



**Prospectus 2021/22**

# **The Cedars School of Biblical Family Life**

**Ephesians 5:22-6:4**

**Encouraging fathers in their fatherhood,  
Encouraging mothers in their motherhood,  
Encouraging children as they explore  
the Heavenly Father's Creation  
together with their parents.**

## Background

With changing times and different emphasis on education nationally, there are new opportunities to support parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. The Cedars School is opening its doors to support parents in meeting this opportunity. The central purpose of The Cedars Foundation, as declared on its Trust Deed, is to *promote the education by Christian methods of all children who enter the school*. The former Cedars School began as a Christian day school in 1968 and closed as a day school in 2015. Now, instead of teaching children directly, parents will be helped to teach their own children whether on the premises, on field trips or at home.

### A Vision for The Cedars

The Cedars will be a place where people of all ages, at different times, in different rooms, in numbers small and great, will be found studying the Bible, in prayer and in practical activities of many useful kinds. Children will come with their parents. Families will be encouraged and helped with the home education of their children. Educational programmes based in homes will be enriched through learning experiences devised by the Team at The Cedars. Families will be strengthened. There will be opportunities for individuals to spend time together as they deepen their walk with God. At times there will be the sound of music and singing. At times there will be activities that deepen awe of God and His creation. At times there will be creative activities. Friendships will develop around meal tables and through the activities and programmes. The buildings will be cared for, giving witness to God's care. It will be a place of refuge from the world and peace with God.

# The Cedars School of Biblical Family Life

## Foundations

The biblical foundation for society is the family. All of our teaching is founded on the Bible and in practical application. Hence, as well as providing facilities for the education of children, we will work with parents to ensure that their families also grow in strength. The result will be a robust framework for the fulfilment of the central purpose of the Cedars Foundation, *that all children entering the school will be taught according to Christian methods*. In effect, The School of Biblical Family Life can be considered to be a *Bible School for all ages*. Through this we learn to lead a child in the way that he should go, giving each one a broad scope of experiences, sparking curiosity and interest and thus enabling a direction for personal learning.

## Bible School

We offer mentoring support to Bible students at all stages of life, taking a Hebraic approach which, in essence, is to encourage a personal walk with God. This was modelled in his entire life by our father Abraham, of whom it was said as a result of his personal walk, "I have chosen him so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord..." Genesis 18 v19. We recognise that we are in the time of preparation for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. A major sign that we are in a time of fulfilment of Biblical prophecy is that Israel is returning to their ancient land according to the end time covenant purposes of God. It is a time when we are seeing and are a part of the emergence of the *One New Man* which the Apostle Paul taught about in Ephesians 2. We have a Hebraic mentoring programme from basic to advanced studies. Monthly retreats, library resources and study programmes are available at all levels. Families and the stability of family life are under attack as society is breaking down. Our remit is to build and strengthen families.

## **Resources for Parents**

Parents who join us will be expected to study with us at appropriate levels in the Bible School. Bible study is considered to be at the foundation of all Christian education for all ages and for all of life. We also have a wide range of resources to draw upon for the education of children. However, whilst guidelines are recommended, it is not a basic curriculum. We offer instead, an enrichment programme based on shared projects that take us from the classroom to experience many aspects of the Lord's creation outside together. As well as classrooms available for parents to teach their children when attending the school, the Creation Discovery Centre is equipped for parents to learn how to strengthen the foundations of their children's education with the joy of discovery in God's created order.

## **Parental Commitment**

Part of the commitment of parents is that of meeting on one evening each week of term for Bible study and prayer, without the children. All parents must also consider in what area of involvement they will take part, contributing practically to the upkeep and furtherance of the school and its property. One or other or both parents must be continually present with their children on each of the days assigned for studies at the school, as the focus of learning is on parents as much as their children.

Parents will be responsible for the supervision and conduct of their own children at all times. The Team reserves the right to review conduct with parents so that a balance of respect and order is maintained.

## **Finance**

Financial contributions are expected towards the basic overheads of running the school. For 2021-2022, expected contributions for each family are a minimum of £200 for the first term and a minimum of £300 per term thereafter. Enrolment will be on a term by term basis, following interviews.

## **Standards**

We seek to adopt the highest standards in all that we do. Attendance and punctuality for all activities is essential. Tidiness, accountability and responsibility are important in the use of the facilities. Good manners and behaviour, including self-discipline and respect are expected from all who come to the school. Clothing must be modest and semi-formal, not casual, except on field trips. Together we can achieve standards that speak powerfully of the God with whom we seek to walk, strengthening our families and preparing our children for their personal walk with the Living God.

## **Safeguarding**

All parents will be required to take a DBS check. This will allow for flexibility in the supervision of groups of children as appropriate for the programmes at the school. Parents will work with the Educational Team and elect representatives to attend Team meetings. Complaints procedures are published in the school policies and will be made known to all parents. Safety is of a high priority and all parents will be given training in First Aid and Kitchen Hygiene, as appropriate. The policies of the Trust will be made available for each parent to read and they will be required to sign the book each year as having understood these policies.

## Buildings



**The Creation Discovery Centre** is set within its own designated garden. It is equipped with a variety of teaching aids to illustrate and support the view that all education is founded on an understanding of the many aspects of the Creator and His Creation.

**The Study Centre** has a **Study Room** in support of the all age Bible School, a loan **Library** for parents and a loan **Library** for children. Rules for borrowing must be kept carefully. There is a general teaching room, an art room, a craft room, a laboratory, a dining room and a kitchen.



Larger meetings will be held in **The Meeting Room**, an annexe to the Study Centre.



**The Coach House** is set back from the other buildings and is used as a prayer room. It incorporates an **Israel Room** for special reference to God's covenant purposes being outworked in and through Israel.

The **Attic** of the Study Centre contains a heritage collection to inspire reflection on God's protection and blessing of the British Nation, focussing mainly on memories of the 1940s and 1950s.

The **Grounds** are a resource for prayer and recreation with a playground available at dedicated times for children whilst under supervision.

## Timetable

The school terms are set with reference to other schools in Medway. Dates will be published on an annual basis.

Each Monday evening of term, all parents must attend a meeting for study, prayer and planning from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Each Wednesday of term from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, each family will bring their children to the school. The day will be divided between group activities and sessions where parents teach their children, using the school facilities and classrooms. A timetable will be published each term.

The Educational Team will plan together for one day of project/field activity per month to replace the normal Wednesday programme. Where possible this will be an outdoor activity.

## Enrichment

We seek to enrich the basic curriculum of the home. This is in the following areas:

**Social enrichment:** opportunities for both parents and children to be together in the school, making friends, playing together and sharing meals.

**Encouragement:** When we work alone and are home based we can be discouraged by the lonely task, so meeting together at The Cedars, as well as all the practical enrichment, can bring necessary encouragement.

**Sharing skills:** As time goes on we can explore how to share skills and take part in sport, in music, in outdoor pursuits etc.

**Sharing facilities:** By sharing classrooms, libraries, playgrounds and other facilities there can be opportunity to strengthen both the basic and enriched curriculum.

**Enriched teaching:** We will help parents to develop their teaching skills.

**Curriculum enrichment:** Founded on the study of the Bible, we will develop projects that take us outside of the classroom. Our Creation Discovery Centre is a resource for exploration of a wide range of topics that can enhance the basic curriculum and lead to outdoor extension through monthly planned and shared projects.

## Publications

A **Newsletter** is published regularly covering news of the ministry. We also publish **Watch and Pray**, a resource for Bible teaching and prayer, linked to the monthly Sabbath Retreats on Friday evenings.

## Programme of Events

### The Cedars School of Biblical Family Life

Prospective families are invited to contact the Team Leader  
**Dr Clifford Denton** [admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk)

The enrichment programme for the Autumn Term 2021 is  
13<sup>th</sup> September - 13<sup>th</sup> December. Half term 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October.  
Dates for the Spring and Summer Terms to be announced later.

#### **Mondays 7.00 – 9.00 pm**

Parents meet with the Team for Bible Study, Prayer and Planning in the Meeting Room. Open to parents with children of *any age*.

#### **Wednesdays 9.00 am – 3.00 pm**

Parents and children attend the school for days of enrichment programmes and projects. Open to parents with children in the age range 7 to 13.

Minimum voluntary contributions as described above.

## Bible School for all Ages

Courses are part of the *Tishrei Bible School*. Please see [www.tishrei.org](http://www.tishrei.org)  
Studies can be taken at any level.



Contact Dr Clifford Denton via [admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk)

## Community of Prayer and Study

Sabbath Retreats will be held on the third Friday of each month beginning in the Autumn.

The theme of the Bible Studies for the Autumn retreats will focus on a biblical perspective of Torah (the teaching of God) as it is understood through the New and Old Covenants.

**Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> - Law and Grace.**

**Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> - Torah foundations in the Old Covenant.**

**Friday November 19<sup>th</sup> - Torah on the heart (New Covenant).**

Outline programme for each evening retreat:

- 5.00 - 5.30 Arrival and refreshments.
- 5.30 - 6.00 Drawing near to God through Scripture, hymns and prayer.
- 6.00 - 7.00 Bible Study.
- 7.00 - 8.15 Shared Sabbath Meal.
- 8.15 - 9.00 Prayer.

Voluntary contributions of £10 are requested plus a contribution of food for the shared meal.

**For Sabbath Retreats contact Mrs Sally Denton via [admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk)**

Dates to be announced:

**Prayer days**

**Gardening Days**

**Housekeeping Days**

**Evenings in the Creation Discovery Centre**

## **Practical and Monetary Gifts**

The Charity continues on the basis of donations and gifts as prompted by our Lord. We will make needs known from time to time but without overt fund-raising. We will also make known other ways of giving in the Newsletter.

## **Ongoing Virus Precautions**

Whilst vaccinations are easing the pressure on the NHS and allowing businesses to open in the UK, we are constantly monitoring the need for ongoing precautions. The virus can still spread when people gather together. In all our activities we will expect a “no hugging” policy, except within families, and a continuance of safe distancing. We will announce any further precautions such as the expectation for each person to have carried out self-testing which is made available by the NHS.

## The Educational Team

**Dr Clifford Denton:** Team Leader and Chairman of the Trust.  
Responsible for the general strategy and programme of the school.

**Mrs Sally Denton:** Secretary of the Trust, taking joint responsibility for strategy and programme and specific initiative for the development of project work.

**Miss Catharine Pakington:** Responsibility for resources of all kinds, including The Creation Discovery Centre and the Libraries.