



Edwinstree Middle School

Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
Headteacher: J Gant



*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness*

Headteacher: Jo Gant
Chair of Governors: Mr J Boulter

Welcome to Edwinstree Church of England Middle School. Thank you for considering us for the next stage of your child's education. This booklet is designed to give you a brief overview of our school and to guide you through our admissions process.

So what does it mean to be a Church of England school?

Edwinstree's Church of England status has helped to shape our vision. This is at the heart of all the work we do. We know our students are ***"unique and wonderful, and that it is our role to support each and every one to flourish, and live life in all its fullness"***. Our church status does not prevent us from taking students of other faiths and in fact, it is our Christianity that encourages us to welcome and value all.

How does our vision translate in practice and what does this feel like in the school?

When you take a tour of Edwinstree, you will feel the compassion and care that exists from the moment you walk through our doors. There is always a warm, happy and active buzz around the school. Students have a sunny disposition and help each other, and the school feels and acts like a community. You will witness older leaders supporting younger students regularly.

Lessons are purposeful and challenging, and each individual is considered and planned for. Students trust that we will listen to them and respect their opinion. They understand if they get things wrong, we will help them to resolve any issues and support them to make amends. They know that we really do believe it is our job to find the 'wonderful' within them, whatever this may be.

How does this belief in the individual and living life to the full impact on our teaching and curriculum?

As teachers, we are clear that we need to get to know our students really quickly and to plan for the learning needs of each individual. This means within each lesson, our most able are challenged and our least confident are given support from the outset. We know that every lesson counts and each child must make progress. Our lessons are challenging, we expect a lot from our students as this is their opportunity to be 'wonderful', their homework may challenge you!

In recognising the 'wonderful' in each individual, our school provides students with beautiful and specialised environments that are not available in the usual primary system. From Year 5, our students are able to explore the depth of subjects such as Science, Art, Technology, Computing and Music in specialist rooms with specialist teachers. This provides students with a significant array of opportunities to find their passions and to practise them.

In promoting a full life, we work hard to make sure laughter is a regular component at Edwinstree so that students are challenged with fun activities, in-house competitions and whole school enrichment days. We know a flourishing student will create memorable moments whilst at school, ones that can last a lifetime.

What is the school working day at Edwinstree and how much homework will they have to do when they get home of an evening?

THE SCHOOL DAY

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Morning Registration: | 8:40am - 8:50am |
| Lesson 1 | 8:50am - 9:50am |
| Lesson 2 | 9:50am - 10:50am |
| Morning Break | 10:50am - 11:05am |
| Lesson 3 | 11:05am – 12:05pm |
| Lesson 4 | 12:05pm – 13:05pm |
| Lunch Break | 13:05pm – 13:45pm |
| Lesson 5 | 13:45pm – 14:45pm |
| Collective Worship | 14:45pm – 15:15pm |
| School finishes | 3:20pm |

Homework at Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and Year 6) is focused on the continued development of literacy and numeracy. Students receive English and Maths homework twice a week. Students are also expected to read five times a week for a minimum of 20 minutes. Once a week they also receive a Modern Foreign Language homework, normally focused on remembering the key vocabulary used during the weekly French lessons.

In **Key Stage 3** (Years 7 and Year 8) students receive the same homework outlined above, but they also receive a weekly task from the arts, music, technology, computing, humanities, RE and PSHCE. This begins to prepare for life at Freman College and the demands of GCSEs.

The school meets with parents annually to review our Homework Policy. We now use '*Show My Homework*' as our main means of delivering homework to students and parents.

What is Collective Worship and what is its purpose?

Collective Worship is the time when the school comes together as a community to reflect. At Edwinstree, this is deliberately placed at the end of the day. Within Collective Worship, staff and students have the opportunity to explore the Church of England calendar and stories, to develop their own thoughts on the big questions in life such as '*who are we? why are we here?*' and explore and really think about our Christian values and how they might be meaningful in our lives now, and in the future. These values include ***Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion, Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation and Koinonia.***

On Fridays, the whole school joins together for hymn practice. This is one of the nicest moments of the week, when we have the opportunity to sing as one before leaving for the weekend. As well as singing our traditional hymns, students can nominate modern day songs, providing they can explain why it could be considered a hymn. Parents are very welcome to join us at this time and we have a growing number who attend regularly.

Our religious education programme follows the new Hertfordshire guidelines. Students are immersed first in Christian faith, before exploring other faiths, including an in-depth look into Islam and Judaism.

If I decide to send my Year 4 child to Edwinstree in September 2018, how will you help them to settle in?

Our transition process at Edwinstree is really strong, and we commit to ensuring that our two Heads of Year 5 visit every primary school. They will meet all the teachers of children planning to come to Edwinstree, visiting each child in their current setting. Alongside this, we offer parents opportunities to visit the school and meet us, so that we have as much information as possible.

If your child is nervous or has a particular need that might make change difficult, we offer weekly visits to the school and to our Learning Zone. Over the last two years, we have found this has been really successful in settling our most nervous students, helping them feel welcome.

Our transition process for in-year admissions in all year groups during term time, involves a meeting with the Head of Year and Headteacher. We also carry out small informative tests to gauge their reading and reasoning abilities, to help us place each child in the correct tutor group. All new students are given peer buddies, and to ensure that both school and parents are happy, a touch-base meeting with new parents is arranged four weeks after the child's entry into the school,

I have liked everything I have seen and heard and I am really keen to apply to Edwinstree Middle School. How do I go about this?

Applying for a Place in Year 5

All admissions for Edwinstree Middle School are coordinated by Hertfordshire County Council. If you would like your child to join Edwinstree Middle School in September 2021, please apply via the Hertfordshire County Council Online school admissions system which opens on the **2nd November 2020** <http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions>

Alternatively, please contact the County School Admissions Officer for East Hertfordshire on: **0300 123 4043**.

The application deadline for Year 5 admissions is 15th January 2021

Applying for a Place in Year 6, Year 7 or Year 8

Information for parents of children wishing to join Edwinstree mid-year can be accessed through the school or online at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions>. It is recommended that parents make an online application, together with an application for school transport if applicable.

We currently have places across our year groups and welcome pupils throughout the academic year. Please contact the School Business Manager, Mrs Cox on 01763-271446 for further details or email: Email: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk



Our Christian Values

*Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion,
Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation, Koinonía*



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