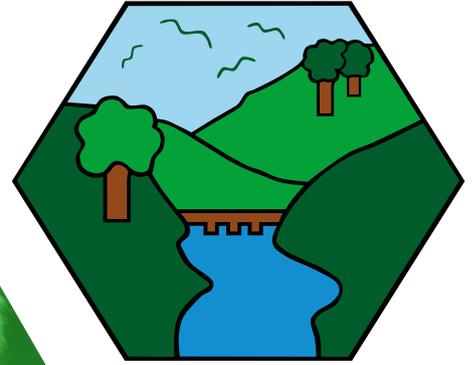




A guide for  
parents  
and staff

# By Brook Valley

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ROOTS TO GROW | WINGS TO FLY  
*GROWING, FLOURISHING, SOARING.*



# Welcome to our School

By Brook Valley is a vibrant, inclusive and family orientated school with a strong Christian and community ethos within North Wiltshire. I am so proud to be Head of this warm, welcoming and caring community of learners with a fantastic staff team, dedicated governors, supportive parents and happy, engaged children.

As a school, we offer our children an enriching and engaging curriculum, a range of fulfilling experiences, and the opportunity to develop values and skills that will enable them to flourish and live life to the full.

We do this through valuing the uniqueness of every child challenging and supporting them to be their very best.

We believe that By Brook Valley will help lay the foundations for endless opportunities in learning and life.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit our school, then do come and visit and experience first-hand all that By Brook Valley School has to offer.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren).

Deb Henshall,  
Head Teacher

# By Brook Valley as a Church School

"This is a happy school where pupils are kind to each other."

Ofsted 2025

**At the heart of everything we do is our vision:  
Roots to grow, wings to fly  
Growing, Flourishing, Soaring.**

The roots of our community that nurture, support and help us to grow to be the best versions of ourselves. The wings of faith allow us to soar freely and flourish now and in the future.

The core values of Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness and Hope underpin our vision and permeate through all that we do, with each child loved, nurtured and fulfilled as a child of God.

## Positive behaviour

At By Brook Valley we firmly believe good behaviour is fundamental to successful learning and each child's happiness and wellbeing. Therefore, all staff and governors are committed to maintaining high expectations of good behaviour as an essential contribution to the educational experience for all pupils.

We believe that the best way to promote positive behaviour is through example, acknowledgement, praise and reward. We teach children what good conduct and positive behaviour looks like by setting and explaining clear consistent routines, rules and expectations, focussing our attention first on those children who are behaving well and highlighting children that go 'above and beyond', giving them the formal recognition they deserve.

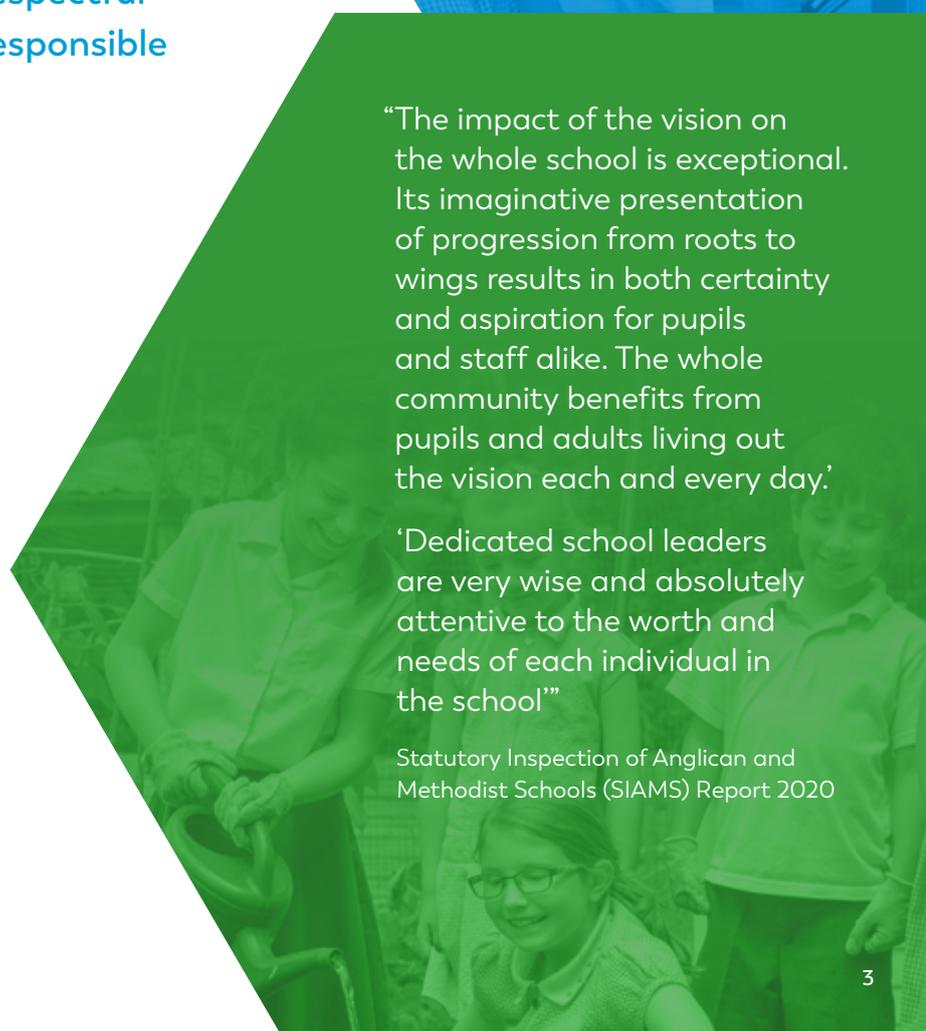
At By Brook Valley CE Primary School, we have three promises:

**Be ready**  
**Be respectful**  
**Be responsible**

"The impact of the vision on the whole school is exceptional. Its imaginative presentation of progression from roots to wings results in both certainty and aspiration for pupils and staff alike. The whole community benefits from pupils and adults living out the vision each and every day."

'Dedicated school leaders are very wise and absolutely attentive to the worth and needs of each individual in the school'

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report 2020



# Vision, Ethos and Values

## Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly.

We want every child to achieve; to reach for success from the very first day they join until when they leave at the end of Year 6, and develop a love of learning that is with them for the rest of their lives. We want to ensure all children put down strong roots, grow strong and then share all they have to offer with family, friends and the communities where they live and others beyond. We want every child to be happy with who they are, to be respectful of others and their views and to feel safe.

We actively promote Christian values through our daily acts of worship, our behaviour expectations and our personal, social, health and relationship education. We have close links and work in partnership with our local churches in our community and they are very much part of the school team. We celebrate the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter in Church.

*“The teachers really welcome you and encourage you to do your best.”* **Ollie 10**



*“My son runs into school every morning happy to attend and keen to learn.”*

**Parent**



‘The vision ensures that this is a school community, which lives out the intrinsic worth of every individual. No pupil is ever turned away as staff passionately believe all pupils can develop firmer roots and be enabled to find their wings (talents).’

‘Pupils insist that ‘everyone looks out for everyone else’ and staff and parents talk movingly about the ‘one large family’ of the school.’

SIAMS, 2020



“We have lots of fun.” **Phoebe 6**

## SIAMS and OFSTED

In 2020 By Brook was assessed by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and received an overall judgment of **excellent** in relation to the question ‘How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults

to flourish?’ In addition, the impact of Collective Worship was judged as excellent. We are all extremely proud of this recognition. It reflects the commitment of all the staff and governors to provide the very best for every child at our school.

In 2025, OFSTED judged us as ‘Good’ in all areas.

**“Staff build strong relationships with pupils, and this helps to make them feel safe. Pupils trust staff in school to help them with any concerns they have.”**

Ofsted 2025

Quality of Education	Good	
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good	
Personal Development	Good	
Leadership and Management	Good	
Early Years Provision	Good	

# Our school

Our school, based in the village of Yatton Keynell, has welcomed children from the surrounding villages of Biddestone, Nettleton and Burton and Castle Combe since 1998. We became an Academy in 2012 and then extended in 2014 to meet an increasing demand for places. Today, across our seven classes we have over 190 pupils, aged between 4 and 11 years of age, taught in single year group classes.

The classrooms are linked by a bright corridor which houses the school library and provides a dedicated space for group work activities. Our music room is well used for instrumental lessons and the school hall, fully equipped for gymnastics, is also used as a space where the whole school can gather for collective worship, assemblies and performances.

## Space to play and learn

Our picturesque grounds include a large playing field, a wrap-around playground, a small woodland area and play apparatus. Our peace and prayer garden provide children with a quiet space they can reflect and find peace. Through cultivating our vegetable garden and orchard children learn more about where their food comes from and how to stay healthy. Our pond and wildlife area create an ideal space for studying insects and animals in their natural habitats.

*“We are educated really well and I like forest school.” **Maiya 9***





We are proud of our music and performance tradition.

### **Fit for life and fit for learning**

We want our children to be active and to enjoy physical activity. All our pupils have two PE lessons every week and over the year will engage in dance, games, gymnastics, yoga and athletics. Year 4 also go swimming every week. In addition to this, during the week, the children take part in running outside for 10 minutes, as part of 'The Daily Mile' initiative and enjoy 'Wake and Shake', led by our pupil sports leaders.

Over the year, we ensure that every child takes part in a sporting festival or tournament with other local primary schools and can compete in a range of track and field events for their respective houses (Yatton Keynell, Biddestone, Nettleton and Burton and Castle Combe) at our annual school sports day. These events help the children to experience the more competitive aspects of sport.

### **Enrichment**

There are many opportunities for pupils to grow in confidence at By Brook Valley. We are proud of our music and performance tradition. Every year, all children have the opportunity to perform, on stage, to their families.

The children also share their learning during class assemblies and through the learning of languages.

Our curriculum is enriched through visits, both day and residential, and through visitors who are experts in their field, coming into school to work alongside staff and children.

### **Beyond the School Day**

We offer a diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities and clubs which are planned on a term by term basis.

We are able to offer our families breakfast club from 7.45am and after-school club until 5.45pm (5pm on a Friday) where children can have fun and are cared for at either end of the school day.

# Teaching and learning

Our broad and balanced curriculum is built on our vision of “Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly” and underpinned by our Christian core values of Hope, Honesty, Forgiveness and Friendship and reflects the needs of our community. Our curriculum gives pupils the confidence, knowledge, skills and learning behaviours to allow them to be successful and flourish now and in the future so that they can make a positive and unique contribution to the world.

We aim to:

- Value every child, respecting and celebrating each one as unique through our core values, adapting and personalising the learning, high quality personal, relationship, social and health education; and high quality religious education in line with our Christian foundation.

- Encourage and develop the joy of learning in all children through being creative, vibrant and engaging in our approaches to teaching and learning.
- Develop curiosity and deepen understanding through use of ‘big questions’ so that pupils can demonstrate their new knowledge and deeper understanding.
- Provide high quality, enriching and engaging experiences to enable pupils to grow and develop personally, creatively, physically and academically, as individuals and within a variety of relationships. We aim to link learning within and across the curriculum and different aspects of school life.
- Develop knowledge and skills as pupils make their journey

through their primary school education, enabling pupils to integrate new learning and build on prior knowledge and understanding.

- Root learning in real world, first-hand and relevant experiences through providing quality, well – planned and purposeful activities and experiences, in and outside of the classroom, within the school grounds, the local community and within the wider world.
- Promote the importance of reading and ensure that it is a central part in all teaching and learning. We use high quality texts and a range of genres to challenge pupils, extend their vocabulary and understanding of language so they can apply it across all areas of learning.



## Cultivating a love of learning

Teaching is not something we do to the children: we encourage them to be active participants, solving problems, developing independent skills and learning about themselves as learners. We embrace the era of new technology and integrate digital learning tools into teaching and learning in our classrooms. In this way we equip our pupils with the skills that will not only enable them to be successful in academic terms, but also enable them to face new challenges or uncertainty with confidence.

## Capturing imaginations

We believe that each child is unique and should have the care and support to reach their potential and become independent learners. Our highly skilled and dedicated teaching team impart an excitement and a joy of learning – capturing imaginations and stimulating children’s curiosity and their capacity to learn.

The whole curriculum provides opportunities for all pupils to understand, respect and celebrate difference and diversity.

“I like the learning especially our World War Two topic in History and English.” **Sophia 9**



Our Curriculum is built on our vision of “Roots to grow and wings to fly”.



# Ways we communicate with parents

Regular communication between home and school is a vital part of our partnership with parents/carers.

## Parent – Teacher Meetings

Twice a year there is the opportunity for parents to meet with the class teacher to discuss their child's achievements, progress and next steps.

## Attainment and progress reports

A full written report is sent home to parents following the Easter break. Information is also shared with parents at the end of the academic year.

## Linger and learn

Throughout the year there are opportunities for you to stay at the beginning of the day or join your child's class in the afternoon to share their learning.

Fortnightly, we send a newsletter out to families containing key dates, school information, forthcoming events and other items of interest relating to school life.

## Website class pages

The school website provides an essential form of communication. The class pages keep you up to date with the learning in each year group. We encourage you to view the class pages by visiting [bybrookvalleyschool.co.uk](http://bybrookvalleyschool.co.uk)

## Meet class teachers

There is an opportunity to meet with class teachers at the end of the school day or arrange an appointment for a time that works for you. Visit our reception and speak to a member of our friendly office team, call or email the school office.

## FoBBVs

We have an active group of parents and friends who fundraise for the school through organising a wide-range of activities and events for the pupils and their families such as: fetes, discos, film nights, a family bike ride and BBQ at Castle Combe Race Track and a sponsored school run – a 1,000 miles in one day!

“By Brook is inclusive and we celebrate that everyone is unique.” **Poppy 11**

“Every single child is helped with their learning no matter who they are.”  
**Martha 10**



# Visit us

We run Open Days throughout the Autumn Term to give families the opportunity to get a feel for what life is really like at By Brook Valley. During your visit you will have the chance to tour the school building and grounds, talk to the Head Teacher and discuss your child and their needs in detail. To register your interest in attending, please call the School Office.

“Everyone at By Brook is really friendly and support you no matter who you are and where you are from.” **Lewis 10**



“Whenever I, or other Governors, visit By Brook Valley we are always impressed by the hard-working, calm and happy atmosphere we see.

The School vision and core values of Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness and Hope are deep rooted, evidenced through the curriculum and the whole school experience, preparing the children for life, to achieve their potential as learners and be thoughtful, responsible and confident members of the community.”

Chair of Governors, 2021



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