



# Building Stepping Stones to Success

## Stone Church of England Combined School

### Prospectus 2017





# Building Stepping Stones to Success

## Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to Stone, a 'Skills for Life' school. Here, your children will develop the skills to enable them to be lifelong learners. At Stone we all work to enable each child to discover their unique gifts and talents and to achieve their highest potential. We are a small, happy school which places great emphasis on our Christian values of community, perseverance, honesty, compassion, respect and responsibility. Stone pupils are happy, polite and successful.

We enjoy close links with our local church and make full use of our beautiful setting and excellent facilities, which include a fully equipped school kitchen, extensive outdoor learning resources, an amphitheatre and an amazing well stocked library.

In a secure and caring environment, we offer a rich and engaging curriculum which enables children to develop enquiring minds and the self-confidence to succeed throughout their lives. Children are encouraged to explore a range of interests, including music, art, sport, languages and drama, both through the curriculum and our wide range of extra-curricular activities.

We work closely with parents and encourage you to take an active role in your children's learning. Detailed information about your child's progress and targets for improvement are given at regular intervals through the school year. You will be invited to frequent workshops detailing our curriculum and methods.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Debbie Morrison  
Headteacher





# Building Stepping Stones to Success

## About the School

At Stone, we believe that the ethos and values of the school are of paramount importance to the development of our children.

Stone CE School is a '**Skills for Life**' school. We aim to teach our children the skills they need to be successful learners; we nurture responsible and active citizens, who make positive contributions to their communities. Stone pupils enjoy and achieve, and are well prepared for lifelong learning.

Our Vision Statement details our aims:

## Vision Statement

*Through our Christian values we inspire a love of learning, a desire to create and the courage to innovate: preparing children for an ever changing world.*

## We will achieve this by:

- Providing an engaging and relevant curriculum, enriched by real experiences, where key skills are developed in preparation for lifelong learning.
- Providing a welcoming and secure environment where children feel at ease and able to flourish.
- Supporting personal development through an emphasis on traditional Christian values.
- Enabling all to succeed by providing exciting learning experiences well matched to children's needs and interests.
- Working in partnership with parents, our local community and local businesses to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children.
- Ensuring that all staff receive high quality professional development and have a shared vision and purpose.





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## Our Values Statement:

We wish to develop in children a sense of respect, honesty, community, perseverance, responsibility and compassion.

## Our Christian Community:

Our Christian values are central to our school life. Children are encouraged to care and take responsibility for each other; as a result our older and younger children mix well together. Playground leaders also promote safe and healthy play for all. Bullying and racism are never tolerated.

We encourage children to resolve differences through discussion and learn to make amends if they make mistakes. Positive behaviour management is a feature of our school, with House Points, Success Stones and Child of the Week certificates being regularly awarded.

Community spirit is developed through our school council who have been responsible for a number of initiatives. They meet regularly to help improve our school and the experiences and learning of our children. Children are allocated to a house team when they enter the school which also encourages bonds and team spirit across the school.







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Parents, relatives and friends work together to make this school successful. A strong and supportive PTA raise funds to improve resources in the school.



The author, Steve Cole, opening our new library which was funded by the dedicated and hardworking Parent Teacher Association.



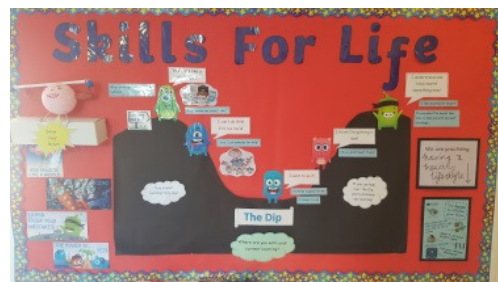


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## Our Distinctiveness

### ***We are a 'skills for life' school***

We are passionate about our 'Skills for Life' approach. It underpins everything we do and provides a foundation for our exciting and inspirational curriculum. As a result children are more confident in their learning and are excited to 'grow their brains' when they feel challenged by learning. Our 'Skills for Life' approach is evident in planning, in every classroom display and in all aspects of school life preparing children for life beyond Stone School and providing children with the skills they require to be lifelong learners.



### **We are passionate about Outdoor Learning**



Stone school has beautiful grounds with an area specifically designed for outdoor learning which includes: an amphitheatre, gardening areas for each class, a compost cottage, bird tables and a mini beast microscope workstation making learning more fun and children more engaged. Our children also love attending Forest School. At Forest School children are inspired about their cross curricular outdoor learning and, as a result, are developing confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences. Children learn about physical geography; about the Earth's surface, climate, soil water and vegetation.

### **We are leading the introduction of Singapore maths in Bucks**

We introduced the Singapore Maths approach to the teaching of maths in September 2015. Singapore Maths is a highly effective approach to teaching maths based on research and evidence. It builds pupils' mathematical fluency without the need for rote learning. It introduces new concepts using the concrete (work in with apparatus), pictorial (seeing pictures), abstract (working with numbers) approach. Pupils learn to think mathematically as opposed to reciting formulas they don't understand and it teaches mental strategies to solve problems. Stone School is one of the first schools in Bucks to introduce this across the school and is supporting other schools to develop the approach.





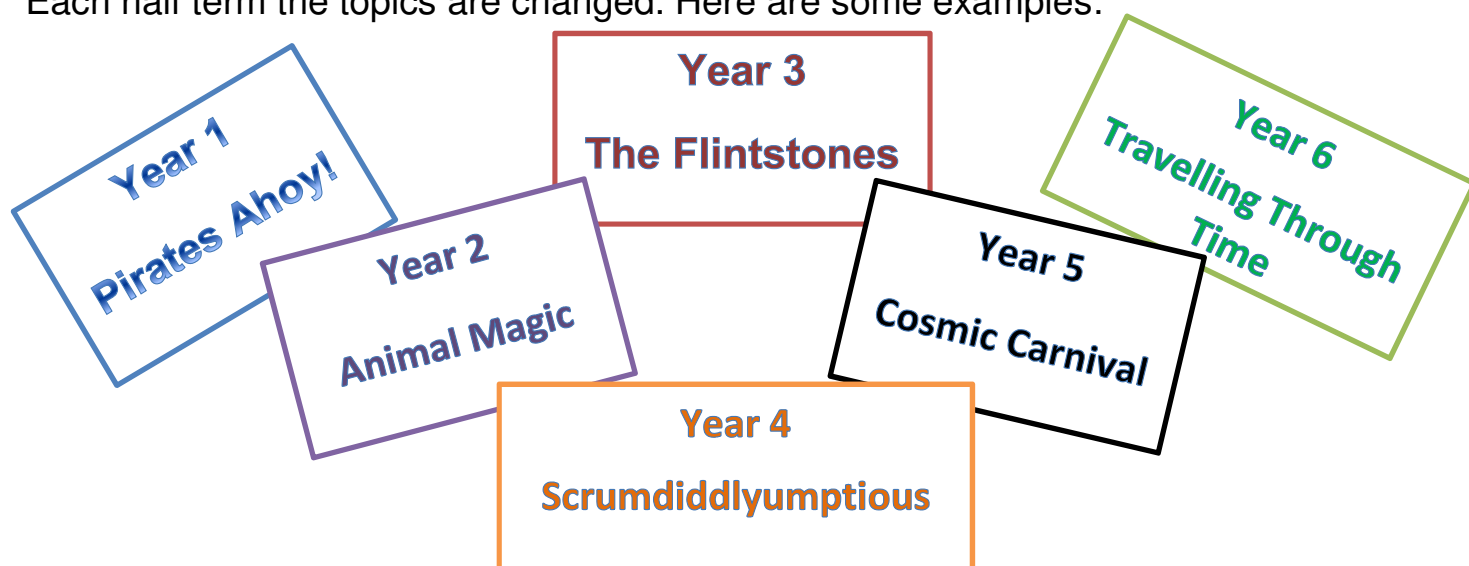


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## The Curriculum

We believe that all children are entitled to a curriculum which develops not only their knowledge but the skills they require to be effective learners, their self-esteem and their sense of responsible citizenship. We believe that children should be eager to discover new learning and excited by the experiences they have in school. We aim to inspire and challenge them in their learning and have developed an exciting topic based curriculum to achieve this.

Each half term the topics are changed. Here are some examples:



In all curriculum planning, we make sure that essential transferable 'Skills for Life' such as resilience, motivation and collaboration underpin all learning. Reading, writing, mathematical and computing skills are mapped across the curriculum to be applied and strengthened. Considerable emphasis is placed on the acquisition of the key skills needed by the children. These include the ability to read fluently, to write easily in a pleasing style of handwriting, the ability to speak clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts and the knowledge of basic number facts and times tables.

Reading is a central part of the school curriculum and the pleasures of reading and its importance are highlighted from the beginning. Progress is monitored carefully and reading diaries are kept as part of the home/school reading policy. Parents are also





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encouraged to come into school as volunteer helpers to hear the children read. Phonics and sound blending work is introduced in Reception and continues throughout the children's time in our school. Our phonics scheme is called "Read Write Inc" and is taught for all in Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1.



WORLD BOOK DAY

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our educational programmes in Early Years. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:







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- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

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

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Year One and Year Two cover Key Stage One of the National Curriculum. Year Three, Four, Five and Six cover Key Stage Two. This consists of ten subjects, which are mainly taught through our topic approach, these are: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and design, Design Technology, Music and Physical Education. We also teach Religious Education and Citizenship to all.





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## Teaching and Learning

At Stone, staff are committed to the belief that understanding of the learning process is the key to outstanding progress for all children. The processes involved in sharing learning goals, providing effective feedback and questioning effectively are known as formative assessment. This approach underpins our teaching and learning policy. We have a policy which identifies ten key features of outstanding teaching and learning: these include the giving of clear criteria for success, effective marking and feedback, and talk for learning.

Staff regularly discuss teaching and learning, sharing good practice and developing their expertise through training. Staff also take great care to regularly assess pupil's work and to moderate their judgements, so that next steps can be planned and targets set. Detailed records about each child are kept and passed on to the next teacher so that the learning can be pitched appropriately.

## Tracking pupil progress

Pupils are teacher assessed every term in reading, writing and mathematics, and progress is shared with parents. Every child is set targets and these are discussed at parents evenings. Parents are provided with information about the curriculum and how they can help their child at home.





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## Standards and Achievement

Children at Stone perform well academically. Standards of achievement are considerably above national averages. Standards attained by pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 in 2016 are detailed below.

## Summary of Assessment Results for 2017

This provisional data shows the number of eligible pupils' attainment. National Averages for 2016 are shown for comparison.

**Year 1 Phonics Screening Check:** 83% of pupils working at the standard expected (National Average 2016- 81%)

## KS1 National Curriculum assessment results:

	Working At +	National 2016	Working at Greater Depth	National GD 2016
Reading	83%	74%	27%	24%
Writing	73%	65%	13%	13%
Maths	80%	73%	23%	18%

## KS2 National Curriculum Test Results

	School % Expected	National % Expected	School % at High Standard	National % at higher standard
Reading	71%	71%	11%	25
Writing	82%	76%	7%	28
Maths	61%	75%	25%	23
SPAG	82%	77%	21%	31

*The progress measures for this year group showed that children made the expected progress from their starting points.*







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## Uniform Policy

All children are required to wear school uniform. All items of clothing should have your child's name on them.

The following are acceptable:

- a bright red sweatshirt or cardigan
- white shirt or blouse (polo shirts are ideal)
- grey shorts or grey trousers
- grey skirt or grey pinafore dress
- red and white checked or red and white striped dresses during warmer months
- grey socks with trousers or shorts
- white socks or grey tights with dresses or skirts
- waterproof jacket
- Appropriate hair accessories in school colours only.
- Wellington boots are required for children in reception class

Jewellery is not permitted except for one small stud earring in the earlobe.

Shoes should be black and sensible – no raised heels. Velcro fastenings are ideal for the younger children. Trainers must not be worn to school but should be provided for outdoor play, particularly for wet weather days.

## For Physical Education

- red T-shirt
- plain black shorts
- black plimsolls
- black tracksuit bottoms
- a red or black tracksuit top/warm top for outdoor games
- trainers suitable for outdoor use (these can also be used at break/lunchtime if child using the field)
- Football boots can be worn when appropriate but trainers will be required for other games.

Class 5 go swimming at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium swimming pool in Aylesbury. Children require a swimming costume (no bikinis or long shorts), hat and towel. Goggles and jewellery are not permitted.

Many of these items are available with the school logo from Bucks School Wear Plus 48/52 Kingsbury Square Aylesbury, HP20 2JE.

## Uniform Embroidery Service

<http://www.tesco.com/direct/stone-church-of-england-combined-school/5490.school>





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## School Organisation

### Times of the School Day

The school gates open at 8:40am and the morning session begins at: 8:50 am. We ask that you ensure that your child arrives promptly so that they are in class and ready to start learning at 8:50.

### Lunch break

EYFS & KS1	12pm – 1pm
KS2 lunch break	12:15pm – 1:15pm
School finishes	3.15pm

There is a break of 15 minutes in the morning session.

### *Coming to School and Going Home*

The school gates open at 8:40 and children enter school straight away. The main gate is locked at 8:50. Late arrivals must be brought into school via the main entrance and signed in by a parent or carer. Registers close at 9am.

Please help us by making sure that your child does not arrive at school late for registration as this unsettles them and the rest of the class.

The children are dismissed at the end of the day onto the playground. EYFS and KS1 children are released when the teacher sees the parent/carers. If you are delayed in collecting your child, please telephone the school. **Please always tell your child's class teacher or inform the school office if someone other than you is meeting your child from school.**

### Mealtimes

Hot school meals are available every day through "Cygnet" our hot school meals provider, a range of choices; including a vegetarian and jacket potato option are available. Under the new Government "free meals initiative" all KS1 are entitled to a free hot meal.





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Children can bring in a packed lunch and eat in the hall, or outside during the summer months. We ask that you send your child's lunch in a named container. Please do not send drinks in glass bottles for safety reasons. As a Healthy School, sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed and parents are asked to provide a healthy packed lunch. The children are looked after by our lunchtime supervisors. Games are provided such as skipping and a variety of ball sports throughout the week. Our Year 6 children act as buddies to support play in the small playground for EYFS and Year 1.

Free fruit is available for snack time for Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils every day under the government's Free Fruit at School Scheme.

Milk is available if desired through our registration with the Cool Milk at School Scheme this is free until the age of 5. Details can be obtained from the school office.

Children are encouraged to bring water to school to drink throughout the day. Please provide a named see-through water bottle with a sports lid, to avoid spillage.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think that your child may qualify for free school meals, please use our confidential checking service by contacting the school office. Children who qualify for free school meals also receive extra funding from the government which can be used to support your child's learning, help fund school trips or provide resources and/or uniform. This funding is for KS1 and KS2 pupils; however, the funding will not be provided to KS1 pupils unless we apply even though they receive free school meals. It is therefore essential that all parents who may qualify use our confidential checking service. You can apply for free school meals if you or your child receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.







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## Visits and Visitors

Stone pupils usually have the opportunity to take part in a school trip or in a curriculum enrichment day in school every half term. Some of these educational visits have included a trip to Cadbury's World, Kew Gardens, Tower of London, Matilda in London and Whipsnade Zoo. Years 4 and 6 enjoy residential visits. Curriculum themed Wow Days also take place, often enriched by visitors.

Schools may legally request voluntary contributions in support of school activities such as educational visits. However, there is no obligation for parents to pay, and no pupil is ever excluded from taking part if their parent has not contributed. However, if sufficient voluntary contributions are not received from parents for the activity then it may have to be cancelled for all pupils.



Young Voices Concert at the O2





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## Admissions and Catchment Area

Stone Church of England Combined School serves the village of Stone and surrounding area, including Upton and Hartwell.

Children are admitted to Stone CE Combined School in accordance with the Buckinghamshire County Council Admissions Criteria. Parents applying for a place should read the relevant sections of the Education Department's booklet **Guide for Parents – Admissions to Buckinghamshire Primary Schools** for the appropriate year.

Applications for school places are made directly through the Buckinghamshire County [www.buckscc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/admissions). They also have a 'Contact Us' form [www.buckscc.gov.uk/contactadmissions](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/contactadmissions)

Your child will begin a full time place in school, in the September of the year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Preliminary visits by parents are welcome. Children are most welcome to make a visit with their parents.

Please note that all children transferring from infant to junior or combined schools take part in an induction programme early in July so that they can meet the other children in their class, work with their teacher and become familiar with their new environment, spending the day at their new school.

## Allocations:

Places are allocated strictly in the following order of priority:

1. Children who have a statement of special educational needs which names the school.
2. Children in Public Care.
3. Children living within the catchment area of the school.
4. Siblings of children who will be in attendance at the school on the date of admission.





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5. Children with exceptional medical or social needs, supported by written evidence from a relevant authority.
6. Children attending a primary school linked to the school named in the list of 'linked primary schools'.
7. Once the above criteria have been applied, then any further places will be awarded according to the distance between the family's home address and the school's nearest gate.

The school's admission number is 30 and the capacity is 210.

The Governors are pleased to admit children from outside the catchment area indicated above when numbers allow.

For your information 12 of the 30 places were allocated to Stone residents in the September 2017 intake.

## Expectations

### Attendance

In order to prepare children effectively for their futures and to establish good habits which enable children to succeed, attendance and punctuality are paramount.

We reward children achieving 100% attendance on a termly basis. Holidays are expected to be taken in the school holidays and pupils are not expected to be taken on holiday in term time. Any requests for absence during term time will be considered as exceptional and will rarely be granted. Requests leading up to or during assessment periods will not be granted. We work closely with the Education Welfare service, who will intervene where attendance is of concern. Our full attendance policy is available from the school office or on our website.

If your child is absent from school we ask that you phone the school office absence reporting line (option 1) by 9am for each day of the absence. When you phone, please state your child's name, class, your name and reason for absence. Please phone on each day of your child's absence.







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If your child needs to attend a medical appointment, please inform the school **in advance** and provide the school office with proof of the medical appointment (appointment letter/card).

## Partnerships with Parents and the Local Community

We see education as a partnership, and encourage parents to attend the many events which we hope will help you to support and encourage your child at home. We hold regular parent workshops to help you support your child. These include mathematical calculation, reading and writing. We consult with parents for school improvements and value their contributions. Parents have contributed to a number of developments, including our School Values, website and reporting procedures.

Weekly newsletters and ParenMail keep everyone informed.

Our local church community play an active role in the school, including Reverend Phil and the church parishioners, through weekly Open the Book Assemblies.

Parents are always welcome in school to find out about their child. We also have systems in place to ensure parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through written reports each term, as well as the opportunity to meet with the teacher on a termly basis.

There is a very active and supportive Parent Teacher Association providing welcome extra funding to improve resources and pupil opportunities in the school. They provide many social events for the community to gather together. This year their efforts raised a significant sum of money, which allowed us to improve computing in the school. They also funded many extra resources to support learning in maths and English.





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## Safeguarding

At Stone CE School, the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time in this school. We want to work in partnership with parents to help all children achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the school community. All our staff and regular volunteers who work with children are DBS checked. On rare occasions, our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures, which we follow, have been laid down by the Buckinghamshire Area Child Protection Committee, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all.

Furthermore, the school has a strict code of conduct as well as a confidentiality policy for all staff and parent volunteers.

## School achievements

We are proud to have achieved a number of nationally accredited school achievement awards. These include Healthy Schools, The Buckinghamshire Quality Assurance Award for Early Years Provision, Active mark and Primary Science Quality Mark.





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## Contact information

We are always pleased to offer the opportunity of a visit to prospective parents. Please contact the school to make arrangements or to ask for further information.

You can contact us by any of the means below:

### Stone CE Combined School

Oxford Road  
Stone  
Aylesbury  
Bucks HP17 8PD

Telephone	01296 748340
Fax	01296 748483
e-mail	<a href="mailto:office@stone.bucks.sch.uk">office@stone.bucks.sch.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stone.bucks.sch.uk">www.stone.bucks.sch.uk</a>

### Chairman of Governors

Mrs Wendy Mason

### Headteacher

Mrs Debbie Morrison B.Ed.Hons Oxon







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