

One school rooted in love, growing
and enabling all to flourish
(mark 4: 1-20)



Finmere C of E Primary School and Preschool

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Mere Road, Finmere,
Buckinghamshire, MK18 4AR



Welcome

Finmere School is a small Church of England School in rural north Oxfordshire, set in our wonderful spacious grounds. Our children benefit from an inspiring educational experience enabling all children from 3 to 11 to flourish.

At Finmere, we are all strongly committed to creating a community within which all children are fully supported to fulfil their potential both academically and personally.

If you would like to know more about our school, or would like to book a tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jane Ridley - Executive Headteacher

I have had the pleasure and privilege of leading schools within the Warriner Trust for a number of years, both in my previous role as Headteacher and more recently as Executive Headteacher. Having recently joined Finmere, as Executive Headteacher, I am excited to be part of the leadership team in a primary school where children are at the heart of everything and are challenged to be the best!



I hope when you visit our school, you get a flavour of this unique culture and feel that our school is one where your child can flourish.

Clare Law - Head of School



I have been the Head of School at Finmere C of E Primary school since September 2021 and I love working in partnership with the staff and parents to create the best learning environment for all of our children.

As a maths specialist, I understand the importance of basic skills and the impact they have on our children's later life. At Finmere we try to give all our children the opportunities to flourish across all areas of the curriculum. We truly believe that there should be no glass ceiling when it comes to children's learning and that the values instilled in them at a primary level set them up for life. If you think that this may be the school for your child, then please do pay us a visit. I can give you a tour of our wonderful school and explain to you, in detail, the ethos of our school.



We hope you find the A-Z guide useful in finding out all about Finmere C of E Primary School and Preschool.

All about us

Finmere Church of England Primary school is situated in the heart of the small village and sits on the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Northamptonshire border.

Since 2020 Finmere has been part of the Warriner Multi Academy trust. With the support of the trust, Finmere was able to open its new preschool in September 2022; this allowed the school to restructure the classes into key stages. We now have 4 classes in the morning and 3 in the afternoon: an EYFS class (Preschool and reception); Key stage 1 class; a lower KS2 class and an upper KS2 class, which combine during the afternoons.



Before and after school care

We are pleased to be able to offer a breakfast club and afterschool club for our pupils in Preschool stage onwards. We provide a safe and caring environment where the emphasis is on play and social interaction with peers. Activities are based around nature, art, imaginative play, sports, games and ICT.



Spaces can be booked via our online payment system, Arbor up to 24 hours before the required session. We accept childcare voucher payments. Please contact the school office for further details.

Breakfast Club from 8.00am until 8.30am, term time only and not on bank holidays. Your child will be supervised before school commences and provided with a healthy nutritious breakfast.

Afterschool Club from 3.05pm until 5.30pm, term time only and not on bank holidays. A snack and drink will be provided. Late collections will incur an additional charge.

Costs

For parents making a regular commitment to at least one session per week the following fees apply:

- Breakfast Club £5.00 a session, per child



- After School Club £9.50 a session, per child

If you require last minute wraparound care, please telephone the office on the day to enquire if space is available.

Behaviour

We expect high standards of behaviour. We believe children who behave well are more likely to make the best of their educational opportunities. If you would like more information, please see our relationship policy.

<https://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=11>

Child protection

If any member of staff is concerned about the welfare of a child, the school is obliged to contact other relevant agencies. The designated safe guarding member of staff who will liaise on behalf of the school is Mrs Law. Please see our safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

<https://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=11>

Children's Absence

To ensure children make the most of their skills, talents and opportunities, regular attendance at school is vital. It is important that children are not withdrawn from school for holidays in term time. Headteachers are unable to authorise any holidays in term time except for exceptional circumstances.

These are:

1. When is it company/organisation policy for an employee to take leave at a specified time in the year and there is no opportunity for a family holiday in school holidays. This must be supported by documentary evidence from the organisation.
2. Service personnel returning from/scheduled to embark upon a tour of duty abroad.
3. Where holiday is recommended as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medial or emotional issue. Evidence must e provided, from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.
4. Where it may be a unique/last opportunity to spend time with a close relative.



If your child is absent for any reason, please telephone/email the school office by 8.30am on the first morning of your child's illness. Details about exclusion periods for infectious illnesses are available from the school office.

Collective Worship

As a church school we have a daily collective worship of a Christian nature. This may be as a whole school or a class. Parent may withdraw their children from collective worship. Children who are withdrawn will be supervised by a member of staff. We also regularly attend church throughout the year.



Communication

The school website contains all relevant information for parents. Please visit it at: [Finmere Primary School - Home](#)

The link to our newsletters are emailed home on a Friday. The newsletters contain information about the curriculum, upcoming events, awards and other important information. FOFA (our PTFA) also share information on the school newsletter. A copy of the latest newsletter can also be found on the school website.

Photographs and news are updated regularly on the school Facebook page.

You will receive emails keeping you up to date with any changes or news.

Complaints

If there are any concerns or issues you wish to raise regarding the curriculum or your child's education in general, please refer to the complaint's procedure available on the website and from the school office.

<https://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=11>



Curriculum

Each teacher is responsible for the planning and delivery of the National Curriculum and Religious Education. Teachers follow the school's medium- and long-term plans.

The subjects taught in the primary curriculum are: English, maths, science, computing, physical education, religious education, personal, social, health and citizenship education, art and design, design technology, history, geography and music. Within all these subjects we try to develop cross curricular-links. For more information please see our website:

[Finmere Primary School - Curriculum Information](#)

Teachers use a variety of methods, questioning and teaching including whole-class, group and individual teaching. They are guided always by the nature of the knowledge, skills and concepts involved.

Cycling

Children are able to ride bicycles and scooters to school. Children are encouraged to wear helmets if cycling or scooting to school. Children and adults are not permitted to cycle in the school grounds.

We have balance bikes in EYFS and run sessions to support children to develop the skills required for cycling. We would encourage parents to support their children to cycle independently as there is an opportunity for children in years 5 and 6 to complete the cycle proficiency course. This is organised on an annual basis, to ensure children are able to ride on the roads safely before they go to secondary school.

Data

Our performance data, including results for children at the end of EYFS, phonics screening and KS2 SATS data can be requested from the school office. Our data is not published on our website, due to our small numbers and the need to protect anonymity.



Disabled access

The school is a single storey building and each classroom is accessible from the outside by a single low step, or a ramp. Within the school there are no steps. A copy of the school's accessibility plan is available from the school office. Admission arrangements for pupils with disabilities do not differ from those for other pupils.

Dogs on premises

No dogs are allowed on the grounds, except for trained or training Guide Dogs. This is not only for health and Safety reasons, but also as to not scare any of our more nervous children.

Educational visits



Educational visits and visitors add to the excitement and interest of the curriculum. We also run residential trips for children in key stage 2. As part of the Warriner trust we make use of our relationship with the other schools and often share coach costs with them.

Emergency closure

If we need to close the school because of snow or bad weather, we will inform you via an email. The closure will also be posted on our Facebook page. We also show any closures on our website and inform Oxfordshire County Council

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Please do check the website or Facebook for updates.

If possible, we will remain partially open, for those parents who need to go to work. If this is the case, children will work in mixed ability groups and will require suitable clothing for the conditions. If the roads are not suitable for staff to access for example in the case of snow, we will fully close the school.



Extra-curricular clubs

We offer clubs each term, within lunchtimes and after school. Some of the clubs are run by outside agencies who use our school grounds.

FOFSA (Friends of Finmere School Association)

We have a very active and highly supportive Friends Association. They organise many of our successful events. The money they raise is used to fund important extras for our school. In the past, they have raised large amounts of money towards wooden climbing structures and low ropes, iPad and a trolley, curriculum materials and helped fund trips including the annual trip to the pantomime.

Forest School



We have wonderful school grounds including an outdoor classroom, pond and small cop. Children in Preschool and Reception have weekly session in the forest school, led by a Forest School leader from The Warriner Farm. Children enjoy building dens, hunting for bugs, mud pies and especially the mud slide and toasting marshmallows.

Growth mindset

At Finmere school, we promote a growth mind set and a can do attitude, through our vision and values and 'the power of yet', 'I can't do it yet!' We encourage children to be the best they can be while learning through the mistakes that they make.



Homework

All children receive homework. The amount and type of homework varies with the ages of the children. Some homework is expected to be done regularly, for example reading and learning timetables, and other homework will be undertaken termly, for example projects related to the curriculum.

Inclusion

The school aims to treat all children fairly regardless of gender, race, physical or mental ability. A full copy of our equality policy is available on the website.

<https://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=11>

Lunchtimes



Children can either have a school dinner or bring a packed lunch. School dinners for Reception, year 1 and year 2 are free, but must be ordered in advance. We use Fresh Start's meal manager to order and pay - you will be given log in details when your child starts school. If you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, please ask at the office for further details. The children use their water bottles at lunchtime. As

part of our healthy campaign, we promote healthy lunchboxes. Chocolate bars and sweets should not be sent in for lunch or breaks. Break time snacks are natural fruits and vegetables. Free fruit and vegetables are provided for children in Willow and Maple classes (preschool - year 2). Free milk is provided for children in Willow (preschool and reception).



Medication

Our guidance to parents is that if children are well enough to return to school following illness, they should not be on medication. In the few instances where children return but are still finishing a course of medicine, parents can come in to school to give medicines at lunchtime, if the medication is prescribed 4 times a day. If parents are unable to come into school to administer, they will be required to fill in a Medicine Agreement form available from reception, giving permission for the Headteacher or a member of staff to administer on their behalf.

Online safety

Children at Finmere School use the internet on a regular basis as part of their learning. In school, we have regular Online Safety activities to remind children of the importance of keeping themselves safe online.



Organisation

The children are organised across 3 classes: Willow; preschool and reception, Maple; year 1 and year 2, Redwood years 3,4,5 and 6. The Redwood children are split into phases (upper key stage 2: years 5 and 6 and lower key stage : years 3 and 4) during the morning for, reading, writing, maths, humanities and science. There are also times during the afternoon where they may be taught in phases.

All children are able to start full-time education in the September of the school year in which they will be five years old. We aim to work closely with parents and providers of playgroup and nursery education before your child starts school. Our teaching staff are



supported by teaching assistants (TAs). These TAs work under the direction of class teachers.

Personal property

All children's clothing and footwear should be named. Please speak to the teachers if any items are misplaced. Clearly labelled items are returned to children. Unlabelled items are periodically put on tables outside.

Religious Education

The teaching of Religious Education in the school covers the Christian religion and other world religions, specifically Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. For more information please see our website.

[Finmere Primary School - Religious Education and World views](#)

Road Safety

The road outside school, Mere Road, can become congested, both before and after school. Where possible we encourage children to walk to and from school. If it is necessary to arrive by car, please respect the no parking restrictions and always unload onto the kerbside. Please do not park in such a way that makes access for emergency vehicles difficult. Parents must not bring their cars into the school car park. On darker mornings and evenings, please make sure your child can be seen by others as there are no pavements on Mere Road. On all educational visits safety is of paramount concern.

SATS

KS2 - one week in May, commencing 12th May, for 2025.



School Day

8:30 School gates open and children can go straight into classrooms

8:45 Main gate closes

8:55 Register closes

10.45-11:00 Morning Break

12:00-13:00 Lunch

15:05 End of School Day

School Fete

The school and village fete is usually held end of June or beginning of July.

Security

On entering the school, visitors and volunteers must sign a book in reception and will be given an visitors' badge. The main gates are locked at 8.45 am each morning until 3.00 pm each school day. Following after school clubs' parents need to wait by the main entrance, unless advised of alternative arrangements. If a parent or known adult wishes to take a child from school during the school day, they must report to reception. Parents must inform school of adults who they give permission to collect their child. Children will not be handed over to adults who are not known to us without a password. The buildings are fully alarmed out of school hours.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and relationships are taught within a moral and family-orientated framework and takes into account the child's age and experience. The policy is available from reception.

Smoking



The whole of the school site is a no smoking area.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A pupil has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. This may mean that a pupil has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of pupils of the same age or a disability that makes it hard for them to access facilities within the school. For more information, please see our website. [Finmere Primary School - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Sports funding

We are affiliated to NOSSP (North Oxfordshire Schools' Sport Partnership); this provides opportunities for our children to compete at a local, county and national level.

Swimming

Swimming takes place at the Bicester Sports Centre. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 go swimming for a minimum of 18 sessions a year. Mrs Batsford is a qualified swimming teacher and, along with the swimming teachers employed by Bicester swimming pool is responsible for the teaching of the session. We have two additional members of staff who are trained to support with the teaching of swimming. All children must wear a swimming cap. The swimming teachers ensure a class swimming register is completed, showing the competencies of each child. This is completed in addition to the school register and therefore shows which children have remained on the school premises when their class has gone swimming. This is taken to the pool. Children who are unable to go swimming will go to another class, arranged by their teacher.

School uniform

Please would parents ensure that all pupils adhere to school uniform. It is our hope that all parents will support this uniform policy.

The school colours are red, navy and grey.



Red or blue sweatshirt or cardigan, with the school logo (optional)

Red or blue shirt, blouse or polo shirt

Grey pinafore dress or skirt

A pair of long or short grey trousers

A pair of plain socks or tights (school colours)

Smart, suitable low heeled black shoes (not trainers or boots)

All school logo items orders can be placed and paid for online at: <https://www.rio-group.co.uk/schools/finmere-c-of-e-primary-school.html>

Jewellery is not appropriate for school. However, one pair of simple plain stud earrings may be worn, but should be removed for swimming and removed (or covered) for all aspects of P.E. Pupils are responsible for the removal and/or covering of their own studs.

Sweat bands or other bands should not be worn.

Long hair (of shoulder length or longer) should be tied back during the school day and must be tied back for all aspects of P.E.

Children in key stage 2 come to school dressed in PE kit on their PE days.

The school PE uniform is available from Rio workwear and comprises of a red or blue t-shirt, school logo (optional) with black skirt or black shorts. During colder months a plain black tracksuit should be worn.

Warriner Multi Academy Trust

Finmere Primary School is part of the Warriner Multi-Academy Trust (WMAT). The WMAT comprises 10 primary schools and 1 secondary school - The Warriner. Every parent wants the best for their child. So do we - and we believe the best way to achieve that is by our schools working together as part of the Warriner Multi-Academy Trust. Our pupils benefit from sharing resources and expertise from other schools in the WMAT, including use of the Warriner farm, Forest School leaders, ICT support and subject specialism support.



Water

All children need to bring a bottle of water to drink throughout the day in a clear, plastic bottle. No squash or fruit juice is allowed, except for children's lunchboxes.

Wet weather

If the weather is wet at the start of the day, children are allowed to come into school through the front door, which is opened at 8.30. During a wet playtime, EYFS and Key stage 1 come into the hall where there are activities for them, Key stage 2 remain in their classroom. At lunchtime, when the weather becomes dry enough for children to go outside, a lunchtime supervisor will let the children know.

We are a small happy and nurturing school who benefit from the support of parents and the local community.

We welcome you to visit us and see all the exciting opportunities available.

