



Bishopswood Schools Federation

Prospectus 2026-2027



Caring, Respecting and Thriving Together

Bishopswood Federation work together to develop kind and considerate children who are resilient, reflective and motivated learners, ready for the challenges that the future holds.



The Bishopswood Schools Federation

Welcome to Bishopswood Schools Federation

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. At Bishopswood Schools Federation, we understand the trust that families place in us and are proud to provide a warm, nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can flourish.

Our Federation brings together the best of both worlds: a nurturing infant school experience and a seamless journey into junior education. Every child is known as an individual, celebrated for who they are and supported to become confident, resilient and successful learners.

One of the greatest strengths of our schools is the sense of community that exists between staff, children and families. We wholeheartedly believe that when children feel safe, cared for and excited by learning, they flourish. Our schools are places where children feel valued, where mistakes are seen as opportunities to learn and where kindness, respect and personal growth are just as important as academic success. Strong relationships form the foundation of everything we do.

Our beautiful grounds, extensive outdoor spaces and Forest School provision provide exceptional opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. We believe childhood should be filled with exploration, discovery, adventure and joy.

We are immensely proud that in our recent Ofsted, inspectors recognised our school as ***"warm and inclusive"*** and noted that ***"pupils are happy and feel safe."*** They found that ***"strong relationships help pupils feel valued and well supported."***

We hope this prospectus gives you an insight into what makes Bishopswood such a special place. We would be delighted to welcome you to visit and experience our schools for yourself.

Mrs Jo Armes
Head of School

Mr Glen Golding
Executive Headteacher



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A Place Where Every Child Belongs

At Bishopswood, children are at the heart of every decision we make.

We know that children learn best when they feel secure, respected and understood. Our staff take the time to build strong relationships with every child and family, creating an environment where children feel confident to take risks, ask questions and develop independence.



"Pupils are happy and feel safe at this warm and inclusive school."

"Staff know pupils and families well and provide effective support when needed."

"Pastoral support is a strength of the school." Ofsted 2026

Our values of **Caring, Respecting and Thriving Together** are visible in every classroom, every playground and every interaction. Children learn that kindness matters. They learn to celebrate differences, support one another and contribute positively to their community. We want all children to feel that they belong to our school.

Every Child is Important

One of the things families tell us they value most about Bishopswood is that their child is genuinely known.

As a Federation, we are large enough to offer a wide range of opportunities, expertise and experiences, yet small enough that every child remains an individual. Many visitors comment on the warm atmosphere across our schools and the way staff know children by name, understand their personalities and celebrate their achievements.

We believe children thrive when they feel seen, valued and understood. Whether they are taking their first steps into education in Reception or preparing for secondary school in Year 6, our children know they are part of a community that cares about them.





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Every child brings their own unique and special strengths, interests and talents. Our role is to nurture these, help children build confidence in themselves and ensure that they feel proud of who they are becoming.

Learning in Wonderful Surroundings

Our grounds are one of the Federation's most distinctive and valued assets and give children opportunities that set us apart from many other schools. Whether taking part in Forest School, learning outdoors or enjoying playtimes in our wonderful environment, children benefit from the freedom, space and experiences that support both learning and wellbeing.

Children benefit from:

- Expansive playing fields
- Woodland areas
- Forest School provision
- Exciting adventure trim-trail equipment
- Outdoor learning environments
- Storytelling spaces
- Growing and gardening opportunities.



These



experiences help children develop curiosity, creativity and a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.



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The Best Possible Start - Early Years at Bishopswood

We know that starting school is a significant milestone for both children and their families. Our carefully planned transition programme helps children settle quickly and confidently.

During the year preceding your child starting at the Infant School, there will be a number of opportunities for you and your child to visit and build relationships with all staff.

Your child will visit Year R, spending time in their new classroom, meeting other children and some of the adults who will be working with them as well as familiarising themselves with the new environment. Meetings will take place to give you further information and enable you to ask staff any questions about our school. Each family will also be given the opportunity for a home visit from our staff at the beginning of the school year.

Furthermore, the infant school offers a summer club towards the end of the summer holidays. Our 'Bishopswood Buddies Club' gives your child additional time in school to enable them to become familiar with our school environment and settle more easily at the beginning of their first year.

Through all of these opportunities, we begin building relationships well before a child's first day.

We place great importance on helping children form friendships, develop confidence and feel part of our school community from the very beginning. Through carefully planned play opportunities and nurturing support, children quickly become settled, secure and ready to learn.

Our Early Years Unit provides:

- Skilled and experienced staff
- Purposeful play-based learning
- Rich indoor and outdoor environments
- Strong focus on communication and language
- Early reading and phonics teaching
- Nurturing pastoral support





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"The Early Years provision gives children a positive and effective start to their education."

"Children feel safe, settled and ready to learn."

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Foundation Stage



The year your child spends in the Foundation Stage plays a major part in helping them make the transition between home and school. At Bishopswood, our Foundation Stage classes work together as an Early Years Unit, mixing across the rooms and our extensive, outside area.

During this year, the adults carefully plan activities to ensure all children encounter new experiences and extend their skills, develop their confidence and build on what they already know. Children deepen their understanding by actively investigating, initiating play

and learning from their surroundings. These experiences will provide opportunities for your children to work towards their Early Learning Goals.

The Foundation Stage children have their own statutory curriculum called "The Early Years Foundation Stage". There are seven areas of learning and development, all are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three prime areas are:

Communication and language

Children need opportunities to experience a rich language environment both inside and outside the classroom - they need to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves, and to speak and listen in a range of situations in their everyday lives.





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Physical development

Children need to be active and interactive; they need to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement on both a large and small scale. They must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity.

Personal, social and emotional development

This very important area covers helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

We will also support children in **four specific areas**, through which the **three prime areas** are strengthened and applied. These are:

Literacy

Children are helped to link sounds and letters, to begin to read and write. They are given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest. We use a synthetic phonics programme to enable children to acquire the phonic knowledge and strategies they need for reading and writing. Workshops to support parents and carers will be provided.



Mathematics

Children are provided with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems, and to describe shapes, spaces, patterns and measures.

Understanding the world

Guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community is enhanced through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about their own families and lives of people around them both now and in the past. Children also have the opportunity to investigate the natural world around them, including in our Forest School provision.





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Expressive arts and design

Children need to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Each area of Year R learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and a mixture of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play, which is guided by adults. As children grow older and as their development allows, the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for Year One.

The Foundation Stage Team recognise the importance of parental partnership and are always happy to talk to parents and carers about their child.

Growing Successful Learners

Alongside our nurturing ethos, we are ambitious for every child. Our carefully planned curriculum develops secure knowledge, skills and understanding across all subjects, ensuring pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education. High expectations, effective teaching and strong subject knowledge help every child to achieve their best.

Reading is at the heart of learning throughout the Federation. Children begin phonics from the very start of their school journey and develop a love of books, stories and language. Regular library visits and encounters with authors further enrich children's reading experiences.



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"Early reading is prioritised, with children beginning phonics as soon as they start school."

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Alongside strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, children experience a rich and engaging curriculum that includes science, history, geography, computing, music, art, design technology, physical education and religious education. Learning is carefully sequenced to build knowledge over time and help children make meaningful connections across subjects.



Our curriculum is enriched through Forest School, educational visits, visitors, performances and outdoor learning opportunities. These experiences bring learning to life, inspire curiosity and help children apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

Children leave Bishopswood with excellent knowledge and skills, as well as the confidence, resilience, independence and ambition needed for future success.

"Overall, pupils achieve well. They build knowledge and skills over time and can apply what they have learned"

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A Seamless Journey from Infant to Junior School

One of the unique advantages of being part of the Federation is the exceptionally smooth transition from Infant School to Junior School.

For many families, this transition can feel like a significant milestone. Because the two schools work so closely together, sharing leadership, learning behaviours and school values, the transition feels natural and familiar. Children already know the environment, the staff, many of the routines and, most importantly, they know they remain part of the wider Bishopswood family.



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Throughout their time in the Infant School, children regularly:

- Visit the Junior School
- Use the school library
- Participate in shared events
- Attend performances
- Work on collaborative projects
- Meet Junior School staff and become familiar with the site and routines
- Have shared playtimes



By the time children move into Year 3, they are excited and confident about the next stage of their journey. Families consistently tell us that the move feels natural, familiar and well supported.

Inclusive Education for Every Child

One of Bishopswood's strengths is our inclusivity. We are fully committed to ensuring that every child receives the support, challenge and encouragement they need to thrive and achieve their fullest potential. We recognise that every learner is different and celebrate those differences.

Many children require some level of support during their time at school. At Bishopswood our experienced and trained staff are skilled at identifying where there may be concerns or difficulties and proactively raise them with our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO). We recognise that early intervention is vital in enabling children to make, and feel proud of, their progress throughout their time at our school.

When concerns are expressed, parents/carers are always consulted and a plan drawn up together with the class teacher and SENDCO. We are fortunate to have our own Educational Psychologist and Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead within the school partnership, giving accelerated access to diagnostic assessment and more targeted support if needed.

Our inclusive approach includes:





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- Early identification of needs
- High-quality SEND provision
- Skilled support staff
- Strong partnership with families
- Effective collaboration with external agencies

We also have 'Inclusion Ambassadors' across both the Infant and Junior Schools who work collaboratively to promote awareness and understanding of diversity, along with a sense of belonging. We strive to ensure that all members of the school community with a disability, or those from a range of cultures and faiths, are seen and celebrated for their individual uniqueness, and we learn about the important and richness of the World Community and our role in contributing to it as responsible citizens.

"The school provides an inclusive environment where all pupils are well supported to succeed."

"Leaders have clear and effective systems to identify pupils' needs early."

"Most pupils with SEND achieve well from their starting points."

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High Expectations, Respectful Relationships

At Bishopswood, we believe children thrive when clear expectations are combined with kindness, consistency and strong relationships.

We encourage children to show respect for themselves, others and the environment around them. Through our shared values of Caring, Respecting and Thriving Together, and our Learning Behaviours, children learn to develop independence, responsibility and self-discipline, helping them become thoughtful and considerate members of our community.



Our Learning Behaviours help children develop the characteristics needed to become successful lifelong learners. Through perseverance, curiosity,



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independence, collaboration and reflection, children learn how to approach challenges positively and take pride in their progress. Our pupils particularly enjoy earning the opportunity to display the matching mascot on their table when they demonstrate one of these important learning behaviours.



Beyond the Classroom

School is about far more than academic achievement.



At Bishopswood we want children to discover interests, develop talents, make lasting memories and grow into confident young people. From music performances and sporting events to leadership opportunities, educational visits and outdoor adventures, children experience a rich and varied school life.

Pupil voice is an important part of our school community and we have a School Council and Eco Council that meets regularly to raise pupil-led issues with staff and represents the views of our children on a range of matters.

We also have Headteacher Prefects, Playleaders and Behaviour and Inclusion ambassadors who are chosen to act as role-models to others in promoting the schools' values and high expectations.



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We provide a wide range of opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents, including:

- Sports clubs and competitions
- Choir and local performances
- RockSteady music tuition
- Educational visits and visitors
- Forest School activities
- School Council and Eco Council
- Cultural Diversity and topic-themed days
- Theatre visits and in-school productions
- Leadership opportunities



"A range of enrichment opportunities, including clubs, visits and visitors, enables pupils to extend their experiences beyond the classroom."

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Through these opportunities children develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills.

Celebrating Success

One of the highlights of each week is our Celebration Assembly, where we come together as a school community to recognise children's achievements, efforts and personal successes. Children are celebrated not only for their academic accomplishments, but also for demonstrating our Federation values of **Caring, Respecting and Thriving Together**.

As part of this, pupils will attend a small 'tea-party' with the Headteacher, in recognition of their achievement that week. It is a very special time for both the Headteacher and the pupils!

Working Together with Families



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At Bishopswood, relationships matter.

We are proud of the strong partnerships we build with our families and the supportive community that surrounds our schools. Parents are welcomed as partners in their child's education and are encouraged to share in school life through events, celebrations and regular communication.



Many families stay with us for years and become an important part of our community. The friendships formed between children, parents and staff help create the welcoming atmosphere that makes Bishopswood such a special place.

Each half term a year group curriculum letter is distributed to parents giving useful information on ways you can help your child. A parents' evening is held in the autumn and spring terms, which give time for teachers to celebrate children's progress and discuss targets for the following term. An end of academic year report is sent home in July. In addition to this, the Head Teacher and class teachers are always available, by appointment, to discuss progress, celebrate achievements, and share any anxiety or problem which may arise.

Parents are always welcome in the school and we appreciate the time given to help both children and teachers. An enhanced DBS check is necessary before any adult can help in school and the school office can give further information on this.

Families can expect:

- Dedicated and friendly staff
- Open communication
- Regular updates and newsletters
- Parent workshops and information events
- Curriculum information
- Parent consultation meetings
- Accessible leadership team
- Inclusion drop-in sessions and coffee mornings

Lunchtimes at Bishopswood

Lunchtime is an important part of the school day. Children enjoy nutritious meal



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options in a welcoming environment and can bring their own healthy packed lunch if they prefer.

Lunchtimes are supported by a dedicated team who provide structured activities, access to our extensive outdoor spaces and opportunities for children to play, socialise and develop positive friendships.



Wraparound Care That is Part of the School

We understand the challenges of balancing family life and work commitments. That's why we offer high-quality wraparound care through our Breakfast Club and After School Club, providing children with a safe, welcoming and familiar environment before and after the school day.

What makes our provision different is that it is run and managed by Bishopswood staff. The children are cared for by adults they already know and trust, helping them feel secure, happy and confident throughout the day.

Our wraparound provision offers:

- A safe and nurturing environment
- Familiar staff who know the children well
- Opportunities for play, creativity and social interaction
- A smooth transition between club sessions and the school day
- Consistent expectations and routines
- Support for working families
- Breakfast club runs from 7.30am – 8.45am
- After-school club runs from 3.30pm – 6.00pm



Because the clubs are fully integrated into school life, children enjoy a genuine sense of continuity. Parents can feel reassured that their children are being cared



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for by staff who understand their individual needs and who share the Federation's values of caring, respecting and thriving together.

The provision reflects the warm and supportive ethos recognised by inspectors, who noted that staff know pupils and families well and provide effective support when needed.

Stronger Together Through the Synergy Partnership

As part of the **Synergy School Partnership**, Bishopswood benefits from being connected to a wider network of local primary schools that work together to share expertise, develop staff, create additional opportunities for children and improve outcomes for pupils.



Being part of the Partnership means that our staff regularly collaborate with colleagues from other schools, sharing best practice in teaching, learning and curriculum development. This ensures that our children benefit from fresh ideas, high-quality professional expertise and innovative approaches to education.

The Partnership also provides valuable opportunities for staff development and leadership, helping us to attract, develop and retain excellent teachers and support staff. This commitment to professional growth directly benefits the quality of education and experiences we provide for our pupils. Staff are valued, with leaders providing valuable professional development opportunities for staff, whilst maintaining a strong focus on wellbeing and workload.

While we are proud of our unique Bishopswood identity and close-knit school community, being part of the Synergy School Partnership enables us to combine the warmth and personal feel of an individual school with the opportunities and expertise that come from working within a larger family of schools.

Why Choose Bishopswood?

We believe that Bishopswood is a very special place for our pupils to learn and grow. Throughout their time with us, your child will benefit from:



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- ✓ A warm, nurturing environment
- ✓ An inclusive culture where every child belongs
- ✓ Outstanding learning opportunities
- ✓ Extensive grounds and Forest School experiences
- ✓ A strong focus on wellbeing and personal development
- ✓ High-quality teaching and learning
- ✓ Dedicated, friendly and caring staff
- ✓ Excellent pastoral support
- ✓ Strong partnerships with families
- ✓ A seamless transition from Infant School to Junior School
- ✓ Opportunities to develop confidence, independence and leadership
- ✓ School-run Breakfast and After School Clubs staffed by familiar adults who know and care for your child
- ✓ Part of the Synergy School Partnership, giving children and staff access to wider opportunities, shared expertise and strong educational leadership.



As Ofsted recognised:

"Leaders are determined in their focus on creating a highly inclusive culture that places pupils' best interests at the centre of decision-making."

"There is a clear commitment to ensuring that pupils thrive."

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Come and See Bishopswood for Yourself

The best way to understand what makes Bishopswood special is to visit us. We would be delighted to welcome you to our schools, show you our wonderful learning environments and introduce you to the children and staff who make our community so unique.

At Bishopswood, every child matters.

It would be our privilege to work alongside your family, care for your child and help them unlock their full potential as part of our warm, nurturing and inclusive school community.



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Infant School and Junior School

Barlows Road, Tadley, Hampshire

Caring, Respecting and Thriving Together.





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Governing Body Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

The Bishopswood Schools Federation Governing Body is committed to delivering friendly, nurturing, happy schools, working together and with the wider community to enable each individual to maximize their potential so we can all be proud of our schools.

Mission Statement

By:

- encouraging all members of the Federation to be motivated, independent lifelong learners through a variety of creative and stimulating learning experiences
- providing excellent teaching and learning opportunities
- providing an open environment and strong home/school partnership in a team where challenges are faced up to and solved
- promoting and valuing self-worth and self-discipline, good behaviour and co- operation
- effective use of technology
- creating and promoting outdoor learning opportunities
- providing vibrant extra curriculum activities to broaden horizons
- provide an environment where staff have fulfilling and challenging roles while protecting work life balance.

