

**St John's Meads**  
**Church of England Primary School**



**School Prospectus 2023-2024**



Enthusiasm

Responsibility

Attitude

Perseverance

Collaboration

Focus

Independence

## Welcome to St John's Meads Church of England Primary School.

We are a friendly and caring one-form entry primary academy for children aged 4-11 years, with a strong community feel and an active and supportive parent body.

Our Christian distinctiveness is fundamental to our ethos and vision for education. As can be seen from our 'Rainbow Vision', we aim to build both the character and faith of our children by:

- Teaching key learning skills – enthusiasm, responsibility, attitude, perseverance, collaboration, focus and independence;
- Supporting spiritual development through prayer and understanding of The Bible and The Trinity;
- Modelling how to value and respect the world around us and the people in it.

We want our children to love learning and to love one another, as God loves us. We strive for academic success, whilst providing a wealth of high quality learning experiences across a range of curriculum subjects and extra-curricular activities. This enables all children to explore and develop their unique God-given gifts and talents.

Our motto (IN TENEBRIS LUX) is 'In darkness, Light'. It is our hope that children at St John's Meads will develop their understanding and experience of Jesus as their 'light in darkness' and to consider how they can be a light to the world, making a positive contribution to society both now and in the future.

Katherin Weeks  
Headteacher



Being  
Ready

Active

Celebrating  
Success

Learning

Caring  
Community

Positive  
Communication

Building  
Independence

## Our Vision

Loving learning and loving one another, as God loves us.  
Celebrating success in its many forms and overcoming challenges.  
Praying for and caring for our whole community.  
Living in the light of Christ and as a light to others.





# Our Aims and Ethos

**We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is interwoven in all we do - through our curriculum, policies, daily collective worship, pastoral care and our approach to pastoral support.** We have very close links with St John's Church and share a 'Children and Families Leader' (Kim Leach) with them. Kim co-ordinates our links with other churches, our collective worship themes, our Christian outreach and events, Pastoral Care sessions and our Prayer and Reflection Spaces.

**Religious Education** is considered a 'core subject'. We use resources and planning from 'Understanding Christianity' and 'The Emanuel Project' to support teaching and learning. Children learn about and reflect on the key themes of: God, Creation and Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation, and the Kingdom of God. Our collective worship is wholly Christian but our RE lessons also include learning about other faiths, this is because it is vital that children are taught to understand and respect the views of others and for everyone to be able to express, reflect, develop and question their own views in a safe and mutually respectful environment.

**Pastoral Care** - Some elements of RE and SMSC are also taught through 'Pastoral Care' sessions where children are grouped with their own siblings and other children of different ages. This contributes to the family feel of our school and helps children of different ages to get to know and support one-another. Example themes for these sessions are: Made in God's image, Remembrance, Anti-bullying, Women's Day, The Trinity, Lent, Harvest.

**Pastoral Support** - We recognise that sometimes children need extra support to maintain their wellbeing and social development and we are committed (financially and through ongoing training) to being able to provide this for children who need it. This might include 'Nurture', Drawing and Talking Therapy, or support from a Family Key Worker. We also now have a school counsellor Jess Burch (through children's mental health charity Place2Be) who works with children, staff and families two days per week as well as Stacey Newell who is our Family Support Worker in school.





# Science

From the Early Years Foundation Stage, children are encouraged to have a curiosity for 'Understanding the World'. Leading on from this, we aim to provide our children with the opportunities to learn about and enjoy science through practical experiences and develop learning skills such as planning, predicting, testing and problem solving that can be used across the curriculum. Science makes an extremely valuable contribution to all aspects of life and through our reading materials, assemblies and parent workshops, we also raise children's awareness of jobs that use STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills.

We also participate in themed days/weeks to promote children's love of science, including World Space Week and National Science Week.





# English

Fluency in speaking, reading and writing is an essential foundation for success and enjoyment in all subjects.

**Phonics:** We use the accredited synthetic phonics programme 'Jolly Phonics', which incorporates stories, songs and actions to further support learning. Our phonetically decodable reading books are matched to children's developing phonics knowledge. Children also bring home words strips and word key rings to encourage regular blending of known sounds.

**Reading:** We aim for all children to become fluent and confident readers, who appreciate that reading materials of all kinds can be a source of pleasure, information and new insights. Children will read and respond to a wide variety of stories, novels, poems, plays, non-fiction and media texts across the curriculum. Each child takes home a book from our school to support their reading development by reading to an adult at home. We have a fantastic library with an excellent selection of fiction and non-fiction books which children can borrow to share and enjoy at home. We recognise that sometimes children need extra time and support to develop their reading skills, we do this through focussed teaching groups, additional 1:1 reading and use programmes such as rapid reading and Lexia.

**Handwriting:** We use the 'Penpals' scheme to support the teaching of handwriting, which includes exercises to develop both fine and gross motor movements. Our aim is to give every child the necessary handwriting skills for their future. Pupils have regular opportunities to learn, develop and practise their handwriting and by the end of Key Stage 2 we aim for the majority of children to be able to write using their own style of legible joined handwriting.

**Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling** is embedded within English lessons. From Year 2, children have weekly spellings to learn from our Spellzoo scheme, which matches the national curriculum expectations for spelling, and are explicitly taught spelling rules and patterns weekly to match these.

**Speaking, Listening and Language Development:** We use Speech Link and Language Link to identify children who may need additional support with speech, language or communication and work closely with a Speech and Language Therapist who can advise on and create tailored intervention programmes.

Through class assemblies, Open the Book and other performances, children have opportunities to develop the confidence to speak and act in front of an audience. This could be from a written script, or sharing their own writing. Children can also access our after school Drama club—Zylo.





# History and Geography

We use a topic based approach, linking with texts studied in English and teach key skills in geography (local knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography, geographical skills and fieldwork) and history (chronology, enquiry, interpretation, organisation and communication) through selected topics.

Where possible, we enrich children's learning experiences through visits and visitors. Currently, we are developing our curriculum to include 'Forest School' and 'Beach School' experiences for all children, with two members of staff recently undertaking training which will be shared across the school.

In keeping with our vision, we want our children not only to learn *about* the past, but consider what we can learn *from* the past in order to make the world a better place for the future. Similarly, as children learn about key environmental issues, we encourage positive action for change through our school council. Children often choose to pursue this outside of school through 'beach cleans' and fundraising which we recognise and celebrate in our assemblies and newsletters.





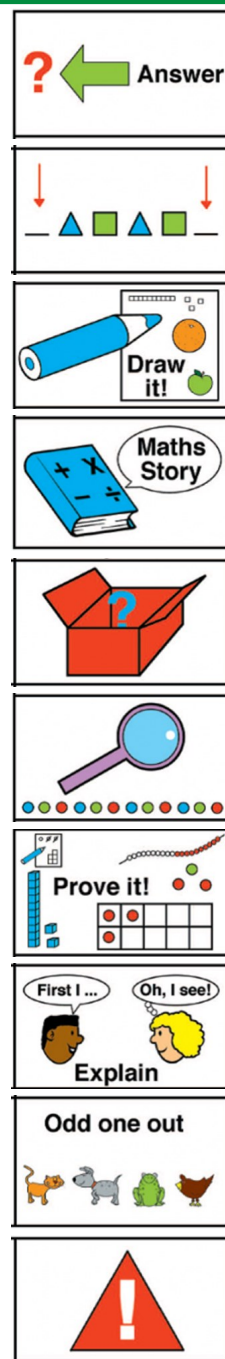
# Maths

We use the White Rose Maths curriculum and resources, in conjunction with other planning tools, which focuses on the concrete, pictorial and abstract teaching of maths so that children have a deeper understanding, and mastery of mathematical concepts. Alongside this, we provide children with different levels of star challenges so that children can begin to evaluate and determine their own understanding and level of challenge within each lesson/area of learning.

To promote 'mastery' and deeper understanding, we use a number of symbols to encourage children to apply their mathematical learning in different ways. In order to develop children's fluency with numbers, children in Key Stage 1 complete 'number facts' clubs and children in Key Stage 2 complete 'Times Tables' Clubs, which are mini tests. Children receive certificates for progress and moving up in these clubs.

To compliment our maths teaching, all children have access to an educational programme called Mathletics, which we encourage children to use regularly, and often run competitions in school.

Through regular staff training, and modelling positive attitudes to children, we aim to dispel the myth that some people 'can't do maths' and replace it with a love of maths and the belief that everyone can!





# PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

We have a whole school approach to PSHE, covering 6 key themes, through a scheme of work called 'Jigsaw'; this includes statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). This spiral and progressive scheme gives children relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others, emphasising Equal Opportunities and that all members of society should be equally valued regardless of gender, race, ethnic or social background, disability or sexuality.

There is a strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health. Jigsaw lessons also include mindfulness, allowing children to advance their emotional awareness, concentration and focus.

Parents/carers are fully informed of policy developments through letters, meetings, and workshops. We offer the opportunity to voice concerns, and staff are happy to discuss issues with families. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from **some** RSE lessons. This must be done through a meeting and agreement with the Headteacher.



## 1. Being Me in My World

Includes understanding my place in the class, school and global community as well as devising Learning Charters.



## 2. Celebrating Difference

Includes anti-bullying (cyber and homophobic bullying included) and diversity work.



## 3. Dreams and Goals

Includes goal-setting, aspirations for yourself and the world and working together.



## 4. Healthy Me

Includes drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidence as well as healthy lifestyle choices.



## 5. Relationships

Includes understanding friendship, family and other relationships, conflict resolution and communication skills.



## 6. Changing Me

This puzzle includes sex and relationships education in the context of coping positively with change. (includes age-appropriate sex education)



## Music

We are very proud of our music provision at St John's Meads and the opportunities that we provide for children to express themselves through music and to discover and develop musical talents.

Our music specialist teacher, Mrs White, teaches whole class music lessons weekly, including singing and opportunities to explore and play instruments and to compose and perform in groups. Across the year, all children participate in these lessons.

Children can access extra-curricular music through our after school club (choir or recorder), led by Mrs White.

We also have peripatetic music teachers from 'Create Music' who currently provide lessons in guitar, violin, cello, clarinet and keyboard.

Our children enjoy singing as part of daily collective worship, and performances to parents at key times in the school and Christian calendar.



## Art and Design Technology

Children have regular opportunities to explore their creative talents and interests at St John's Meads.

Miss French teaches art and design to all classes throughout the year, often through exciting whole school themes, and we have a designated art room.

We have close links with the Towner Art Gallery and whenever possible engage in work with visiting artists and competitions, including contributing artwork for exhibitions.





# Physical Education

Our aim is for children to engage in a range of stimulating physical activities and experiences in which learning about sport, health and wellbeing is promoted. In keeping with our vision, we believe in participation for all and in addition to PE lessons themselves, we promote equality and diversity in sport through our reading materials and assemblies.

Through physical activities, we seek to build confidence, teamwork and a positive attitude towards a healthy and active lifestyle. We take part in competitions, including swimming and football and engage in other local opportunities when they are available.

Our facilities include a hall, playground and field. Children in every year group have the opportunity to access a block of swimming lessons each year during the school day, at a local swimming pool.

We currently offer after school sports clubs for football, Kickboxing and Netball and when coaches are available have offered cricket, rugby and multi-skills.

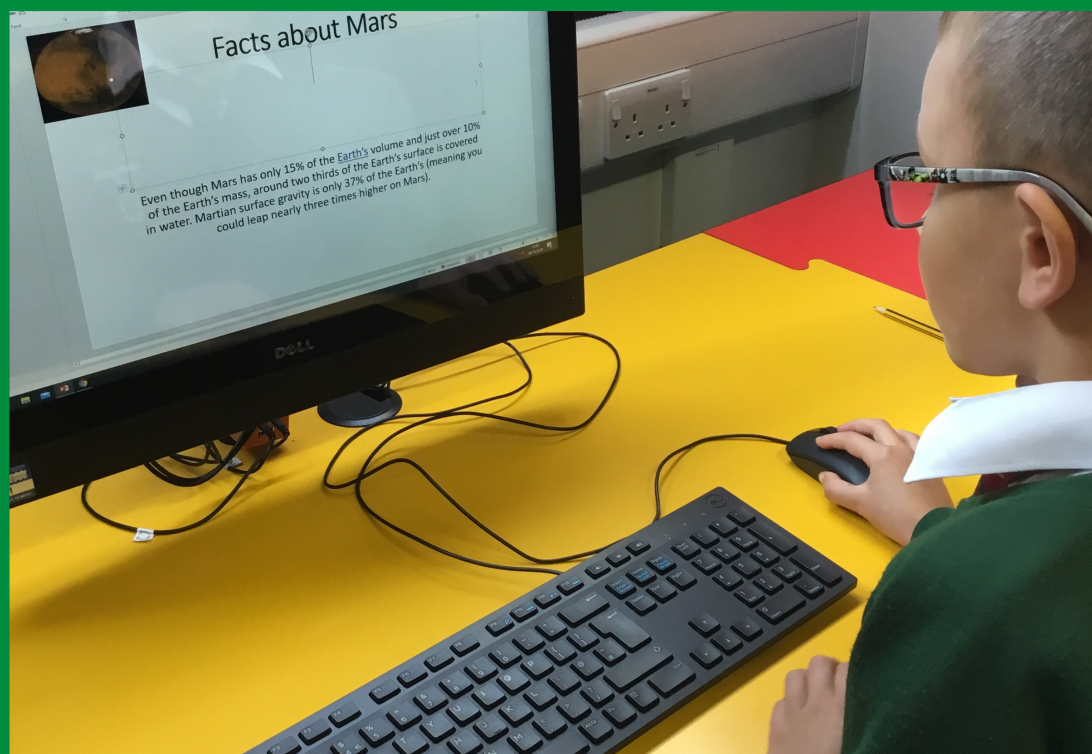




# Computing

Children from Reception to Year 6 have weekly access to our 'Hub' for the computing element of the curriculum. Our aim is to enrich learning for all pupils and to ensure that teachers develop confidence and competence to use a variety of software and hardware, which ensures quality teaching throughout the school. Each class is taught about e-safety at the beginning of every school year, and this learning is revisited through every term. The school also has a filter system hosted by Schools ICT for use of the internet.

We ask parents/carers to complete an Acceptable Use Agreement when their child starts school.



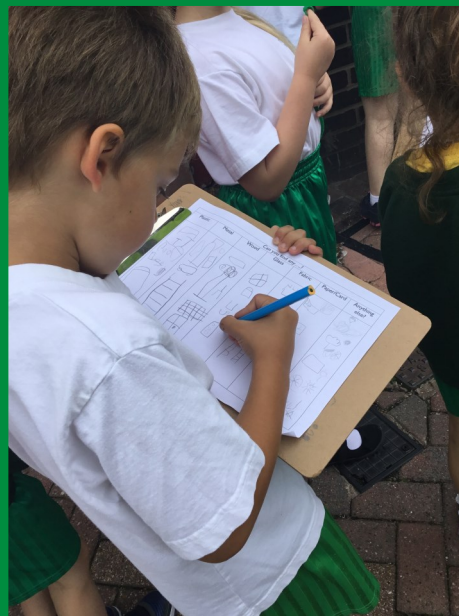
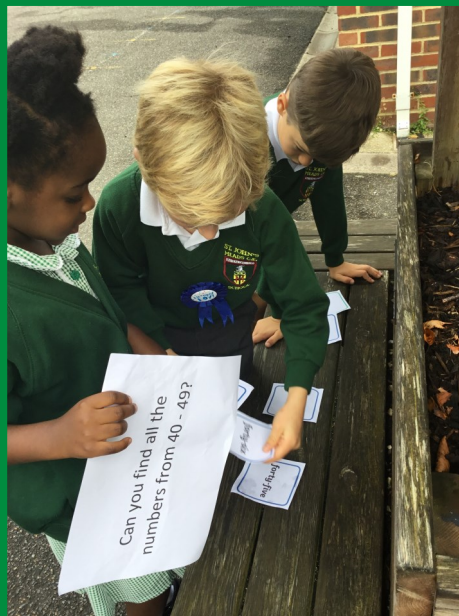


# Outdoor Learning

We believe that learning outside of the classroom provides children with richer opportunities to develop vital skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving, as well as being fun and engaging! Using outside spaces for learning also encourages children to be more active, to notice, enjoy and learn about the natural world and promotes health and wellbeing.

All Year groups have regular Forest School sessions and Year 4 and Year 5 are our focus year groups for enhanced **Forest School** provision. Year 2 for **Beach School** learning, with other classes also having some taster sessions, as staff training and expertise is being developed.

We also have cross-curricular orienteering resources on our playground and field and the children are very enthusiastic about developing their skills in map reading whilst also consolidating their learning from other subjects.





# Language and Culture (Spanish)

The Language and Culture teaching team at St John's Meads love to celebrate the rich diversity within our community. For such a small school, we speak an astounding 28 languages between us! In order to highlight this wonderful asset, Language and Culture lessons at St John's Meads focus on Spanish culture and language, but are also used to invite family members into school to teach us and help raise awareness of the many other languages and cultures represented within our classes. Our languages and cultures are also celebrated through whole school events such as European Language Day, the Summer Fayre and International Evening.

Weekly Spanish lessons are taught by our specialist teachers—Mrs Cork and Mrs Onuzi—in as many classes as possible, and by class teachers in other classes. Mrs Cork (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Onuzi (Teaching Assistant) were both brought up bilingual (English and French) and learnt Spanish alongside other languages whilst growing up. Coincidentally, they are also both able to communicate in Albanian!

In Key Stage 1, pupils focus on speaking and listening through music, songs and games. In key stage 2, pupils continue to develop their speaking and listening skills and gradually develop skills in reading and writing in Spanish. All pupils at St John's Meads are encouraged to be 'language detectives' who are curious and unafraid to have a go at speaking a foreign language, and to use their knowledge of English and other languages to help them learn new words.





# Wrap-around Childcare

We offer a breakfast Club (Early Birds) and an after school club (Late Birds) for parents who need before/after school childcare. Sessions must be booked and paid for in advance using our Weduc system.

## Early Birds: 7.40am-8.40am

The cost of Early Birds is £4.20 for the session. This includes staffing costs, a healthy breakfast and resources for activities.

## Late Birds:

Session 1 3.25pm-4.30pm (£4.20) with juice and fruit snack

Session 2 4.30pm-5.30pm (£4.20) with light tea






**School Performance:** Our performance data is published on [our website](#).

## SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability):

At St John's Meads we are committed to offering an inclusive and comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils, and ensures the best possible progress. We are committed to ensuring that pupils develop confidence in their abilities and strengths, and have a positive sense of self-worth. We believe that all children should be given access to a broad, balanced and well-structured curriculum suitable to their needs, and that all children are entitled to experience success. We strive to ensure that all staff involved with a pupil with SEND are aware of the procedures to identify needs, and provide support and quality teaching. The school recognises that parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them. As with all parents, parents of children with SEND will be treated as partners and given support to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

The school SENCO is Mrs Lara Cork, Assistant Headteacher.



WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
↓90 days	↓80 days	↓78 days	↓63 days	↓61 days	↓43 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

## Attendance:

Regular and punctual attendance is of paramount importance in ensuring that all children have full access to the curriculum. When a child is late or absent, valuable learning time is lost. We believe every school day counts to give your child the greatest opportunity of attaining a good education and to support a happy and healthy future.

Absence from school for holidays during term time is not authorised.

The school's attendance target is 97%.



# **School Development Priorities: 2023 - 2024**

## **1. Quality of Education**

- 1.1 To raise attainment in writing to be in line with reading.
- 1.2 To create and implement a writing curriculum that is ambitious, coherent and well sequenced.
- 1.3 To further embed AfL approaches, including the use of adaptive practice to meet the needs of all pupils, including the most able.

## **2. Behaviour and Attitudes**

- 2.1 To support pupils to make a tangible contribution to the life of the school and the wider community.  
Foci: School council, wellbeing of others, self-control, playground behaviour and activities, Malawi Link.

## **3. Personal Development**

- 3.1 To demonstrate excellence in Personal Development through the achievement of the Artsmark.  
Foci: spiritual and cultural, equality diversity and adaptive practise.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

- 4.1 To ensure all teaching and learning policies secure the school's ambitious vision, articulate best practise at SJM and are implemented fully.
- 4.2 To provide focussed CPD to build teachers' subject and pedagogical knowledge over time.
- 4.3 To secure accurate summative assessments that inform strategic decisions and actions.

## **5. Early Years Foundation Stage**

- 5.1 To raise attainment in writing to be in line with other areas of learning in EYFS
- 5.2 To ensure the curriculum is shaped to meet the needs of the children.
- 5.3 To ensure children with SEND and other vulnerable groups achieve the best possible outcomes.

## Stakeholder Voice

We learn how to care for people when they are in need.

RR, Y4

I like learning more about the world and the different religions.

J&C, Y6 GS, Y4

School's fun! Everyday is a good day!

We learn about who made our world. We learn how to look after our world.

M&S, Y3

We have WOW notes! Rainbow awards are for when you've done well all week. It's nice to get one, everybody claps in assembly.

KS1 pupil

If you get a maths question wrong, teachers help you to get it right and learn from your mistakes.

TP, Y6 Parent

It's a small cosy school with friendly staff and children. Everybody is helpful and kind.

I love St John's and I feel very privileged that my children come to this school. Both my children are very happy and are doing well under the care and support of all the staff here.

Parent

The Christian ethos is very apparent. It is really something when your child comes and tells you what they've been praying about at school.

Parent

I have never experienced a school to be so impressive at listening.

Parent



## ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023-2024

### Application Procedure for Reception Class

St John's Meads Church of England Primary School is an academy within the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. As such the Trust is the Admission Authority responsible for all decisions in connection with admitting pupils and for the publication of Admission Arrangements which explain how the admissions process will be applied. The trust delegates the responsibility for admissions to the Governing body of the school. The Arrangements has been written after consultation with the Diocese, Local Authority, Admissions Forum and other schools in the area. St John's Meads has a Christian ethos and aims to provide a caring environment in which pupils are encouraged to reach their full potential in academic work and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

### Application Procedure for Reception Class

East Sussex operates a co-ordinated admission scheme for primary schools. Application should be made on the East Sussex County Council application form completed in accordance with the information provided in its School Admissions Booklet, available online [via the East Sussex website](https://www.east-sussex.gov.uk/school-admissions)

Parents wishing their application to be considered under categories can obtain a clergy reference form from the school office. <https://www.meads.e-sussex.sch.uk/admissions-arrangements/>

The completed and signed clergy reference form needs to be submitted to the school office by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to be considered alongside an application.

### Visits to the school

Prospective parents are invited to make an appointment to visit the school during October and November. These appointments are an opportunity to view the school and have a short meeting with the Headteacher, Katherin Weeks

To make an appointment or to find out more information, please call the school office.

School Office: 01323 730255 or email: [office@sjm.academy](mailto:office@sjm.academy)

### Key dates

Apply online from September 2023

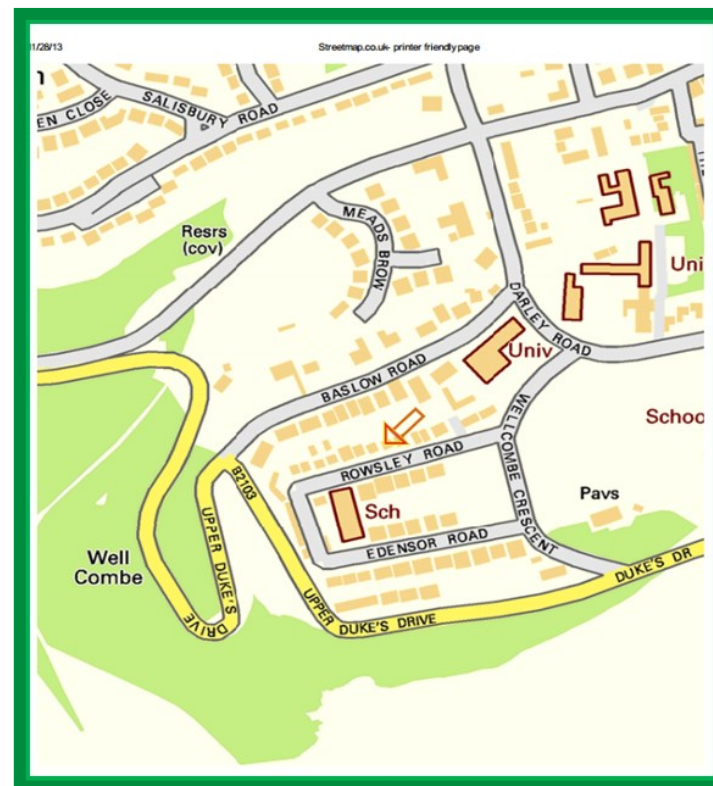
Closing date for applications: 15th January 2024

Allocation decisions sent on (offer date): 16th April 2024

Appeal hearings: June and July 2024

Induction days: Summer term 2024

**School Policies and Documents:** Please note that our Policies and associated documents are available on our [school website](https://www.meads.e-sussex.sch.uk)



## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

### St John's Meads CE Primary School

St John's Meads CE Primary School processes personal information about its pupils and is a 'data controller' for the purposes of Data Protection legislation. We collect information from you and may receive information about your child from their previous school. The Headteacher acts as a representative for the school with regard to its data controller responsibilities and can be contacted on 01323 730255 or [office@sjm.academy](mailto:office@sjm.academy)



The DPO (Data Protection Officer) role for the school is provided by 'Handsam'.



#### Why we collect and use this information

The personal data collected is essential, for the school to fulfil their official functions and meet legal requirements.

We collect and use pupil information, for the following purposes:

- to support pupil learning
- to monitor and report on pupil progress
- to provide appropriate pastoral care
- to keep children safe (food allergies, or emergency contact details)
- to assess the quality of our services
- to meet the statutory duties placed upon us
- to ensure children have appropriate access to healthcare
- to contribute to the school archive