are changed. Here are some examples:

ISLANDS IN THE SEA

EXTREME EARTH

STARS AND STRIPES

BREATH TAKING BRAZIL

In all curriculum planning, we make sure that essential transferable 'Skills for Life' such as resilience, motivation and collaboration underpin all learning. Reading, writing, mathematical and computing skills are mapped across the curriculum to be applied and strengthened. Considerable emphasis is placed on the acquisition of the key skills needed by the children. These include the ability to read fluently, to write easily in a pleasing style of handwriting, the ability to speak clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts and the knowledge of basic number facts and times tables. Reading is a central part of the school curriculum and the pleasures of reading and its importance are highlighted from the beginning. Progress is monitored carefully and reading diaries are kept as part of the home/school reading policy. Parents/grandparents and friends of the school are also encouraged to come into school as volunteer helpers to hear the children read. Phonics and sound blending work is introduced in Reception and continues throughout the children's time in our school. Our phonics scheme is called "Read Write Inc".

Early Years Curriculum

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our educational programmes in Early Years. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are: • Communication and language • Physical development • Personal, social and emotional development. We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are: • Literacy • Mathematics • Understanding the word • Expressive arts and design

Year One and Year Two cover Key Stage One of the National Curriculum. Year Three, Four, Five and Six cover Key Stage Two. Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 get taught English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Music and Physical Education. We also teach Religious Education, Citizenship including Relationship Education to all.

OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Stone, staff are committed to the belief that understanding of the learning process is the key to outstanding progress for all children.

Evident in all our lessons is:

GOOD TEACHER KNOWLEDGE

Our teachers have good subject knowledge of the subjects they teach and subject leaders provide effective training and support where required.

CLEAR, DETAILED EXPLANATIONS AND MODELLING:

Teaching is very clear, WALTs (What we are learning today) and success criteria are used to provide clarity for the children and to scaffold their learning. We also use teacher and pupil modelling and questioning alongside class instructions to engage the children in different activities. Modelled work is displayed in the classroom for children to refer to.

EFFECTIVE TALK:

At Stone, we explicitly teach discussion techniques such as phrase starters, questions, turn-taking patterns. We also teach the children how to agree, disagree, support, challenge, clarify and summarise. This means that talk is more productive.

STRATEGIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF IDENTIFIED GROUPS I.E. SEN, EAL, DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND THE MOST ABLE PUPILS:

Teachers use subject progression documents to ensure that the curriculum is taught progressively, builds upon prior knowledge and gaps are filled if needed. Adaptations are made to lessons, where required, to ensure all children may access the learning and progress. We use a 'Keep Up' not 'Catch up' approach so that children do not fall behind.

OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP CULTURAL CAPITAL:

We bring children's learning to life through planned experiences including 'Wow Days' which may be a trip, hands-on experience or a really exciting visitor that will ignite the children's desire to learn and bring their learning to life. This makes learned content both memorable and engaging.

SKILFUL TEACHER QUESTIONING:

Teachers use skilful questioning to systematically check learning, identify misconceptions and provide clear, direct feedback. To support assessment, we use a variety of questioning strategies which enable us to direct questions to individuals where necessary, or use a 'no hands up approach' to allow children to contribute freely. Responses allow teachers to adapt teaching if necessary. To check understanding at a deeper level, class teachers probe for reasoning and clarification, and, as children move further up the school, they are taught to give full, detailed and reasoned responses.

STRATEGIES TO HELP PUPILS REMEMBER:

The teaching of knowledge and skills is sequential and builds on prior learning. All lessons begin with retrieval strategies i.e. Flashback 4, which focus on content from previous year, previous topics, as well as the current topic, enabling learning to be moved into the long-term memory. Mind maps are used at the start of topics/units of work to help children retrieve previous learning and at the end of a topic to assess what has been learnt. Knowledge organisers are used in some subjects to support learning by clarifying key knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

METACOGNITIVE STRATEGIES

The opportunity for children to plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning

RESILIENT, INDEPENDENT LEARNERS:

Using our Skills for Life principle, we teach children to be responsible for their learning, reflective, resourceful, resilient and ready to learn. Growth mindset strategies are also implemented in classes. These strategies are based on the work of Carol Dweck and include: teaching the value of challenge; giving feedback which highlights the values of planning and trying different learning strategies and the growth mindset concept of not being able to do something 'yet'. Children's question driving questions in lessons.

OUR

APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Teachers provide a learning environment filled with resources that allow the children to focus on learning. Ever changing learning walls provide scaffolds, vocabulary and prompts to support the learning that is happening in the class at that time reflecting the ambitious intentions or our coherently planned curriculum. Quality schemes are used in some subjects to avoid an unnecessary workload for staff. These schemes support our ambitious intentions for a curriculum which is sequenced towards cumulative sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment and include: Charanga for music, Switched On Computing, SCARF for PSHE and Amaven for PE.

A RIGOROUS APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF READING:

We use Read Write Inc. Phonics which is a DfE-validated systematic synthetic phonics programme which is designed to ensure progress for every child. This is taught from the beginning of Reception. Children learn to read sounds and blend them into words. They apply this phonic knowledge to read and comprehend storybooks that are carefully matched to the sounds they know. Children learn to read these books with a storyteller's voice. Frequent assessment ensures that any pupil who is falling behind is quickly identified so that targeted support can be given immediately. As children's reading develops we encourage children to read broadly. We teach reading as a priority across all year groups including through cross-curricular reading opportunities which have planned teaching objectives. We carefully select texts and resources to inspire, engage, challenge and promote discussion.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

We develop vocabulary by reading to children in a way that excites and engages them. We also introduce, teach and use pre-planned subject specific and technical vocabulary across the curriculum (star words).

FURTHER INFORMATION

UNIFORM

What to Wear at Stone CE Combined School:
The following required items are required:
• a bright red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (with school crest)
• white polo shirt, shirt or blouse
• grey trousers, grey shorts, grey skirt or grey pinafore dress
• grey or white socks or plain grey tights
• a waterproof jacket or warm coat (depending on the time of year)
• a sunhat – any colour (in summer months)

Uniform may be purchased from any supplier of your choice – some supermarkets and retail stores offer good value for money. Many of these items are also available with the school logo from Bucks School Wear Plus (optional): Unit 11, Vale Industrial Estate, Southern Road, Aylesbury, HP19 9EW. https://bucksschoolwearplus.co.uk/ Phone: 01296 422120

For more information about our school uniform please see our uniform policy that can be found on our website.

TIMES OF THE DAY

The school gates open at 8:35am and the morning session begins at: 8:45 am.

We ask that you ensure that your child arrives promptly at 8:35am so that they are in class and ready to start learning at 8:45.

Children have a 15 minute break at 10.30am. EYFS (Reception) initially have their own breaktimes on the EYFS playground.

Lunch break is at 12.15pm and is 1 hour.

School Finish time School finishes at 3:15pm.

The school gates open at 8:35 and children enter school straight away. The main gate is locked at 8:45. Late arrivals must be brought into school via the main entrance and signed in by a parent or carer. Pupils are marked as late after 8:45am and Registers close at 9am. Please help us by making sure that your child does not arrive at school late for registration as this unsettles them and the rest of the class

The children are dismissed at the end of the day onto the playground. Children are released when the teacher sees the parent/carer. If you are delayed in collecting your child, please telephone the school. Please always tell your child's class teacher or inform the school office if someone other than you is meeting your child from school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

MEALS

Hot school meals are available every day through “Innovate” our hot school meals provider. A range of choices; including a main meal, vegetarian meal or jacket potato option are available.

Under the Government’s “free meals initiative” all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children can bring in a packed lunch and eat in the hall, or in the summer months, outside. We ask that you send your child’s lunch in a named container. Please do not send drinks in glass bottles for safety reasons.

As a Healthy School, sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed and parents are asked to provide a healthy packed lunch. The children are looked after by our lunchtime supervisors. Games are provided such as skipping and a variety of ball sports throughout the week. Our year 6 children act as buddies to support play in the small playground for EYFS and Year 1.

Free fruit is available for snack time for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils every day under the government’s Free Fruit at School Scheme. Milk is available if desired through our registration with the Cool Milk at School Scheme.
This is free until the age of 5. Details can be obtained from the school office.

Children are encouraged to bring water to school to drink throughout the day which must be in a clear transparent plastic bottle. Please provide a named see-through water bottle with a sports lid, to avoid spillage. Squash is allowed at lunchtime.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS/EXTRA FUNDING

If you think that your child may qualify for free school meals, please use our confidential checking service by contacting the school office. Children who qualify for free school meals also receive extra funding from the government which can be used to support your child’s learning, help fund school trips, music lessons or provide resources and/or uniform. This funding is for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 pupils; however, the funding will not be provided to KS1 pupils unless we apply even though they receive free school meals. It is therefore essential that all parents who may qualify use our confidential checking service. You can apply for free school meals if you or your child receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less

- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

FURTHER INFORMATION

VISITS AND VISITORS

Stone pupils usually have the opportunity to take part in a school trip or in a curriculum enrichment day in school every half term. Some of these educational visits have included a trip to Waddesdon Manor, Whipsnade Zoo, Parliament House and Roald Dahl Museum. Years 4 and 6 enjoy residential experiences.

Curriculum themed Wow Days also take place, often enriched by visitors. Schools may legally request voluntary contributions in support of school activities such as educational visits. However, there is no obligation for parents to pay, and no pupil is every excluded from taking part if their parent has not contributed. However, if sufficient voluntary contributions are not received from parents for the activity then it may have to be cancelled for all pupils.

ADMISSIONS

Stone Church of England Combined School serves the village of Stone and surrounding area, including Upton and Hartwell and Aylesbury.

Children are admitted to Stone CE Combined School in accordance with the Buckinghamshire County Council Admissions Criteria. Parents applying for a place should read the relevant sections of the Education Department's booklet Guide for Parents – Admissions to Buckinghamshire Primary Schools for the appropriate year.

Applications for school places are made directly through the Buckinghamshire County https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/

They also have a 'Contact Us' form: Admissions Team's 'Contact us' form.

Your child will begin a full time place in school, in the September of the year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

The school provides open events for you to visit the school in the autumn term. Please note that all children transferring from infant to junior or combined schools take part in an induction programme early in July so that they can meet the other children in their class, work with their teacher and become familiar with their new environment, spending the day at their new school.

For more information about admissions and allocation rules - https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/school-admissions-guides-policies-and-statistics/school-admissions-policies/primary-community-and-voluntary-controlled-schools-admissions-policy-september-2023/

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding At Stone CE School, the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time in this school. We want to work in partnership with parents to help all children achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the school community. All our staff and regular volunteers who work with children are DBS checked. On rare occasions, our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you.

The procedures, which we follow, have been laid down by the Buckinghamshire Area Child Protection Committee, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all. Furthermore, the school has a strict code of conduct as well as a confidentiality policy for all staff and parent volunteers.

Our Safeguarding Leads are:

- Bethan Jones - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Assunta Loxley - Additional Safeguarding Lead
- Rosie Seivwright - Additional Safeguarding Lead
- Talisha Craib - Additional Safeguarding Lead



GET IN TOUCH

We encourage visits to our school so we can show you around our amazing school and answer any questions you may have:

EYFS 2026 Intake Tour Dates:

- **5th October - 9.30am**
- **3rd November - 9.30am**
- **23rd November - 9.30am**

Please contact the office below to book onto one our tours

CONTACT US :

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