



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School



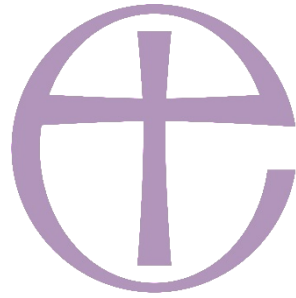
September
2021

Love to Learn; Learn to Live; Live to Love.

The LORD says,

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

Psalm 32:8



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

“The vision, in line with the Church of England’s role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole human community and its environment, whether national, regional or local. It is hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings.”

Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, 2016

“I am God, your God, who teaches you how to live right and well. I show you what to do, where to go”. *Isaiah 48:17*

Key to the school’s vision is that every individual is created in the image of God, and from this belief springs the school’s outstanding attention to individual needs, both academic and pastoral.

Walkwood’s SIAMS Inspection, March 2017



We are proud to welcome you to

Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School



We are a middle school which educates pupils between the ages of 9 and 13 in a values-rich community. The school serves Walkwood and Headless Cross areas of Redditch, welcoming pupils from other parts of our town too.

As a state-funded academy, it is our vocation, duty and delight to provide the best possible education for each pupil.

We are a very friendly and focused school which uses specialist subjects as a key part of learning both knowledge and skills. We aim to inspire every child – whatever their abilities – to achieve their very best and make a valuable contribution to the Walkwood community. We want our pupils to **love to learn**.

Our school is not just about knowledge and skills; it's also about inspiring children to look at the world differently and about challenging them to learn for a life of learning. In this way, we encourage our pupils to **learn to live**, preparing them for an adult life in a changing world by developing skills for learning, including literacy and numeracy. We want them to excel in school ... and in later life.



We are a Church of England school, which is fully inclusive of all faiths and beliefs. While Christian principles underpin all of the school's values, we know that these morals are shared by many faiths of people of no faith. We look for our pupils to take into their lives beyond our school, an outlook that allows them to **live to love** the experiences, people and spirituality that they encounter.

Therefore, we want pupils to:

Love to Learn,

Learn to Live,

Live to Love.



Our mission is to provide high quality, balanced education to pupils in an enquiring and supportive environment. Experienced and subject specialist teaching staff are dedicated to developing each individual pupil's well-being, whilst inspiring them to achieve their goals and excel in lessons.

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth". Ecclesiastes 12:1



What's in this prospectus

We have set out in this information what our school is 'normally' like. However, there are changes we have needed to make to the workings of the school during the time of Covid-19. It is our hope to return to our 'usual' Walkwood when we can, but we work with an abundance of care and caution, so if there are changes before September 2021, we shall keep everyone informed in as good time as we can.

Our School Values

Our Fruits of Faith are:



"I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."
John 15: 16

"God blesses those people who are like trees growing beside a stream, trees that produce fruit in season and always have leaves."
Psalms 1: 3

Encouraging good behaviour

"I am God, your God, who teaches you how to live right and well. I show you what to do, where to go". *Isaiah 48:17*



Walkwood Church of England Middle School actively opposes bullying, racism and discrimination. There are members of the college pastoral staff who will be able to support any issues quickly and sensitively. There are many things we can do to make a difference.

Praise and encouragement are the most important elements of developing positive relationships and friendships. We achieve this by awarding College Points and by recognising high quality work, which is celebrated during class time, college and whole-school gatherings.



We work through respectful partnerships

Not only is living and learning together, both lovingly and creatively, part of our mission, but we also work through partnerships.

This happens within the school, as staff cooperate across colleges and subjects. We also work with other educational providers.

Funzone is our before school, after school and holiday time club partner (parents can book their children into the club from 7.30 am in the morning, until 6.00 pm in the evening).



The school day

All pupils are invited into school from 8.45 am and should be in classrooms by 8.50 am. School finishes at 3.30 pm.

Time	Activity
08.50 – 09.30	Tutor and assembly time
09.30 – 10.25	Lesson 1
10.25 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 11.40	Lesson 2
11.40 – 12.35	Lesson 3
12.35 – 13.20	Lunch
13.25 – 13.40	Tutor time
13.40 – 14.35	Lesson 4
14.35 – 15.30	Lesson 5

Regular, structured homework supports and enriches the learning that goes on in the classroom. Homework club operates from 8.00 am, and for an hour at the end of the school day. There is no charge for the use of this club.

Organisation

On arrival to school, every pupil is placed into one of four colleges. These are as follows:

- **Abberley**
- **Bredon**
- **Cleeve**
- **Malvern**



The tutor groups have pupils from each of the four year groups. This helps sustain the family-feel of our school. Each tutor will get to know only 7 or 8 new pupils each year, and is supported in doing so by the older pupils in that group.



We aim to encourage and develop a joint sense of team spirit and belonging. Pupils will represent their college in a variety of academic, sporting and non – sporting competitions. Colleges also meet weekly in an act of worship, which involves celebration of achievements too.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here I am; send me!’ And he said, Go ...’

Isaiah 6: 8 – 9

Curriculum



A rich, broad and balanced curriculum is offered across the four years and two key stages. The planning through the four years is strong, both within each subject and across different subjects. This builds subject partnerships of ideas or concepts, which support pupils’ learning. In Year 5, pupils have a smaller number of teachers, which eases the transition from the first school curriculum.

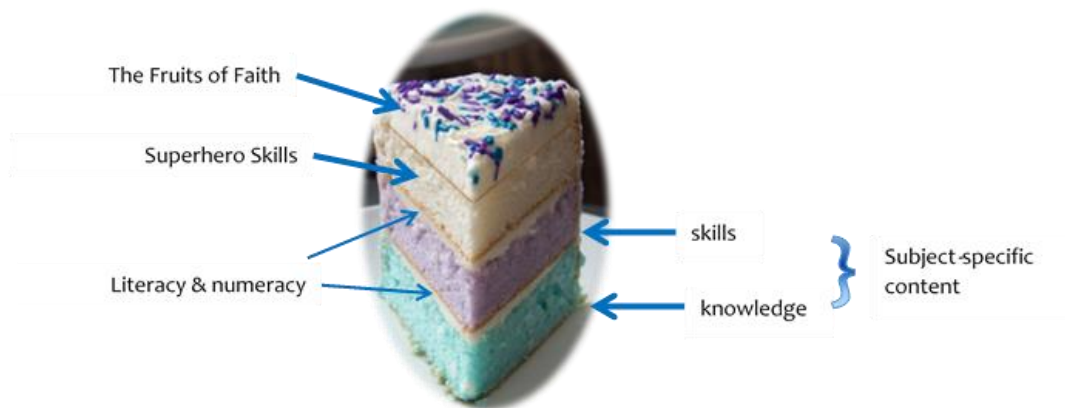
Areas of the curriculum are:

Years 5 and 6		Years 7 and 8	
Subject	Lessons	Subject	Lessons
English	12	English	7
Mathematics	12	Mathematics	7
Science	4	Science	6
Humanities	4	Humanities	6
Spiritual & Social Education	4	Spiritual & Social Education	6
Art & Technology	4	Art & Technology	4
Physical Education	4	Physical Education	4
French	2	French	5
Music	1	Music	2
Computing	1	Computing	2
Library	1	Library	1
Drama	1		

There are differences between Years 5 and 6 compared to Years 7 and 8 to reflect the changes in the National Curriculum. Also, this variation allows pupils to gradually get ready for the learning that high school studies demand.

Pupils will make use of our specialist facilities, and tend to move from one classroom to the next between different lessons. This allows a ‘brain break’ so that they arrive at the next lesson ready to settle quickly into their learning.

Every lesson has a clear and brief learning objective, a specific learning skill, and an opportunity to use at least one of the Fruits of Faith. It's a bit like an educational cake, a slice in each lesson!



We reward points for progress made in each lesson which also go towards the college totals each half term. Parents and carers can also keep track of this using the [epraise](#) app.

Superhero skills

These learning skills are part of 'learn to live' as they allow pupils to become aware of how they can learn successfully:

Team Worker

To be good team workers, you should be able to work confidently with others, adapt to different situations and take responsibility for your own actions.



Creative Thinker

To be good creative thinkers, you should be able to think of original ideas and try different ways to solve a problem. Also, work with others to find various solutions.



Independent Enquirer

To be good independent enquirers, you need to plan what you are going to do and how you are going to do it. You also need to make well-informed decisions and evaluate your findings by yourself.



Self-Manager

To be good self-managers, you need to organise yourself effectively, show initiative, creativity and be focussed to your learning. Always look for challenges and complete tasks with time limits and meet deadlines.



Reflective Learner

To be good reflective learners, you need to be able to evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses. You should be able to monitor your own progress and take on board feedback from others.



Effective Participator

To be good effective participators, you need to engage in lessons and share your opinions. Actively seek opportunities to join discussions, topical debates and become part of the wider school community.



Inclusivity in learning

All children have different skills, temperaments and talents. We aim to identify gifted and talented children and provide regular, stimulating and enriching lessons and activities appropriate to their needs.

Walkwood has adopted the practice of Provision Mapping to support pupils with special needs. This requires the school to identify the needs of a pupil and then match a resource or provision to meet their need.

There are a variety of methods used to support pupils with special needs including:

- Individual timetables
- Extra support from teaching assistants in lessons
- Handwriting programme
- Speech and language intervention
- Spelling intervention
- Emotional support



Specialist teachers and facilities

One of the strengths of Walkwood Church of England Middle School is that we employ specialist teachers and have subject-specific facilities. This means that these specialist teachers have a greater depth of expertise and enthusiasm for their subjects.

We have:

- 3 Science labs and 2 prep. rooms
- 2 full ICT rooms, with three further 'break out' ICT areas
- Pupil photocopiers and printers
- Newly refurbished changing rooms with individual showers
- Two hard play areas
- A four – pitch sports field
- Library and ICT resources
- A Food Technology room
- Workshops for Resistant Materials and Textiles
- A specialist Music base with separate practice rooms
- A dedicated Art facility
- Two school halls
- External 'quiet areas' for the younger and older pupils
- Lockers for every child (at no cost)
- On – site canteen for hot and cold food preparation



Jesus said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

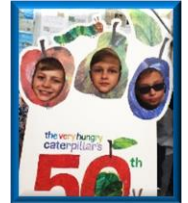


Enriched Curriculum



The curriculum is enhanced for pupils within school, the local community and the wider world. We provide an abundance of opportunities at Key Stage 2 and 3. These have included theatre trips, performing in the choir and orchestra, themed 'Deep Days', residential trips, and other opportunities that present themselves.

During the school year, there are five Deep Days: two at Christmas, two at Easter and one in the summer term. These are generally based within the vertical tutor groups and can cover aspects of faith and personal well-being in a deeper way. Visits to the local church are also part of school life, including at Christmas and Easter.



We also take tutor time seriously. In the mornings, pupils may gather with their tutor for informal learning, activities and administrative matters. The colleges have assembly each week which reinforces the family feel of Walkwood, learning about something special within the theme of assemblies, as well as celebrating success.

Pupils also present these assemblies. Half-school assemblies allow senior and college leaders to offer time for pupils to have spiritual reflection where singing is a regular feature. At least every two weeks the whole school gathers for assembly which is highly engaging through the use of multi-media and a time for reflection upon life. Finally, each half term ends with a Celebration Assembly, where individual certificates are awarded and the winners of the College Cup are revealed.



Afternoon tutor time activities can involve literacy and numeracy, including reading. We place a great emphasis of pupils' progress in reading, and our library is set up according to reading levels. We monitor how well pupils are doing with their reading.

Partnership with parents

We believe that a good partnership between school and home is an essential element of effective education. Children's teachers, tutors and pastoral managers can be available to see parents before or after school. It is best to telephone ahead to ensure that a staff member will be available.

The Insider

Our weekly newsletter, 'The Insider' informs parents about children's achievements and events in school.



Clubs and activities



Walkwood has a wide choice of after-school clubs organised for pupils, and the possibilities change each term. Most school clubs run from 3.30 pm until 4.45 pm, and there is no charge made for these activities.

There are also clubs that take place during the school lunch time.

Sport

Walkwood has an impressive record of sporting achievement both at district, county and national levels. There are regular sports fixtures and competitions in a variety of sports. No payment is required to take part. Sports clubs include:

- netball
- rounders
- rugby
- cricket

- football
- athletics
- basketball
- gymnastics

- hockey
- cross-country running
- dance



We also encourage pupils to take part in competitive sport for their colleges, including our annual Sports Day. Other events include football, netball, cross country and athletics.



Music



Music is a strength at Walkwood. Our orchestra and choir practise weekly and perform at many concerts throughout the year at various venues.

Pupils who wish to play a specific instrument can have individual lessons. The school has close links with Severn Arts and peripatetic music teachers visit to provide instrumental tuition.



Residential visits

There is the opportunity for a residential experience in each of the four years at Walkwood. Although these can differ each year depending on changes of circumstances or our trip providers, recent experiences have been:

- Year 5 -** Brecon Beacons outward bound activities
- Year 6 -** North Yorkshire forest and seashore challenges
- Year 7 -** Isle of Wight surf and sail
- Year 8 -** London theatres and arts



Every two years there is the opportunity for a small number of pupils to go skiing, our preferred venue being in Austria.

School meals



School lunches are prepared freshly on site. Pupils can choose to purchase a range of delicious hot and cold meals and snacks during morning break and lunchtime. The menu is altered on a daily basis and there is always a vegetarian option. Pupils may choose to bring a packed lunch to school. Menu and payment options can be seen on the website.





Inspection headlines

Key to the school's vision is that every individual is created in the image of God, and from this belief springs the school's outstanding attention to individual needs, both academic and pastoral.

The inclusive vision of the school ensures that all children are supported in their personal well-being and academic achievement.

Children are inspired by collective worship, with the result that messages from worship cause them to reflect on their lives and take action in support of those in need.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Outstanding

The school's inclusive Christian ethos ensures that children have an outstanding understanding of and respect for difference and diversity.

The result of the outstanding leadership at Walkwood is that, in line with the school's motto, each member of the school community is challenged, encouraged and nurtured to "love to learn, learn to live and live to love".

Pupils make good progress during their time at school. A well-taught and broad curriculum ensures that most pupils work at or above age-related expectations.

The school has an impressive climate for learning. Pupils' contributions in lessons are often thoughtful, sensitive and articulate.

Staff, parents and pupils speak warmly about the changes made to the school. Most staff are infected with the same desire to do their best for all pupils. They work very hard to achieve this.

Ofsted
Good Provider

The governing body has an estimable set of skills and brings a sharp perspective to the work of the school. It is aware of its responsibilities and is determined to improve the school further.

A varied and interesting curriculum gives pupils ample opportunities to study a broad range of subjects. Pupils enjoy a rich diet of activities outside of lessons...

Pupils in the school feel safe. They know whom to turn to if they encounter any difficulty. They are confident about raising any issues they have. Bullying is rare. It is taken seriously and dealt with firmly if it does occur.

Many teachers balance the development of pupils' subject knowledge, skills for learning and positive attitudes very skilfully. They blend the lesson objectives with the development of 'superhero learning traits' and promote pupils' understanding of the 'fruits of faith'.



Pupils are supported carefully when they arrive at the school. Effective liaison between most local schools helps to ensure that pupils settle into school well.

During their time at school, pupils develop into confident, hardworking and articulate pupils. They acquire good social skills, develop tolerance of others and are resilient.



Transition into Walkwood

In September 2020, we welcomed pupils from the following schools:



Astwood Bank Primary School



Transition out from Walkwood

In July 2020, we bid our Year 8s 'Farewell' as they moved on to the following high schools:



Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre



St Augustine's Catholic High School and Sixth Form



South Bromsgrove High



NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL



The Transition Process

In the same week that you receive notification of a school place, we shall write to all those allocated a place at Walkwood to let you know that we know you have been sent an offer of a place.

We contact again before the May half term with further details, including our Data Collection booklet that we shall need you to complete.

There are usually two Transition Days in July. New pupils will meet their tutor and the other members of their tutor group, who will be from the other year groups. New pupils have their buddy too.

We also prepare welcome packs, one of the parent or carer and one for the pupil.

The LORD says,

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” *Psalms 32:8*



What next ?

There are two useful booklets from:



[Information for Parents Book 2021 to 2022](#)

[Transferring to Middle School Guide 2021](#)

Don't forget to complete your preferences:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you have never visited the site, we have a limited number of school tours on a Saturday in November.

To express your interest, please email office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk by Friday 6th November with 'Admissions' in the subject line and we shall get back to you (*but not in the school holidays*).



Frequently Asked Questions

The following have come from our pupils and we hope they set at ease the process of getting ready for a new school.



Q. Is Walkwood a fun place?
A. *Yes, the teachers are lovely and you can be completely honest with them. They are willing to give you help and support all the time!*

Q. What is it like here?
A. *It is so cool here.*

Q. Would it be the same as my First School?
A. *No, because there are 3 floors and you get different teachers.*

Q. Would I be with my friends?
A. *Your teacher will talk to Walkwood and put you with who they think you will learn with.*

Q. How many lessons do we have in a day?
A. *We have got 5 lessons a day, 6 including tutor time.*

Q. How long does a lesson take?
A. *55 minutes in a lesson.*

Q. Can we take our phones?
A. *You can take your phone and put it in the phone box and then it will be taken to the office and you can collect it at the end of the day.*

Q. How will we know where to go and where all our classes are?
A. *You get a buddy that will help you by taking you to your lessons and make sure you don't get lost.*

Q. What would happen if it was raining at break or lunch?
A. *You would stay inside and watch a film or TV programme.*

Q. How long is play time?
A. *Lunch: 20 minutes Break: 15 minutes*

Q. How are the teachers at Walkwood?
A. *I think the teachers are really nice, kind, helpful and very caring.*

Q. What are the four colleges?
A. *Malvern, Cleeve, Abberley, Bredon*

Q. Do you have ties?
A. *Yes. Yellow – Malvern
Green – Abberley
Blue – Cleeve
Red – Bredon*

Q. What playground would we be on?
A. *The front one.*

Q. Do you get lost in school?
A. *I have not got lost so far and I have had been here for a month.*

Q. If I get lost what should I do?
A. *If you get lost I would find a classroom or office and tell a teacher.*

Q. Would the work be hard?
A. *No not too much, it's just a bit of a step up from Year 4.*

Q. Will we have double lessons?
A. *Yes, English and Maths can be double.*

Q. Do you have a library and is it big?
A. *Yes, we do have a library and it is full of books and is quite big.*

Q. Do you get a library book?
A. *Yes, and you can change it as often as you like.*

Q. At Walkwood, are the teachers nice?
A. *Yes definitely!*



- Q. Why do we swap teachers every lesson?
A. *Because different teachers know different things.*
- Q. Do we cook in school?
A. *Yes, we do in Food Technology.*
- Q. Do we need to buy our own English books and other ones?
A. *No, school already have them.*
- Q. What is tutor time and what is it for?
A. *Tutor time is basically a time in the morning and after lunch. It is for doing the register, doing odd pieces of Maths and English and getting to know usually people of other year groups.*
- Q. Why are there sets?
A. *Sets are here to help us with our abilities.*
- Q. How quick do you deal with problems?
A. *Very quickly.*
- Q. Will we get a diary?
A. *No, you have a computer programme called ePraise.*
- Q. How do I pay for lunch?
A. *You would have a code that your teacher will give you. Then after you get your food, you will go to where you pay and then put in your code.*

- Q. How is the food?
A. *It is very good. There are lots of different things. I like the snacks and salad and cake.*
- Q. How does the lunchtime system work?
A. *Year 6 and Year 8 go into the lunch hall and then Year 5 and Year 7 go in after, depending on the week, so if it is Week 1, 6 and 8 would go in first, but if it was Week 2, 5 and 7 would go in first.*
- Q. Will there be school trips?
A. *Yes, each year has a different trip.*
- Q. Why don't boys wear shorts and girls wear skirts?
A. *So we are all equal.*
- Q. Will we get a diary?
A. *No, you have a computer programme called ePraise.*
- Q. Why is there a bell?
A. *To tell you when the lesson ends or when you can go home.*
- Q. What if you are in the toilet and the fire bell goes?
A. *Just go to the toilet and come out as soon as you can.*



Funzone

Funzone Out of School Club runs before and after school from (7.30 am – 6.00 pm) and weekdays during school holidays.

Funzone is based at Walkwood Church of England Middle School and, during school term time, cares mainly for children at Walkwood and The Vaynor First School. During the holidays, children from any school may attend.

Ofsted have rated the club as Good: 'Children are happy and enjoy themselves at this well-organised club where the focus is on learning through play. Staff are passionate about providing children with quality play opportunities. They provide children with a wealth of experiences in order to support their all-round development.'

In the morning, breakfast is offered, a light snack such as toast, fruit, crumpets or cereal. Children can come to Funzone after they have been to Walkwood School evening clubs, and are offered an area where they can catch up with homework, make themselves a hot drink and snack, or just relax. A range of activities are provided every night and trips and special events are held during school holidays weeks.

If you are looking for out of school care for your child, please give Funzone a call on 07703 610788 or email FunzoneLtd@hotmail.co.uk.





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