

Barley and Barkway (VA) Church of England First Schools Federation

PROSPECTUS

Headteacher's Welcome

Your child, who is unique and precious to you, will be welcomed to Barley and Barkway Federation with love and support. We ensure he or she will have a stimulating, challenging and fun learning experience. We help children to develop the skills they need to be the best they possibly can in a rapidly changing world. Barley Barkway pupils are supported in developing a moral and spiritual awareness of the society to which we all belong, a community in which we have not only rights but responsibilities.

Our Federation vision is to work with parents and governors and the Diocese of St. Albans to provide an outstanding Christian education, inspiring confidence and enthusiasm as well as positively impacting and preparing pupils for the rest of their lives. We look to instill

Faith · Curiosity · Wellbeing · Confidence

in our pupils so they are ready to face the challenges of the world around them and start their lifelong learning journey

I hope you are captured by the warmth and charm of our two small first schools and that we can welcome you into our community very soon.

We will foster academic, emotional, spiritual, and cultural well-being for all leading to "Life in all its fullness" John 10.



OUR FEDERATION VALUES

As a school community, we have identified qualities, behaviours, and character attributes that we cherish. We have adopted twelve values which we follow over a two-year cycle. Our school values underpin everything that our staff, students, and governors aspire to achieve.























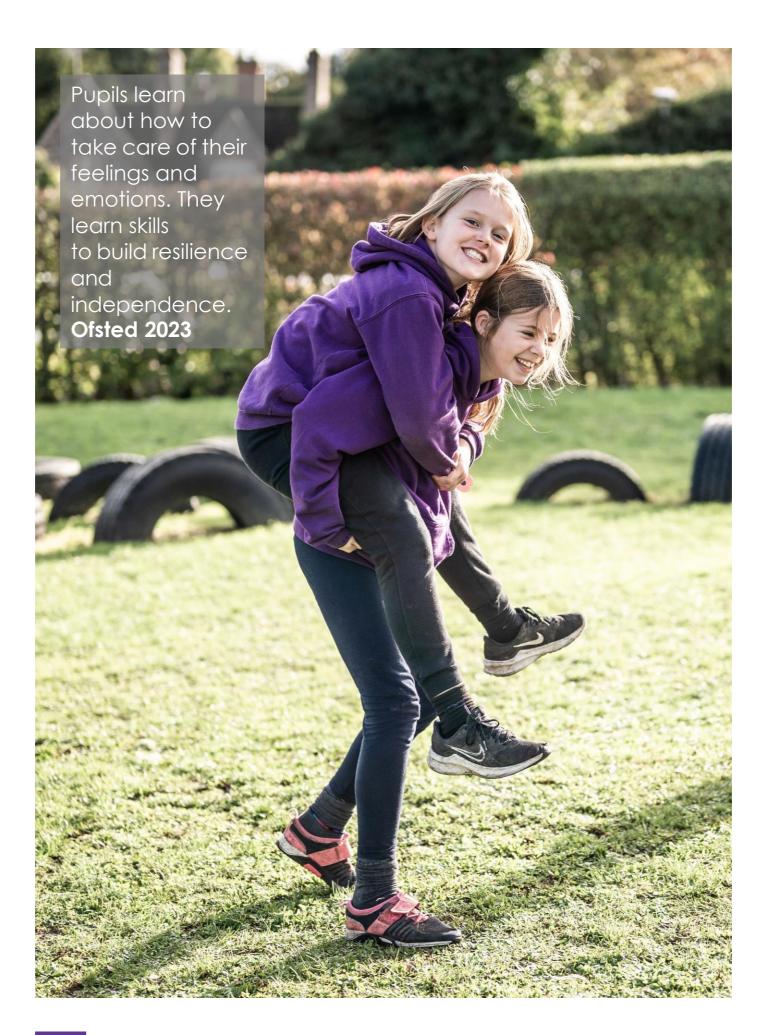


Curriculum

Our curriculum is ambitious, and children learn sequentially in single year groups from EYFS to year 4 across all subjects. Ofsted recognises that our pupils achieve well and know that learning is important. Our small class sizes mean that learning can be personalised, ensuring effective progress.

Our pupils experience a wide range of opportunities delivered through high quality teaching and learning in our classrooms. We have expert sports coaches in PE, specialist art and modern languages teachers, outdoor learning at our nearby Forest School and participation in many events both in and out of school which enhance our vibrant, broad-based curriculum. We remember we are part of a community and have links with the local care home, Margaret House. Pupils read with the residents and residents join in our afterschool clubs to mention a few shared activities. Children leave our schools ready to begin the next phase of their education as curious and independent learners who tackle tasks resiliently. As church schools, we share in collective worship in our schools and at our local churches in Barley and Barkway.





English

Reading and writing are key for children to be able to access the wider curriculum. Starting from when your child first looks at picture books, learning phonics and letter foundation continues right up to year 4 when children are writing impressively longer pieces of work.

A love of reading is encouraged from the start and we celebrate reading at every opportunity. We send home books to read, to practice reading as well as sharing books to enjoy with parents.

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, reading is taught through a phonics approach, using, from September 2023, Little Wandle. In small, guided groups and whole class groups, children are taught fluency, comprehension and expression by the teacher and teaching assistant. In Key Stage 2 children read whole books and focus on comprehension which means the children are encouraged to question and talk about texts as they read.

Writing is taught using Herts for Learning units. Grammar, spelling and handwriting using Letter Join are taught throughout the school. Writing for different purposes, children follow carefully crafted modelling by their teachers. Games and exercises support the learning of spellings. We use Literacy Gold which quickly pinpoints any gaps in children's learning in different areas leading to rapid catch up when needed.

Maths

Maths is taught using White Rose. We follow the 'concrete, pictorial and abstract' approach, using a variety of resources, from Numicon to place value counters, supporting a physical exploration of Maths and encouraging application through a Mastery approach. Daily fluency helps to ensure children practice basic number skills and times tables using TT rock stars to provide challenge.

Science

Science is taught using White Rose which provides a quality science education establishing the foundations for understanding the world. Our pupils are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science which helps to build up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils are encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. Children are encouraged to use sentence story to explain, problems solve and reason about their learning.

Foundation Subjects

History, Geography, Art, DT, RE, music and MFL

A balance of subjects is taught in all year groups ensuring that children focus on learning key skills, knowledge and understanding needed at the appropriate age. Carefully chosen schemes of work are used and adapted by staff to ensure enjoyable and memorable learning at Barley Barkway. Trips and workshops are held throughout the year to enhance children's learning.



Outdoor Learning

Newsells Park is a country house and estate situated in the Hertfordshire countryside between the sites of our village schools. Newsells Park Stud was founded in 1926 by Sir Humphrey de Trafford and the original manor house, was built in the late 17th century. An area of the estate has been set aside for our use and we have a formal forest school for all year groups each half term in the beautiful Newsells Forest area.

The wildlife area at Newsells is of enormous benefit to both pupils and staff. The children have fostered an interest and concern for the environment while developing a wide range of skills that work across the National Curriculum. The Newsells Forest area provides educational and social benefits and is a place to meet for Harvest Services and winter exploring.

Outdoor learning takes place at both sites which are ideal for learning new skills and using the space for enhancing curriculum learning.

ICT

We tap into the enthusiasm that our children show for technology. Keeping safe online is very important and we have regular e-safety sessions in class and work closely to advise parents also. Children have access to iPads and Chromebooks to support their learning in computing and to enhance other areas of the curriculum. Each class has an interactive whiteboard. With secure Wi-fi, we teach computing including basic programming and have a comprehensive and e-safety curriculum that runs through all ICT units taught.



PE

Barley Barkway currently holds the Gold Games Mark in recognition of our excellent PE provision. PE is taught by specialist coaches. Children experience gym, dance, striking and fielding, invasion games and athletics. We have a federation sports day each summer. All children take part and parents are invited to cheer on their children. In Key Stage 2 children take part in competitions with other schools.

We understand the benefits of exercise for both physical and mental health and encourage every child to engage in physical education. Our physical education provision at Barley and Barkway Federation includes two hours of quality P.E. education every week for each child as well as extra-curricular sporting opportunities.



We are Village Schools

Our schools are in the villages of Barley and Barkway both 10 minutes away from Buntingford and Royston. Pupils join us in EYFS (Nursery and Reception) when they are 3 or 4 years old. In Barkway School there is a flourishing Preschool for children aged from 2 and many of our pupils join us from this setting. Pupils stay with us until they are 9 and move to middle schools in Hertfordshire or a primary school in Cambridgeshire or Essex.

https://www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk

Caring for children from the age of two until five, Barkway Preschool is run by caring, qualified staff along with a management committee. Barkway Preschool work in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which sets out the learning and development stages for children as they grow from birth to five years.





Class Organisation

We are on two sites; each being carefully chosen for the advantages they bring to our pupils. Often coming straight from Barkway Preschool, in the same building, our younger children enjoy the playground in Barkway School with its exciting learning areas and the newly refurbished internal space. Our classes are arranged as follows:

BARKWAY Oak Class - Nursery and Reception

Apple Class - Year 1

BARLEY Hazel Class - Year 2

Beech Class - Year 3 Sycamore Class - Year 4

Our older children learn and play at Barley School with its outdoor classroom, large field and wild area, an ideal site for pupils to explore at break times whether playing team games or making camp in the wooded area.



Email: admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Equipped with the latest technology, classrooms are bright and inviting for learners with attractive displays that reflect current work. We use iPads and Chromebooks across all classes to ensure access to computing is universal. Work and play spill outdoors in both schools with gardening and forest school held twice termly at our Newsells Forest on Newsells Park Stud between the two villages.

We have a very active Pupil Council that represents our federation's classes, meeting regularly to consider matters that will affect everyone in school. Ideas for fundraising, an important part of school life, often come from here. Our council links with the council at Essex Primary, a large London school, to share projects. We take part in British Council Award Schemes.





Admissions

Children join our Nursery for up to 5 mornings a week in the term after their 3rd birthday/school year in which they are 4. Many of our Nursery children join Barkway Preschool in the afternoon to take advantage of the 30- hour funding. Applications for Nursery are made through Barkway school.

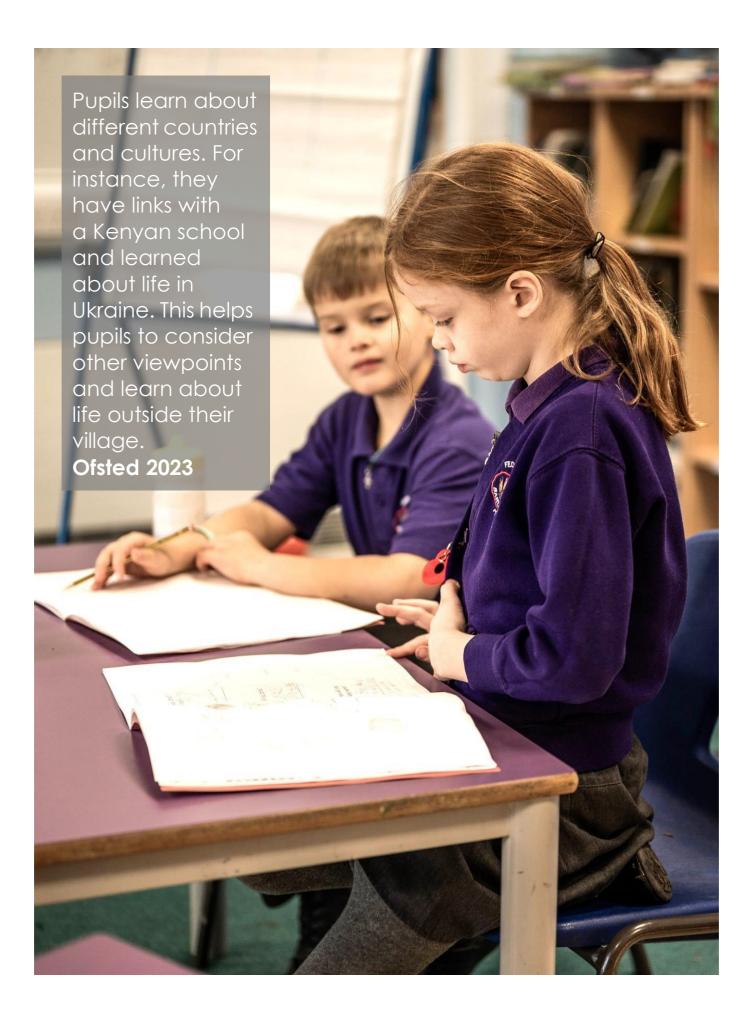
In the event of there being more applicants than there are places available the Governors will apply the criteria ranking in the priority order of categories indicated in our Admission Policy which can be found on our website; https://www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/policies/

Barley Barkway First Schools Federation follows the guidance of Hertfordshire County Council Admissions Policy. For children starting at the commencement of the Reception age group the criteria used is: All schools and academies must admit a child with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan that names the school. Priority is given to children who are looked after, those with medical or social needs, siblings, child's nearest school, children living closest to the school (distance)

For children seeking to join the school after the commencement of the Reception class. Please contact Hertfordshire County Council to instigate an 'In Year Admission', they will allocate a place at Barley Barkway First Schools Federation subject to there being a space.

Policies & Important Documents

Important documents, such as policies, are available on the federation website or from the offices at either school.



Uniform

We believe that school uniform is important because it is practical and enables children to be comfortable as they learn. Children learn through play and practical experiences therefore, the school uniform matches the activities they encounter during their school day and it contributes to a feeling of togetherness and pride within our school.

BOYS Barley Barkway logo School purple jumper Grey trousers or shorts White polo shirt or shirt Grey socks, and black shoes.

GIRLS Barley Barkway logo School purple cardigan or jumper
Grey skirt, skort, pinafore or trousers in winter White polo shirt or blouse
Purple checked dress in summer 'Sensible' low black shoes, grey long
socks or tights in winter, white socks in summer.

Hair longer than shoulder length, should be tied back with plain brown, black or purple hair bands or clips.

PE KIT Barley Barkway purple PE T-shirt Barley Barkway purple hoodie
Black shorts / cycling shorts (logo free)
Plain black tracksuit bottoms or leggings (logo free) Trainers and a spare

pair of socks

PE uniform should be kept in a Barley Barkway School drawstring bag or rucksack.

All children will need the following:

A Barley Barkway School book bag or rucksack A sunhat in summer months

Wellingtons / outdoor boots Waterproof coat for wet weather

Please ensure that ALL articles of clothing are named.

All items with the school logo can be purchased from: Mapac Group Ltd Unit 6, Mowat Industrial Estate, Sandown Road Watford, WD24 7UZ 01923 255525 parentcustomerservices@mapac.net www.mapac.com

FOREST SCHOOL

Outdoor coat

Wellington boots, walking boots or

snow boots

Warm trousers and jumpers

Winter warm hat (preferably covering

ears)

Summer sun hat

Warm gloves (preferably more than

one pair if they get wet)

Leggings under trousers when the

temperature is low

Pupil property

The wearing of loose jewellery is not permitted, on grounds of health and safety. This includes rings, bracelets, and necklaces. If ears are pierced, small plain studs must be worn. If earrings cannot be removed by the child themselves, ears will need to be taped for PE or taken out for the day before coming to school. Exceptions for jewellery can only be made for medical or religious reasons by prior arrangement with the Headteacher. Watches may be worn although there are clocks in every room. Fitbits should not be brought to school. Pupils must not bring any amount of money or valuable items to school.



Clubs

We offer a range of clubs; run both by school staff and outside companies. Current clubs on offer can be seen at https://www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/school-clubs/

Illness and Medicines

In the event of illness during the school day, the school will inform parents using the contact numbers provided on the Data collection sheet. We do ask that if children have suffered vomiting or stomach upsets that are infectious, they are to remain off school for 48 hours after the incident. This helps prevent infection and keeps other children and staff healthy. Children are not allowed to bring tablets or medicines to school. Any medication must be brought onto and taken off site by the child's parent or carer. All requests for school to administer medication should be directed to the school office, where parents will be asked to complete necessary forms.

Medical and Welfare Checks

The Royston, Stevenage and North Herts School Nursing Team make regular visits to the school to organise eyesight, hearing, height and weight checks as well as dental hygiene talks. Parents are informed about these visits in advance.

Home-School Links

We work very closely with parents, recognising that good communication is key. Parents are informed about school activities every week in our Federation Newsletter. Information about upcoming activities are emailed to parents and we also use ClassDojo, a platform that connects parents/teachers/admin allowing information to be shared by all. Teachers share not only information but photos and reports of school activities. Parent consultations to discuss pupils' progress are held in Autumn and Spring terms. A further consultation is offered after the end of year written report is received.



Attendance and Punctuality

It is of the utmost importance that your child's progress in school is not hampered by poor punctuality or inconsistent attendance. Parents are asked to contact school via telephone or email on the first day of an absence caused by illness, by 9am. Unexplained absences are classified as unauthorised. If contact has not been made by close of register, the school will contact parents or carers. Children who attend school regularly and arrive on time have a more settled school life leading to better progress and attainment. The Headteacher is unable to authorise absences for holidays or day trips during term time. Absence during term time is only authorised in exceptional circumstances and you must complete a request form from the school office or school website and submit this 4 weeks prior to the requested leave. Families should understand that requests for any holiday absence is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

School Meals

All children in school are able to enjoy a freshly cooked meal at lunchtime, which include hot or cold options. The meals should be paid for in advance on the School Gateway payment platform. Some families may be eligible for free school meals, details are available on the Hertfordshire County Website
All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for a Universal Free School Meal. Children may bring a packed lunch from home if preferred.

Some children in other year groups may be eligible for free school meals. To check your eligibility please visit https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx. A home-made packed lunch can be brought into school if preferred.

Charging and Remissions Policy

School governing bodies and local authorities, subject to the limited exceptions, cannot charge for education provided during school hours including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment.

However, voluntary contributions can be asked for in order to provide the best quality of education possible. It is important to note that no child will be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. Our policy which clearly sets out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made can be found on our website.

Pupil Behaviour

We follow the Hertfordshire Therapeutic Thinking approach (formerly STEPS) to behaviour management. Unlike traditional processes which place a huge emphasis on rewards and punishments linked to behaviour, Therapeutic Thinking follows a more holistic, relational and universal approach, which is inclusive and can benefit the whole school community. Children's wellbeing plays a big part in their readiness to learn. We seek to work collaboratively with parents at all times to provide support. New families are asked to agree to our "Home School Agreement" which sets out what is expected of pupils, parents and school. https://www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/policies

Collective Worship

There is collective worship every day of one kind or another. Monday's assemblies are led by our Rector or the Headteacher and link with our value for the half term. These are held on Zoom to bring all the children at both schools together. Tuesday sees a Singing Assembly when we rehearse our songs of worship - perhaps for an upcoming service at church. On Wednesday mornings collective worship takes place in classrooms and is followed by our PSHE (Personal, social, health education) programme of lessons. Every Thursday all children begin the day with Yoga from Little Yogis and on Friday everyone in the federation links up to participate in our Achievement Assembly. We welcome parents to this assembly to share in everyone's successes.

As Church schools we celebrate Christian festivals and go to Barley and Barkway churches for these each term, joined by our families.

Christmas and Summer Productions

We have a Nativity and concert each Christmas. In the summer term we hold a Federation Art Exhibition and Music concert where art and music from the year are showcased and shared by everyone in our community.

Pastoral Care

The wellbeing and safeguarding of our pupils is our top priority. Our PSHE (personal, social and health education) programme, SCARF, is designed to promote positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement. Across the schools we have a mental health team trained to support children. Weekly nurture groups are held in both schools and as a federation we take part in local and national initiatives to support mental wellbeing. The schools work with external agencies such as the Education Welfare Officers, Social Workers and medical professionals.

Email: admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Homework

All children receive homework. This is set out at the beginning of the year by the class teacher at an early 'meet the teacher' event when expectations are shared. All children are expected to read at home every day as we recognise that reading is key to accessing the whole of the curriculum both at our school and the next.

School Trips and Workshops

Each year group has the opportunity to take part in school trips and enjoy workshops in school. These enhance the curriculum and make learning even more exciting for pupils.



Child Protection at our Federation

Safeguarding comes at the top of our priorities. Both schools have designated safeguarding personnel and all employees are trained in safeguarding.

Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Sharon Brown Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: (Barkway) Miss Lara Miere, Mr James Watson Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer (Barley): Mrs Naomi Gould

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We value every individual at our schools and work hard to ensure each has equal access to the curriculum and all the opportunities that we offer. Ofsted says:

"Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) achieve well. They learn the same curriculum as their peers and are supported with adaptations to their learning if and when they need this. They take part in all school activities."

Friends of Barley Barkway (FOBBS)

Our PTA works hard to fund raise for our two schools and makes regular contributions to support the purchase of a variety of activities including trips to the pantomime, specialist workshops and additional resources for indoors and out. New members are always welcome. Joining FOBBS is an ideal way to get to know other parents with children at our schools.

Wraparound Care

Barkway School

Barkway Pre-School provide wraparound care for children in Reception and Year 1 at Barkway School, please contact Barkway Pre-School for details and prices, telephone number 07964 151288, info@barkwaypreschool.co.uk

Barley School

Our Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 8:40am (term time only).

The After School Club runs from 3:15pm to 5:15pm, Monday to Friday (term time only). You can choose to opt for 3:15pm to 4:15pm or 3:15pm to 5:15pm.

For a copy of the Parent Handbook which provides full guidance, including cost/registration procedures etc please email admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk.

Office Hours

BARKWAY SCHOOL 8.30am to 12.00pm.

Phone calls after 12.00pm will automatically divert to Barley

School.

BARLEY SCHOOL 8.00am to 3.30pm

Governing Board

We have supportive governors from both villages on our board and all have an important part to play in the strategic direction of the federation.

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS Mrs Amy Martin VICE CHAIRS OF GOVERNORS Mr Andrew Lee

Mrs Kim Kingston

More details about our governing board can be found on our website. https://www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/governors

We look forward to welcoming you to our school very soon.