



2023/24

Prospectus



Rodford Tabernacle
Westerleigh Road
Westerleigh
BS37 8QG

Tel: 01454 311710
enquiries@immanuelschool.org.uk
www.immanuelschool.org.uk

Welcome

Thank you for taking time to find out more about our school – a small, friendly school based upon Christian and family principles.

Our aim

We are passionate about preparing our children for life in modern society so whatever their background we want to give them the opportunity to be educated in an environment where God is central and the teaching is based upon a biblical understanding of the world; to help them develop their relationship with God, and to equip them for life.

We aim to provide a stable, caring environment which fosters high expectations of personal conduct and helps pupils to develop both understanding and personal qualities of integrity, patience, kindness, obedience, honesty and self-control. We understand the primary responsibility for the upbringing of children to be that of their parents. We aim to help parents in this and to encourage their participation in their child's education.

Location

The school is located on the outskirts of the historic village of the Westerleigh in South Gloucestershire. This provides a perfect setting for the school as the village provides plenty of educational interest as well as useful facilities such as the village playing field and Wapley common and woods.

Our site has plenty of indoor and outdoor space with ample scope for group and individual learning and play.



Age

The school caters for all ages from 4 (Reception) to 16 (Year 11).

Further information

In the following pages we have provided further information about the school's ethos and practice. If you have any further questions or wish to arrange a visit please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are interested in considering a place for your child/children please complete the registration of interest form and return it to enquiries@immanuelchristianschool.org.uk or to Immanuel Christian School, Rodford Tabernacle, Westerleigh Road, Westerleigh, South Gloucestershire, BS37 8QG.

For further information please call (01454 311710) or email: enquiries@immanuelchristianschool.org.uk

Educational Philosophy

The idea of the school as an extension of each family shapes the way in which Immanuel School operates and develops. It is to supplement rather than take the place of the family. The school must never be so large that it loses the familiarity, informality and the caring discipline which should be features of family life; and perhaps, most importantly, parents should be involved in the education of their children alongside those who, because of training, may have greater experience. Professional teachers assist parents at Immanuel School, they do not replace them.

Immanuel School acknowledges God as sovereign in creation, in sustaining all things, in salvation and in all the affairs of man. This is to form the basis of the teaching of all subjects, avoiding any teaching that exalts man above God. All curriculum materials are selected and controlled in accordance with this thinking. The supreme and ultimate standard and absolute rule of faith for life is the Bible, the word of God. The Bible is the foundation for the curriculum and all moral teaching.

Our aim is to foster and nurture a love of learning in the minds of all children and to encourage them to approach all subjects meaningfully and intelligently. The school aims to provide an excellent education developing the total person: body, mind and spirit. As such it seeks to nurture growth in five key areas:

- **Spiritually:** Recognising that God's Word is the foundation for all of life, Immanuel School seeks to encourage children to develop their own relationship with Jesus Christ. An act of daily worship and emphasis on practical Christian living provides a strong spiritual framework.
- **Academically:** Immanuel School strives for academic excellence and seeks to develop to the maximum potential the intellectual abilities of each child. To this end each child is 'paced' in each subject to allow them to progress at his/her own rate, avoiding discouragement in the less able or boredom in the more academic. Within this framework each child is expected to work hard and to present his/her best work.
- **Emotionally:** Dedicated teachers help foster a sense of security and self-worth in each child – a person created in the image of God. The stability provided by the spiritual emphasis helps students meet the challenges of learning and living.
- **Socially:** Christian ethics not only encourage personal spiritual growth, but also wholesome social development and an ability to function competently beyond the parameters of home and school.
- **Physically:** Children are expected to participate in regular physical exercise and sports as they are able, as a means of promoting health, strength and social development.

Immanuel School believes that children function contentedly and competently in a caring and disciplined environment. Parents, teachers and children all have responsibility in maintaining such an ethos.

Our Aims and Purpose

We look to the Bible to discover what the school should be trying to achieve.

We see our children as God's gift to our families (Ps 127:3), wonderfully made (Ps 139:14), but conceived in sin (Ps 51:5) and in need of redemption (Rom 3:23). We recognise our duty to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4) and that knowledge, wisdom and understanding are especially valued by God (Prov 1-5).

We want to see each child thoroughly equipped for good works which will commend Christ in this world (2 Tim 3:15-17) and prepared in heart, soul, mind and strength for life in the world to come (Deut 6:5; Matt 22:37).

Thus our aims and purpose in education are to complement the role of the family and the church and reflect what we believe are God's priorities for our children:

- To provide each child with a biblical understanding to equip the child for practical living in this world and encourage the child's awareness of spiritual and eternal realities.
- To help children develop the skills and understanding needed for adulthood.
- To develop in children an understanding of society in both place and time.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation of humankind's cultural activities.
- To develop an understanding of scientific and technological activities, both in the past and in the present.
- To develop an understanding of and respect towards the natural world.
- To develop in children an understanding of man's unique role in creation and their opportunities and limitations.
- To help children develop those fundamental skills which are necessary in order to achieve all other aims.

Statement of Beliefs

1. **GOD:** There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. **THE BIBLE:** God has revealed himself in the bible, which consists of the old and new testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the bible as originally given is in its entirety the word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. **THE HUMAN RACE:** All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. **SALVATION:** Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. **THE CHURCH:** The universal church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the word, the administering of baptism and the Lord's supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. **THE FUTURE:** The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Curriculum and activities

The curriculum of Immanuel School is fundamental to achieving its aims. We have therefore devised our own curriculum. The curriculum is regularly reviewed and changes made in accordance with the needs of pupils and strengths of teachers. We will also keep abreast of current educational thought, although not necessarily change our practice. We will evaluate new initiatives and we will adopt examples of good practice.

Our aim in all curriculum areas is that children develop a love of learning and become life-long learners. In the early years emphasis will be placed on language skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening and handwriting) and mathematics, which are the main tools for the study of all other subject areas. Other subject areas are science, history, geography, modern foreign language, music, art and design, cookery, Bible, PE and religious studies.

We have a topic based approach, each topic forming the basis for study through a whole term. Each term the whole school will study the same topic. This will help the school community to work together on a shared project at age appropriate levels.

We have devised a three year rolling cycle:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year A	Beginnings	Nations and People	Water
Year B	The Earth in Space	Living Things	Local Studies
Year C	Communications	Mountains	Treasure

Facilities

The school is based at Rodford Tabernacle in Westerleigh. This has a large hall, a lobby and second room. There is a kitchen area with cooking facilities.

Outside there are both grass and tarmacked areas. Westerleigh village has a large playing field only a short walk away. There are also a range of sports facilities, including swimming, in the nearby town of Yate.

Assessment of Pupils

All pupils will be assessed on admission to the school. During their time in the school their teachers will regularly carry out formative assessments so that each pupil is given work which is appropriate for their abilities. Pupils' progress will be monitored closely by their class teachers.

In Reception, children's progress and attainment will be assessed using the Early Years Framework. From Y1, pupils will be given yearly tests in English and Maths, although for the younger children these will be informal and appropriate for their age. There may also be formal tests in other subjects for junior aged children.

There will be opportunities for parents to meet with their child's teacher at any time, as well as a formal Parents/Teacher Meeting. Parents will receive a written report on their child's progress during term 3.

Admissions

We will use the following criteria for admitting children to the school:

1. Parental acceptance of the biblical principles on which the school is run and willingness to allow their children to join in the activities of the school.
2. Parental financial commitment to the agreed fees.
3. Parental willingness to serve the school. There are various opportunities to fulfil this commitment.
4. The ability of the school to meet the educational needs of the child.
5. Availability of places. The school is committed to providing small teaching groups. The maximum size of each class will vary slightly according to staffing, accommodation and pupil numbers. Children will normally be accepted onto a waiting list if a particular class is oversubscribed.
6. Siblings will be given preference.

Parental involvement

The Governors at Immanuel School believe that the Bible places prime responsibility upon parents for the physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, spiritual and social development of their children. The School's aim is to work in partnership with parents in order to help them fulfill their biblical obligation to 'bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). Parents should support the content and method of teaching in the school and parents' help is invaluable in a range of practical areas of school life such as in the classroom, on school trips, with transport and with cleaning and upkeep.

The school has a duty of care to safeguard the wellbeing of all its pupils. All staff, volunteers and governors will be subject to DBS checks, interviews, references and training in child protection.

Homework will be set as appropriate and families need to support their children by becoming involved with these activities. Homework will be given in order to:

- aid the development of sound study skills and habits;
- complete set work;
- revise classwork; and
- extend the capabilities of children.

Parents should check that their children have completed set tasks. Using a homework diary, children will be able to keep parents informed of expectations and provide parents with the opportunity to keep in touch and identify difficulties quickly. Parents will be welcome to discuss any areas of concern or interest at the end of the school day with the class teacher on an informal basis. There will be a more formal meeting once a year to discuss children's progress, but parents who wish to will be able to make appointments at more regular intervals.

Behaviour

High standards of behaviour are expected throughout the school. We expect children to:

- Honour God by taking every opportunity to do their best
- Follow instructions without arguing
- Treat others with kindness, consideration and respect
- Avoid all inappropriate physical contact
- Be on time and properly equipped for every activity

Maintaining these high standards will play an important role in achieving the working environment we aim for. Please ask for a copy of our Behaviour Policy for further information.

Complaints

Good, positive relationships between children, parents, staff and Immanuel School are vital if we are to achieve our school aims. If disputes occur they will be taken seriously, dealt with promptly, and resolved in a biblical manner. For full details please ask for a copy of our Complaints Policy.

The School Day

The school day will run from 8.45am to 3pm, so children will be expected to arrive between 8.30 and 8.40. Punctuality will be monitored and those who arrive after 8:45 will be marked down as late. Please help towards the smooth opening of the day by being careful over this matter. If a child is unable to attend school, parents must let the school know by 8.45.

Assemblies

Each school day will begin with an act of worship. This is to be a special time in our school, precious for those who love God and want to serve him. It will take the form of either class gatherings or whole school assemblies and will include prayer, singing and bible reading. Sometimes parents will be invited to take morning prayers and on occasions other guests, for example missionaries, will be invited.

Morning Play

Morning break will begin at 11.00 and end at 11.15. Children should be prepared for outside play unless it is raining. Children may have a snack at this time. In the event of rain children will be provided with games and toys to play with in their classroom.

Lunch Time

Lunch break will be from 12.15 to 13.00. Each class will remain in their own classrooms and be supervised by the class teacher. In order to encourage healthy eating we encourage pupils to drink water. We will try to make our meal times as pleasant and relaxed as possible. We feel it is important that the children eat properly, enjoy conversation, company and rest before the playtime with its opportunity to burn off some energy. Once children have finished their meal they can go outside to play.

End of Day

The school day ends at 3pm. Please ensure you arrive in good time to collect your child. If someone different is to collect your child, please let us know.

Organisation

The class organisation of the school will vary each year depending on the number of children on role and their ages.

Staff and Volunteers – September 2022

Staff:

Head Teacher:	Joanna Gulliford	B.Ed Hons (Cantab) 2001, QTS
Class teachers:	Kate Harding	BA with Diploma of Education
	Alan Homersley	B.Eng, PGCE
	Kirsty Judge	B.Ed
	Karen Hurley	BA (Hons)
	Jenny Joy	B.Ed
	Marina Harvey	BA (Hons)
	Jonathan Gulliford	LL.B., LL.M.
	Sarah Salkeld	
	Millie Sherwood	

Teaching Assistant:	Valerie Bretton
	Emma Warren
	Nichole Taylor

<u>Volunteers:</u>	Carol Cruickshank
	Frances Luxton
	Vivian Gulliford

Safeguarding designated person:	Joanna Gulliford
Deputy designated person:	Kate Harding
Safeguarding Governor:	Fiona Barber

First Aid:	Joanna Gulliford
	Kate Harding
	Alan Homersley
	Sarah Salkeld
	Kirsty Judge

<u>Governors:</u>	Jonathan Gulliford (Chair)
	Carol Cruickshank
	Joanna Gulliford
	Robert Gulliford
	Fiona Barber
	Gary Williams
	Aidan Darley

School Uniform

Boys	Girls
<p>Winter Uniform: Navy school trousers KS1/2: Pale blue shirt or polo-shirt KS3: Pale blue shirt and school tie Navy V-necked jumper Plain dark socks Black shoes (not trainers)</p>	<p>Winter Uniform: Navy skirt (knee length) or pinafore or navy school trousers KS1/2: Pale blue shirt or polo-shirt KS3: Pale blue shirt and school tie Navy V-necked jumper or cardigan Plain dark socks or tights Black shoes (not trainers)</p>
<p>Optional Summer Uniform: Navy school shorts</p>	<p>Optional Summer Uniform: Navy and white gingham dress OR Pale blue and white gingham dress White socks</p>
<p>PE Equipment: Navy tracksuit bottoms (winter) Navy cotton shorts (summer) Plain white T-shirt Navy fleece (winter) Trainers with a good gripping rubber sole</p>	<p>PE Equipment: Navy tracksuit bottoms (winter) Navy cotton shorts (summer) Plain white T-shirt Navy fleece (winter) Trainers with a good gripping rubber sole</p>

All the above items (except school ties) are available online or in-store at Tesco, Asda and M&S amongst other retailers.

School ties are available direct from the school. Branded items with the school logo such as fleeces, jumpers, cardigans and book bags are available to order through the school.

Wellingtons will also be needed for outdoor activities.

All clothing should be clearly labelled for easy identification. Sensible coats and bags are advised.

Hair should be neat and if necessary tied back so it does not fall across the face when leaning forward. Hair ties should be in school colours.

With the exception of watches and plain ear studs (girls only) no other jewellery is to be worn. Make up and coloured nail varnish are not to be worn.

Fees

The current fees for places at the school are on the school website.

Funding

Immanuel School will receive no financial support from the government. Most of the school's funds will come from fees paid by parents. Fees will be due termly in advance in September, January and April or by regular monthly standing order from September to August inclusive.

The school will also rely on the sacrificial voluntary donations of churches, relatives and other interested parties. These welcome donations may be gift aided (if donated by a UK taxpayer), which increases the value of the donation to the school. To make an occasional or a regular donation please contact us. Immanuel School may also seek funding from charities and trusts.

There will be fundraising events organised throughout the school year such as sponsored sporting activities.

In modelling a response to the biblical mandate to care for the orphan and the widow, Immanuel School will also seek to donate money to specific Christian charities and strive to foster an awareness of the needy across the world.

Immanuel Christian School Home/School Agreement

Immanuel School is an independent Christian school and is not linked solely to any one branch of the church. We believe we should work together with families who want their children to receive an all-round education with a biblical foundation. To do this we rely on you as parents to give a high level of support to all areas of School life. This gives us the opportunity to build a strong community. In turn this adds to the quality of education your children can receive.

This agreement sets out some of the things we feel are vital in the relationship between parents and the School.

I/we wish to send my/our child to Immanuel Christian School.

As parent[s]/guardian[s], I am/we are in agreement with the broad aims and objectives of the School. I/we expressly confirm that we are fully aware of the School's Christian ethos and beliefs which form the foundation for all the activities and life of the School. In addition I/we agree:

- to support the School in its code of conduct, its forms of discipline and its methods of administration
- to attend parents' evenings, or to give notice in advance if I/we cannot
- to carry out our financial responsibilities to the School
- to give at least one term's notice if my/our child is to be withdrawn early, or to forfeit one term's fees (in the event of a child being excluded for non-payment of fees, the term fee penalty still applies)
- to ensure that my/our child will have the correct and named uniform and necessary equipment for lessons
- to support School curriculum-based trips
- to aim to support School functions such as concerts, plays, fetes, work parties etc., as part of our commitment to the overall development of the School
- to respect the commitment of the School to its Statement of Faith

In return the School staff:

- will provide a warm, caring atmosphere within which children can flourish
- will provide education and pastoral care within a Christian framework to the best of their abilities
- will maintain the ethos, values and standards of the School at all times
- will report on pupils' progress at least twice a year, and communicate on pastoral and administrative matters as necessary, making themselves available to talk to parents if required
- will provide and mark homework as appropriate

Name of Pupil[s]

Signed: Parent/Guardian:

Date:

School Representative:

Date:

Please complete and return one copy of this form to the School office for our records.