



# Welcome to Meppershall Church of England Academy





Love of God - Love of life - Love of learning - Love of each other

Welcome to Meppershall Church of England Academy where we hope you will take this opportunity to talk to our staff and wonderful pupils to find out what Meppershall has to offer.

Meppershall is a small Church of England school set in the heart of a village community. The school has strong links with our village church and follows the educational vision set out by the Church of England which embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children. We really value the development of the whole child and work to prepare them to become well-rounded lifelong learners. Now an established part of the Poppy Hill Academy Trust, we work alongside Henlow Church of England Academy to open up a wealth of opportunities and expertise thereby enhancing the learning opportunities of all pupils. Some of examples of this collaboration include:

- Specialist teacher expertise
- Use of Henlow's mini buses
- Opportunities to use Henlow's excellent facilities
- Business support and administration
- Access to a large SEND team

Mrs Margaret Newman  
Head of School



Mrs Caren Earp  
Executive Headteacher



# THE MEPPERSHALL ETHOS, VISION & VALUES

## OUR ETHOS

Our school is a place where:

- each child learns and grows through a curriculum that offers new opportunities, encourages ambition and celebrates diversity
- each child is celebrated as unique and has opportunities to flourish
- the wellbeing of each child is prioritised so they grow in confidence of who they are and what they can achieve

## OUR VISION

Our vision is for each child to thrive, in an environment of faith, aspiration, creativity, challenge and celebration; and to make their own unique contribution to the school, the community and the wider world. It is based on two texts from the Bible:

**“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them.”**  
(1 John 4:16)

**“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”**  
(Proverbs 22:6)

## OUR VALUES

We show Love of God, Love of life, Love of learning, Love of each other through Living Our Values Every Day. The values which reflect this are: Respect, Compassion, Generosity, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Service, Courage, Friendship, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice.



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# EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years. Our curriculum is designed to recognise children's prior learning, both from previous settings and their experiences at home. We work in partnership with parents, carers and other settings to provide the best possible start at Meppershall Church of England Academy, ensuring each individual reaches their full potential from their various starting points.



Our curriculum has been designed to enable children to succeed through cooperative and collaborative learning principles. As such, there is a strong emphasis on the Prime Areas of learning; Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication and Language. Our enabling environments and warm, skilful adult interactions support the children as they begin to link learning to their play and exploration right from the start. We believe that high level engagement ensures high level attainment. We therefore provide an engaging curriculum that maximises opportunities for meaningful cross-curricular links and learning experiences, as well as promoting the unique child by offering extended periods of play and sustained thinking, using ITMP (In the Moment Planning).



We follow children's interests and ideas to foster a lifelong love of learning both in and outside of school. By the end of the Reception year, our intent is to ensure that all children make at least good progress from their starting points and are equipped with the skills and knowledge to have a smooth transition into Year 1.

# THE MEPPERSHALL LEARNING JOURNEY

At Meppershall Church of England Academy we believe that a curriculum is everything a child experiences in school, whether planned or unplanned. We have a strong commitment to providing the best possible chance for every child to thrive by engaging in learning both within and beyond the classroom.

Our curriculum is designed to develop the academic, the physical and the emotional well-being of children. We help them acquire strategies which develop resilience and enhance mental wealth.

We provide a curriculum where connections are made between individual subjects and where children's interests shape the learning experiences we provide. The curriculum is sequential, building on previous knowledge and skills so that they become embedded in children's long term memory and can be transferred to different contexts. We plan opportunities for them to be creative, to experiment, explore and vitally, to make mistakes from which they will learn and grow.

We tailor our curriculum to meet the needs of all learners, understanding each child is unique and comes to school with a wealth of different experiences and opportunities.





We believe our children need to be familiar with the growing locality in which they live and understand how they fit within it. We recognise that for children to thrive in the wider world exposure to the diversity of cultures and faiths that demonstrate the richness of our country is important. We have planned activities throughout the curriculum to immerse our pupils in culturally diverse experiences in the local area.

Children need opportunities to develop their voice so they can stand up for what is right and speak out against things that are wrong. Our curriculum includes activities to develop their confidence in speaking and listening through purposeful classroom talk and rich conversations, where they express their own opinions and learn to agree and disagree respectfully with others.

Our commitment to ensuring that all children experience a broad education is underpinned by ensuring that they understand the role and purpose of Christian values in their lives. By living these values every day, they learn to become successful individuals within our community, and be prepared for living in the world beyond.

Meppershall Church of England Academy is now a primary school. Year 5 and 6 are currently educated at Henlow Church of England Academy's site. This gives pupils access to specialist areas such as science labs, computer suites and state of the art sport facilities.

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# THE CARE OF OUR PUPILS

## TRANSITION

We work closely with our feeder preschool and other settings to ensure that transition is smooth and efficient. Pupils are visited by the school and are able to experience the school on numerous occasions and meet their new teacher before they join Meppershall Church of England Academy.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to gather together as part of our collective worship programme. We hold whole school and class collective worship on a regular basis. Collective worship allow us to address current events, engage with moral themes and to explore national and international issues. They focus on our values linked to Christian teachings and Bible Stories. Pupils also have a weekly celebration of effort, good work and Christian values. Achievements out of school are also celebrated and children are encouraged to bring in medals, certificates etc. We learn age appropriate Christian songs to sing within our daily worship.

## REWARDS

Our rewards system is based on positive community actions or on attainment and/or progress for the individual. Pupils may be rewarded as follows:

- Non-verbal rewards such as a thumbs up sign or a smile
- Verbal praise
- A certificate
- Golden Value of the Week
- Star Learner of the Week
- Informing parents
- Displaying work
- Whole school point system
- Headteacher Award



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## PASTORAL STRUCTURE

Our pastoral structure is based around class teachers who are the first point of contact for parents and will have the best working knowledge of your child. Parents/Carers are welcome to speak briefly to the teacher at the start and end of the school day. If a longer conversation is needed, the class teacher will make you an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

At Meppershall Church of England Academy the welfare of our pupils is at the heart of all we do. We offer a range of support to our pupils through onsite staff and external agencies.

These include:

### 1:1 support to:

- Develop confidence and self esteem.
- To build resilience.
- Learn coping strategies for anxiety or anger.
- Have opportunity to talk through issues and concerns.
- Provide a “listening ear”.

### Group work:

- For friends to work together to solve friendship issues including Restorative Justice.
- Peer work for older pupils to support younger pupils.

We are in liaison with other agencies and individuals to whom we can make referrals to further support pupils and families, including School Nurse, CHUMs and The Early Help Assessment Team.

Over recent years Meppershall has organised and hosted a range of interventions with external agencies such as Horse Therapy, Mind Fit, Pets as Therapy dog and Jigsaw intervention.

## SEND

At Meppershall Church of England Academy, we support and value the abilities of all our pupils. It is our duty to provide equal opportunities for every person in our care and a safe and fully equipped learning environment which caters to the needs of every child as an individual. We are committed to inclusion within the school curriculum and participation in all aspects of school life. We provide an exciting, creative and effective learning environment, recognising and responding to individual learning styles. We aim to help each child experience success and to reach their full potential by providing the highest standard of education and care. We believe that Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is a whole school responsibility and that ‘every teacher is a teacher of SEND’.

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# ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that the children's school life is greatly enriched by additional activities outside normal lesson time. We run a activities designed to meet the interests and passions of our pupils. At Meppershall we offer a wide variety of educational visits to places both near and far.

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES...



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are proud to have a School Council at Meppershall. School Council is open to all pupils to participate in. The group provides a student voice to decisions that happen around school. This includes interviewing new staff, contributing to the school newsletter and running school charity events.

## CHARITY

At Meppershall we are committed to raising money for national and local charities such as The Need Project, Children in Need and Comic Relief. During the last school year we raised over £3000 to support a variety of causes. Each year money is raised through a huge range of activities, including cake sales, break the rules day and non-uniform days. The money supports numerous charities decided by School Council.

## MUSIC

We offer all pupils the opportunity to take up playing a musical instrument during their time at Meppershall. We also offer a variety of musical opportunities including:

- Choir
- Young Voices
- Violin Teacher

Our Choir sing regularly in church and our collective worship. Our Young Voices group attend the annual Young Voices event at the O2 in London. Our Year 5's take part in Henlow Church of England Academy's Anti-bullying Concert as part of Anti-bullying Week.

## DRAMA

Our Drama Department puts together two performances a year. At Christmas we put on a traditional Nativity performance in school, a Grandparents Concert and Candle Light Service in St Mary's Church. During the summer term there is also a Key Stage 2 production.

## RESIDENTIAL AND DAY TRIPS

We offer a wide range of experiences which include cultural, sporting and adventure activities. Students are able to develop an understanding of British values and those of other cultures.

Throughout the year, trips on offer to Meppershall pupils include, Bedford Faith Tour, Hitchin Museum, St Albans Cathedral and the Barn Nativity. All year groups also visit St Mary's Church in Meppershall termly for a church service. As well as offering a range of trips outside of school, we welcome various visitors and experiences into school. This includes regular visits from Rev. Roni Goodman and Keith and Ruth Callard from St. Mary's Church, Hitchin Museum, the fire service, Mindfit and therapy dog.

Pupils in Year 4 and Year 6 have the opportunity to attend a residential trip: Caythorpe and Kingswood.



# Meppershall Church of England Academy

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