



ST DAVID'S

PREPARATORY SCHOOL





WELCOME TO ST DAVID'S SCHOOL

I hope that this prospectus will give you a taste of our happy, creative school where we aim to achieve the highest academic standards.

“St David's provides a friendly nurturing environment which allows your child to make the most of his or her abilities, in whatever sphere they might excel”.

(St David's Parent)



THE ST DAVID'S FAMILY

The small school atmosphere is, I believe, a strength and is reassuring to parents and children alike. We aim to balance nurture with independence to equip your child to succeed academically and we are extremely proud of our results.

Please do come and visit us and experience the warm inspiring environment that is the “St David's Family”. We hold several open mornings during the year and also offer individual tours at your convenience.

Cressida Mardell

Head Teacher

At St David's we offer a rich and stimulating curriculum, delivered by a talented and caring staff, giving your child the best possible start.

We provide an all-round education where pupils are given every possible encouragement and opportunity to reach their full potential. Pupils' experiences are enriched by a wide, varied and imaginative programme of extra-curricular activities, which include many team and individual sports, music groups and creative activities.





ADMISSIONS PROCESS

ADMISSION TO EARLY YEARS (NURSERY AND RECEPTION)

The majority of pupils join the Nursery Class at St David's in the September before their fourth birthday, when a maximum of 18 places are available.

Children progress to the Reception Class in the Autumn Term which precedes their fifth birthday, when an additional 4 places become available. Children are welcome to join Nursery in the actual term of their third birthday, but please note that these children will remain in their correct age group and will not move up to Reception until the right age (possibly remaining in Nursery for 4 terms).

There are no formal entrance tests for pupils wishing to enter the Early Years classes. To apply for a place at St David's please complete the school Registration Form (see inserts) and send with the non-refundable registration fee to the school office. A letter of confirmation will be sent out on receipt of this form.

ADMISSION TO PRE-PREPARATORY (KEY STAGE 1) AND PREPARATORY (KEY STAGE 2)

If places are available, pupils are considered for admission into Forms 1 to 6 subject to satisfactory informal assessment and at the discretion of the Head Teacher. Children will be expected to spend a trial day in the appropriate class group. The Head Teacher will require a copy of the child's latest school report and the St David's class teachers will submit a brief report to the Head Teacher following the child's visit. They will comment on the child's general all-round ability compared to the rest of the class and the prospects of harmonious social integration within the group. Before any class visits take place, parents are required to complete the school Registration Form and pay the registration fee.



OFFER OF A PLACE

For Nursery and Reception places, offer letters are sent out 10 months before the admission date and you will be asked to complete an Acceptance Form and pay the acceptance fee to secure this place. This is refundable on the final invoice when your child leaves the school.

For Forms 1 to 6 where admission times vary, you will be asked to complete the Acceptance Form as soon as an offer of a place has been formally made.



KEY STAGES AT ST DAVID'S

Early Years - Nursery and Reception

Pre-Preparatory - Forms 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1)

Preparatory - Forms 3 to 6 (Key Stage 2)



THE AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

OUR AIMS ARE

- To provide an all-round education in a supportive and happy environment that will challenge every child to fulfil their maximum potential.
- To educate the whole child, academically, socially and morally, through a broad and balanced curriculum, so that they will be able to integrate and flourish with confidence at their next school.
- To provide a caring 'family' community where everyone will behave with courtesy, consideration and tolerance towards others, based on Christian principles.
- To encourage each child to have a disciplined approach to work and to learn the benefits of contributing positively to the school and participating in all it has to offer.



We value each individual child, instilling confidence, independence and a strong sense of self-esteem.

"I value St David's approach to recognising and nurturing the unique talents and skills that each child possesses."

St David's Parent

"We feel that the school is almost like an extension of the family for our child."

St David's Parent

"Our children love going to school: they always arrive with a spring in their step and they always leave with a smile on their face. This tells us that we made the right choice in choosing

St David's."

St David's Parent





ST DAVID'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM

THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

Our Early Years setting provides the best possible start in life. The small, nurturing Nursery environment has an emphasis on learning through a variety of play activities which lay down the foundation for numeracy and literacy skills. Nursery children attend each morning, with afternoons being optional. However, we do require at least one full day's attendance (Mondays) in the Summer Term in readiness for moving to full time in Reception.

In Reception our children are given the opportunity to flourish and extend their learning through well-planned activities. There is a close liaison between staff which ensures a smooth transition to Year 1.



THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy Development
- Mathematical Development
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Art and Design

In addition to these we offer specialist teaching in:

- Music
- French
- ICT
- PE





ST DAVID'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM

THE CURRICULUM IN FORMS 1 - 6

The Curriculum we follow provides a broad and balanced programme to an extremely high standard. It is based on the National Curriculum, but most children are working one or even two years above the expected level for their age.

Our Specialist Teachers bring enthusiasm and a detailed knowledge of the subject to the children's learning. The children sit regular Maths, English and Reasoning assessments and thus progress is carefully monitored and profiled as the children move through the school.



INCLUSION

The Inclusion Leader co-ordinates and delivers support to children who may need extra help at any time in their school career. Some children may simply require some 'catching up', others may have a specific learning difficulty which might require a more long-term approach. Each child is assessed on an individual basis and catered for appropriately in order to access the curriculum.



THE CURRICULUM IN FORMS 1 - 6

From the outset all children study:

- Maths
- English
- ICT/Computing
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Religious Education
- French
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Verbal Reasoning (Years 3 - 6 only)
- Latin (Year 6 only)





NURTURING LEARNING FOR LIFE

THE STAFF

Our staff are all highly qualified and dedicated, enabling us to achieve our Curriculum's high standard. They have a wide range of interests and talents which they share happily with the children, both during timetabled lessons and during extra activities (such as clubs). Teachers are encouraged to use their individual talents and strengths during their lessons in order to add greater depth and knowledge to their teaching.

PASTORAL CARE

St David's is a caring school. It has a comprehensive pastoral system which commences as soon as a child begins in the school and lasts until he or she leaves. Any problem, whether academic or otherwise, may be discussed with a child's Form Teacher at any time. We also have a Pastoral Care Leader who can be approached if the child is unhappy or worried. Parents meet the teachers on Parents Evenings as well as having the opportunity to communicate by email directly with the Form Teacher.



OUR ETHOS

The school has a Christian ethos and it is expected that all students take part in assemblies which are an important part of our community. A clear moral and ethical code is installed using 'The St David's Way' which teaches important values such as respect, kindness and forgiveness. The children also raise money for charity through a variety of different fundraising events.





THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

GOOD BEHAVIOUR

The school reinforces good behavioural patterns developed at home and adds to these by introducing the children to peer group socialisation concepts. Children are encouraged to work hard and to be polite and helpful. Smaller class sizes enable the teachers to give individual attention to each child in order for them to reach their full potential. Individuality is encouraged, but not at the expense of others. A copy of our Positive Behaviour Policy is on our website.



CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The children take part in numerous concerts, learn musical instruments and belong to various choirs and music ensembles. Children have a variety of drama opportunities from drama lessons and small workshops, to key stage and whole school productions.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

At St David's we are committed to ensuring that all pupils maximise their potential. Through our Gifted and Talented scheme we recognise, support and challenge pupils who achieve at a particularly high level. In class our very able pupils are challenged through a variety of extension and enrichment tasks. Additionally, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities to our gifted and talented pupils which give them the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of subjects.

SPORTING

OPPORTUNITIES

We offer a range of sporting opportunities and experiences on our multi-use games area including football, netball, hockey, cricket, cross country, rounders and athletics. We also swim at a local swimming pool. Individual and team sports are encouraged with regular inter-house and inter-school matches, tournaments and competitions.







OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

AFTER ST DAVID'S

It is important that parents start to think about their choice of next school well in advance. We have a well tried system for discussing and assisting with this process which begins in Year 5.

Parents are encouraged to go and view their future senior schools and are then invited to meet individually with the Head Teacher and Year 5 and 6 teachers to discuss 'best fit' for their child.



ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO SENIOR SCHOOLS

We prepare the children for entrance into the senior school of their choice. Many of our children sit Common Entrance exams in Year 6 (Autumn Term) and we provide booster classes three mornings a week to support Year 5 children. We discuss and recommend, where pertinent, individual scholarships that children might apply for and guide parents through the process. In addition, we are required to write a full report and recommendation for each child. The report is often crucial to a child's acceptance by the school of his or her choice.

TRANSITION TO SENIOR SCHOOLS

In preparation for transition to senior school we try to develop the Year 6 children's resilience, independence and confidence through a range of activities to ensure they are prepared for the challenges ahead.

The children go on a 5 day residential trip, they produce a play which is performed to their parents, they develop entrepreneurial skills during business week and are given positions of responsibility such as Head Boy, Head Girl and Heads of Houses.

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