



Caldecote Church of England Academy Prospectus

Headteacher: Sarah Young B.Ed Hons. MCCT NPQH





Welcome to Our School

Dear Families,

The Trust, school governors, staff team and pupils would like to welcome you to Caldecote CE Academy, to set off on a successful learning journey together.

We admit children from 4 to 11 years old, with pupils able to apply to our Reception setting from the September after their 4th birthday. We are delighted to offer nursery provision for children from the term after their 3rd birthday. Caldecote CE Academy is a happy and lively school, with dedicated staff who care for and value your children as individuals. Being a small school, our staff and families know each other well and cater for their individual needs within a caring environment.

Education lays the foundation for successful future life. In order to provide those first important steps, we aim to provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community. We ensure that your child's first experience of school is inspiring and provides valuable life experiences and encourages them to grow in confidence, resilience and determination. Our curriculum is rich, deep and diverse and provides the children with valuable life experiences in preparation for an ever-changing world. We nurture the social, emotional, physical, spiritual and moral development of each child and encourage them to be considerate, courteous and co-operative.

Our children are taught to develop a growth mindset, determination and perseverance to enable them to become independent learners. These are developed through their time at our school, in preparation for their future journeys.

This prospectus will give you an overview of our school and a feel for its philosophy and ethos. Please do contact us if you would like to visit or if you have any questions.

We look forward to meeting you and your child.

Sarah Young and the Caldecote Team
Headteacher

Caldecote CE Academy
Manor Place,
Upper Caldecote
SG18 9DA
01767 316206
caldecote@caldecoteceacademy.co.uk



'Living and learning together. Flourishing in faith.'

The school's mission statement fully supports and works alongside the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust vision: *Learning to flourish through love and faith.*

As a Church of England school, we teach, model and follow Christian values. We specifically focus on each value for half a term over the course of two years.





Our School Values

At Caldecote CE Academy, we follow Roots and Fruits to support our work on values and personal development. We focus on a different value each half term on a two-year rolling programme. We give the golden tokens when they demonstrate a value. These are given to children in the moment. The tokens contribute to the a reward for the overall winning team each half term.

- ❖ Generosity
- ❖ Compassion
- ❖ Courage
- ❖ Forgiveness
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Thankfulness
- ❖ Trust
- ❖ Perseverance
- ❖ Justice
- ❖ Service
- ❖ Truthfulness

‘Pupils say that their school is a good place to learn because they have values.’

SIAMS Report



‘Christian values permeate the school.’

SIAMS Report



About Our School

Caldecote Church of England Academy is part of the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust. This means that the education of the children is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The aim of all Church schools is to provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring, Christian community. As such, we have strong links with Upper Caldecote Methodist Church, which children visit for special services.

The school is situated in the village of Upper Caldecote, approximately two miles from Biggleswade. It dates back to 1860 when the Rector of Northill, Rev. Arthur S. Pott, advocated that a school be built.

The current building is a single storey, opened in September 1982, set in spacious, pleasant grounds and contains a main hall, four classrooms and a library. In addition, the school benefits from recently extended playing fields, a hard surface play area, an adventure trim-trail and a large school garden. We are also fortunate to have a developing forest school area with staff who are trained Forest School leads who are able to provide opportunities for outdoor learning.





Our School

Our school is organised into 4 classes. We have a purpose designed Foundation Stage classroom. This is Concorde Class for our nursery and reception age children.



‘From the moment children start in the Nursery, they are welcomed into the school’s close-knit community. Staff ensure they get to know pupils and their families well. This helps children settle quickly.’

Ofsted 2024

‘All pupils in the school play well together during breaktimes.’

Ofsted 2024



Feedback about Caldecote CE Academy

"Caldecote CE Academy is a lovely, friendly village school with a dedicated and hardworking staff who do their very best to meet the needs of individual children" (Parent)

"Just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for checking in, caring and really helping make the start of term go well." (Parent)

"I was particularly taken with the happiness and positivity that exuded from everyone in the school. There is an imaginative and structured vision for the children's ongoing development." (Our local MP)

"The children you introduced us to were delightful and well behaved. I was impressed by pupils who could confidently articulate and explain the 3 key rules for behaviour in your school." (Chair of the Trust Board)

"A huge thank you from us. Your support has made my child feel safe and secure and able to learn." (Parent)

"Thank you for everything you have done for me at this school. The world needs more great schools like this." (Child)



Richard Fuller MP discussing COP26 with our children



Caldecote CE Academy Curriculum

Schools have a central role in equipping our children for a fast-paced, ever-changing world. In 2019, we launched our newly designed curriculum in response to the needs of our children. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all of our children meet their full potential spiritually, morally, emotionally, socially, culturally and physically as well as academically. Our curriculum is designed to promote a love of learning, collaborative learning and most importantly, develop the foundations, skills and attitudes to enable our children to become resilient, confident, responsible and creative adults.

The curriculum is adapted as the children and our wider world face different challenges. We want our children to become creative thinkers, problem solvers, determined learners and resilient young people who feel confident about heading into their futures.

We appreciate that every child learns in their own way and has their own unique starting points so we are committed to regular assessment so that we can identify what each child needs in order to reach their potential.

‘Pupils behave well and display good levels of focus in lessons. Teachers have consistent expectations of what pupils should achieve. They ensure that disruption to pupils’ learning is rare. This means pupils can work hard without distractions.’

Ofsted 2024



In order to deliver our science, history and geography programmes most effectively, we have a two-year rolling programme of themes. During the children's time at Caldecote, they will meet each one three times, each time with a different focus, aim and increasing level of challenge and content.

Humans and Other Animals

The main foci of this topic are Science and Geography, particularly the following areas of study:

- Living things and their habitats
- Animals including humans
- Evolution and inheritance
- The Equator
- Hot and Cold countries
- Rocks and soils
- Global Warming
- Earthquakes and Volcanoes



Picture courtesy of BBC bitesize Key Stage 2 science



Picture courtesy of University of Westminster

Explorers

The main foci of this topic are History, Science and Geography, particularly the following areas of study:

- Oceans and Continents
- Map Skills
- Famous Explorers
- Geographical features
- Locating Countries
- Tudors and Stuarts
- Tudor Exploration
- Magnetism and Forces
- Earth and Space

Through the Ages

The main focus of this topic is History, particularly the following areas of study:

- Changes within living memory
- Events beyond living memory including World War 2
- Changes in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's Settlement of Anglo-Saxons
- A study of an aspect in British History

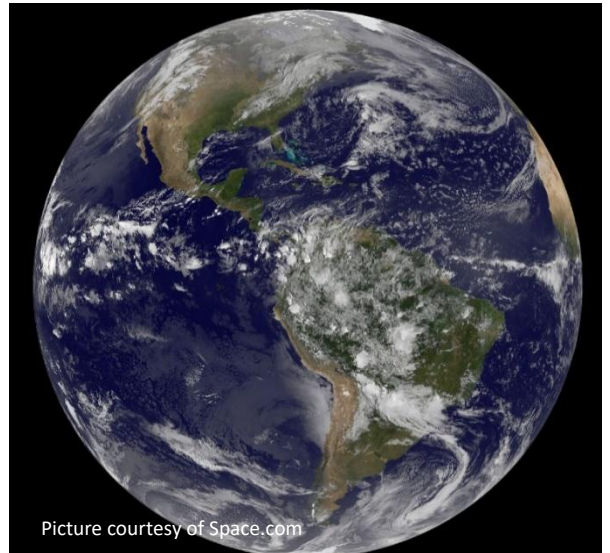




Our Blue Planet

The main foci of this topic are Science and Geography, particularly the following areas of study:

- Seasonal Changes
- Plants
- Brazil
- Weather
- Rainforests
- Land use patterns
- Climate
- Human impact on the world



Inventions

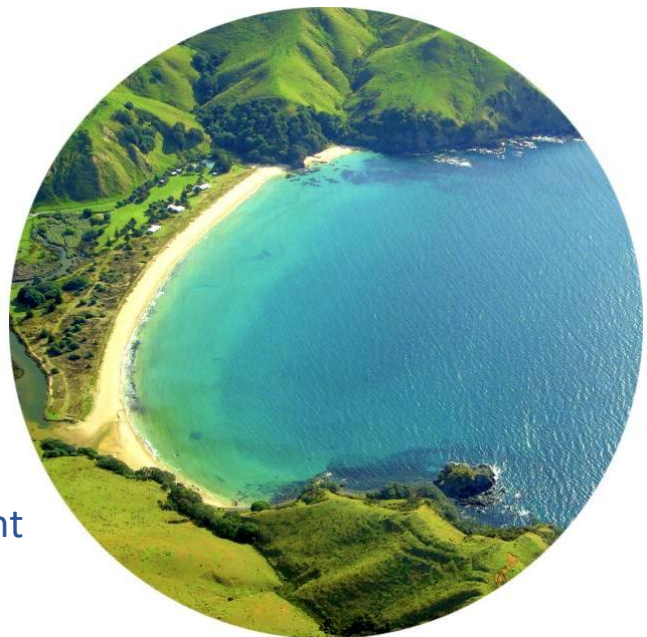
The main foci of this topic are Science and History, particularly the following areas of study:

- Everyday materials
- Light
- States of Matter
- Sound
- Electricity
- Battle of Britain
- Local history study linked to Shuttleworth
- History of transport including flight and railways

Coasts

The main foci of this topic are Science and Geography, particularly the following areas of study:

- Beaches
- Food chains
- Comparing UK and other parts of the world
- River formation
- Changes to coastal areas
- Water cycle



‘Content is planned out clearly and brought to life through purposeful enrichment opportunities, such as a visit to a virtual rock pool to support a coastline topic.’
Ofsted 2024



Learning to Read at Caldecote CE Academy



Read Write Inc (RWInc) is a phonics complete literacy programme which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7. At Caldecote CE Academy, we begin the programme in Nursery and will continue teaching RWInc to children beyond the age of 7 if they still need support in their reading. More information on this can be found at <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>.

‘Staff are well trained to teach phonics precisely and skilfully. Pupils read books that are well matched to the sounds that they have already mastered. This helps them read with increasing fluency and confidence.’

Ofsted 2024

Picture courtesy of Oxford Owl



“Children talked about their experience of having a reading ambassador [author Gillian McClure] visiting their school regularly and how they enjoyed meeting her and having a book signed by her.”

Visiting headteacher 2022



Our Library



As reading is such an important focus, we have ensured that our library is well stocked and welcoming. The children enjoy spending time reading and looking at the books. They are able to take books home from the library to enjoy with you at home.



‘Pupils read well.’

Ofsted 2024



‘Pupils who do not keep up with the programme receive swift support, enabling them to catch up.’

Ofsted 2024



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years is a critical stage of your child's development. They are naturally curious. We develop their learning through play where the children can explore, create and discover.



The classroom is bright, colourful and stimulating.



We follow the Foundation Stage curriculum where there is a strong emphasis on the children's interests alongside reading, writing, number and personal development. The staff plan a structured programme of play and learning to develop the social, emotional and learning needs of each child.





We are very fortunate to have a large outdoor area for our Foundation Stage children to use. Here we have a range of physical activities such as climbing, monkey bars and building. These help to develop co-ordination, control and movement.





Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, the children continue their learning journey with a more structured timetable and carefully considered curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on developing confidence in phonics, reading for pleasure, writing and maths. The children are afforded a range of opportunities across the whole curriculum. In theme work, the children develop their skills as historians, scientists, computing technicians, geographers, designers, artists, musicians and sportspeople. We encourage the application, development and reinforcement of English and maths skills across all areas.

Key Stage 2

The development of each individual child continues in Key Stage 2 where the curriculum is designed to build on previous knowledge, skills and understanding. Highly trained and experienced teachers work closely with the children to continue to build confidence, enthusiasm, motivation and resilience.

Children continue to learn from mistakes and see these as a way of improving, within a safe and secure environment. Further strategies are employed to support the children, who are always encouraged to engage fully and take responsibility for their own learning. We expect all children to strive for the highest possible standards.

The children are given a variety of responsibilities in Key Stage 2, including Head Student, Lunch Bunch, librarians, book buddies and play leaders.



Mr Blunt training our children in first aid skills



Maths

The teaching of maths begins in the Foundation Stage through the use of songs, stories, games and play. Teaching staff interact with the children to support their development of mathematical language and understanding.

Throughout Key Stages 1 and 2, maths is taught as a stand alone subject and is planned into all other areas of the curriculum where possible and appropriate. We teach our children to look for patterns, to develop fluency and confidence with number and to work logically. We follow Herts for Learning for maths which is a scheme that we adapt to suit the needs of our children.

We use TT Rockstars as a way of supporting the children to learn their times table facts. This is used from Key Stage 1 and the children really enjoy Battle of the Bands.



'I love TT Rockstars. I like to compete against my friends and the teachers!'

Year 4 pupil 2022

"I am so proud of myself for becoming a Rock Star!"

Year 4 pupil 2022



Religious Education

Caldecote CE Academy is a Church of England School. We recognise that for some of our families, faith is important, whilst others may have none. As an inclusive school, we welcome everyone and ensure that every child, family and staff member feels valued.

We have close links with churches in Upper Caldecote and welcome members of the church community into our school for talks, collective worship and presentations.



We follow the Agreed Syllabus provided by Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. The syllabus aims to embed the 'Understanding Christianity' resource with the key purpose of supporting pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity.

We teach the children about all of the major world faiths and invite those of other faiths to speak with our children, so that they may develop understanding, tolerance and respect for all faiths.

'SMSC development is also supported through learning in RE, where pupils develop an understanding that there are other faiths and different ways of worshipping.'

SIAMS Report 2018



Safeguarding

Caldecote Church of England Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the school community to share this commitment. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.



We use CPOMS as an electronic method of recording all safeguarding concerns. This ensures that the information is secure and can be shared securely when necessary.

The safety and well-being of all children and young people is of paramount importance. We recognise that families send their children to our safe and secure school in which their children flourish. We have a wide range of measures in place to ensure this is put into practice and is maintained. Children are taught about how to keep themselves safe in the real world and online and know what to do if they feel unsafe.

Children have a right to feel safe and should be protected. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

‘Leaders meticulously and promptly follow up concerns they have about pupils. Leaders work hard to get the help needed to support the most vulnerable pupils and families, so they get the best help that they need.’

Ofsted 2021

‘The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.’

Ofsted 2024



Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

‘A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she: has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.’ Children and Families Act 2014

Our SENDCo., Mrs Lesley Hulbert has accreditation with the NASCO (National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination). She is responsible for reviewing and helping identify children who have any additional needs. She is also the contact point offering support and advice for families. We also offer a family support worker to work within the family home offering flexible tailored support to meet individual family needs.

“Sincere and heartfelt thanks for all you have done for my child to help him with all of his needs and for supporting us as a family. It is so reassuring to have such an approachable and caring teacher.”

Parent 2022



Forest School

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Forest School Association.

We are very fortunate that we have two trained Forest School Leaders who work with children across the whole school. Our grounds provide a fantastic forest school area in which the children are able to explore, build, discover, work together and learn about the environment.





Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

We are very fortunate to have an active and committed PTFA, who work tirelessly to raise funds to improve and support the development of our school. They meet regularly and provide a range of opportunities for the children, including afternoon tea with families, crafts, sports, games and discos.





Wraparound Care

At Caldecote CE Academy, we provide wraparound care for all of our children from 7.50am until 4.30pm. Families can book their children into breakfast and after school clubs on Arbor. We currently run Masquerades drama group, SSG sports, cookery and art and craft clubs.

Family Support Group

In addition to everything you have already seen in our prospectus, we are working with families to on a family support group where families can meet in school to find out about what the children do, how they learn and how staff work on positive behaviour strategies to name a few. We would welcome families who would like to join us on this exciting journey.

For more information....

This prospectus gives families and children just a snapshot of our school. If you would like more information, please do call us on 01767 316206 to arrange a visit.

You can also find lots of information on our website:

<https://www.caldecoteceacademy.co.uk/>

We look forward to meeting you soon!