



Godalming Junior School

Prospectus 2017/18



Dear Parents

Thank you for attending one of our Prospective Parents tours. I hope you enjoyed your time at Godalming Junior School today. If you haven't attended a tour then I hope you are able to arrange a time to look around our happy and successful school as knowing how a school feels is the only way of making the right choice for your child.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important responsibilities you undertake. The purpose of this prospectus is to give you information about our school to help you make that choice. It is not intended that this brochure should replace a personal visit to the school, but to give you an insight into our ethos and culture.

Godalming Junior School is a school that our children, staff and governors are proud of. There are special people here and they make the school community the wonderful place that it is. The school building is full of history and throughout their time here the children add to this and create their own supportive and calm learning environment through collaboration and enjoyment of being at school.

We offer an exciting personalised values based education that engages, challenges and stimulates the children. Year group topics are not constrained by anything except the imagination of the teachers and children. Our curriculum is constantly being reviewed to ensure it is relevant to the children and takes into account what is happening at a local level as well as what is happening nationally and globally. The children often help decide on the direction and breadth of each topic and have many opportunities to direct their own learning in individual lessons and topics as a whole. We value the use of discussion to support the formulating of ideas and strengthening of learning.

Every child is unique and within our school community is valued for their talents. We aim to strengthen every child's feeling of belonging within our school and the wider world. We believe every child leaves this school knowing their worth and their role within society, having aspirations and goals. We promote the concept of being part of a collective group of people who support each other, look after our environment and believe in our school.

We all look forward to establishing a partnership between home and school where we can work together to benefit every child.



Adam Samson
Headteacher

Facilities

The premises comprise three buildings and two playgrounds. Inside the main building there is the school hall with displays of the children's work, eight classrooms and a small group room. The school hall is used for assemblies, meetings, concerts, performances and indoor PE lessons.



Other accommodation at the rear of the school includes the Music Room and a Food Technology Kitchen, where the children have opportunities to cook throughout the year. Our school dining room is also in this block, where cooked meals are prepared daily and packed lunches are eaten.

In a smaller building adjacent to the main school is our NEW Art Studio which opened last Spring, a focus group room (the Learning Lab) and the school Library.

There are two playgrounds for the children. The larger playground situated at the front of the school has a new astro-turf surface with small-sided football goals, a newly surfaced netball court, movable basketball hoops and a covered seating area. This playground is used mainly for ball games and outdoor games sessions.

The playground to the rear of the school is equipped with a medium level 'Playframe' and a low-level 'Trim Trail' for the children to enjoy. There are picnic tables arranged around a small garden area. We try to ensure the two playgrounds provide space for contrasting activities.



Children are able to grow their own vegetables in our raised garden bed and additional seating and shade is provided by a wooden gazebo and two play shelters. We also have a greenhouse and a covered area for cycle storage.

In addition, we have the use of the nearby Canon Bowring Recreation Ground in Wolseley Road for sports activities.



Our School Philosophy

At Godalming Junior School we provide a broad, balanced and carefully planned curriculum, which enables us to recognise the needs of individual children and their differing abilities and interests. Wherever possible, learning takes place through practical, first hand experiences focusing on developing real skills that can be used in a variety of interesting and challenging topic based contexts.

We seek to establish and maintain open and positive relationships between home and school and encourage parents to become involved in their child's learning and engage positively with the school.

Our School Aims

Love

- Fostering self-worth, self-respect and a feeling of well being
- Empowering children to respond positively to challenges and responsibilities
- Recognising individual talents and skills
- Developing an ability to make choices and understand consequences
- Fostering and encouraging a love and thirst for knowledge

Live

- Preparing children to fulfill a positive role in society through understanding our rights and responsibilities
- Encouraging and appreciating the benefits of diversity
- Celebrating and understanding our own culture and traditions and those of others
- Fostering a strong sense of worth in the local and wider community
- Understanding our responsibility for protecting the environment

Learn

- Cherishing the enjoyment of learning
- Developing enquiring minds that can process, reason, question and evaluate
- Equipping with essential knowledge and skills
- Celebrating creativity, resourcefulness, problem solving, perseverance and commitment
- Understanding our own learning

LEARNING

“No child left behind”

At Godalming Junior School, there is a consistency of approach to pupils' learning, which shows continuity, progression and breadth. Techniques and organisational strategies will be of the highest quality. Expectations of us, the pupils and everyone else connected to the school are high which ensures continuous challenge and success for all. We aim to introduce and develop skills that are applicable in modern life and a solid basis for future developments in their learning and in society.

General Information

The School Hours are:

8.45am - 12.15pm - morning session
1.15pm - 3.05 pm - afternoon session

The school is legally required to be open for 190 days during the school year and only exceptional events such as a very heavy snowfall or failure of power supply for heating and lighting will interfere with this requirement. During the year, there are 5 statutory In-Service Staff Training Days, additional to the 190 days, when the school is closed to pupils.

Organisation of Teaching Groups

At the time of publication there are 234 pupils on the school roll. Girls and boys are organised into eight mixed ability classes, with two parallel classes in each of the four year groups. Upon entry, we try to ensure that the two classes are well matched and evenly balanced. In Year 3, considerable emphasis is placed upon the continued development of skills in the core subjects of mathematics, reading and writing.

Groupings within a class can vary throughout a week. Some lessons are taught to a class group with Talk Partners developing knowledge, skills and understanding with peers. Differentiated activities, underpinned by rigorous teacher assessment ensure learning is engaging, relevant and pitched to ensure progress for all children. Children are expected to complete activities independently with targeted support given by class teachers and learning support assistants to move learning even further.



English

The English curriculum comprises of: speaking, listening, reading and writing with a specific focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar. It is our aim to enable all our children to:

- See language as a communication tool which spreads its many forms right across the school curriculum.
- Develop fully their ability to understand and use the language through purposeful activities.
- Ensure that the crucial skills of reading, grammar skills and creative writing are learned in a stimulating and structured way.
- Redraft and improve writing with support from high quality teacher feedback.

Each year group uses high quality texts on which the learning is based. This allows the children to develop ideas about settings, characters and plot. Writing is developed through the application of skills developed using these texts to support and inspire.



Reading is developed through individual and group sessions, focusing not only on the process, but also the comprehension and understanding of ideas that can be found when reading a good book.

Mathematics

Where possible, mathematics links to the topic the children are studying. This provides an opportunity to link understanding and knowledge across several subjects and to ensure that mathematical skills are applied in real contexts.

Our Mathematics curriculum aims to:

- Help the children acquire an understanding of mathematical ideas and the ability to use them appropriately and in real situations
- Use practical work to provide a basis for the acquisition of concepts such as number, data handling and shape and space.
- Help children to recall fundamental number facts and table patterns that are the foundation for later work and in real life.

Science

Learning in Science is based as far as possible around first hand experiences. We encourage children to find out about themselves and their environment by observing, questioning, predicting, carrying out investigations and 'fair tests'. Children love to ask questions! Science often provides the vehicle for this enthusiasm. Where possible scientific knowledge and understanding is developed and applied within a wider context where it supports and is supported by other subjects.

Computing

ICT is fundamental in developing communication. We have computers, laptops and LearnPads and every classroom is equipped with interactive touch screen technology. Throughout their time in Godalming Junior School the children will use word processing programs, databases, coding packages, control technology and a filtered Internet provision to support their learning.



Art and Design Technology

The children will have access to and will be able to communicate through different media.

At each level, skills are introduced and then gradually built on as the child progresses through the school. We like to take every opportunity to display children's work for all of us in school to appreciate.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship

This is part of everything we do and helps develop lifelong skills. We discretely cover such aspects as internet safety, personal safety, drugs and sex education. The children follow a programme that is designed to develop their knowledge and understanding to prepare them for being an active, thoughtful and considerate member of their community.

History and Geography

The Humanities have a great impact on the children as they become more aware of the world around them and both subjects are taught through topic based work. Wherever possible we try to give the children experiences to bring the subjects alive and many of our school visits are designed to support these curriculum areas.

Physical Education

In our physical education lessons, we aim to develop good motor skills and co-ordination and an enjoyment of sports and games. These lessons allow skills and games to be taught at an individual, group and team level with a positive attitude to all physical activity.

We run a huge number of clubs within the school and we promote the activities of the local sports clubs and many of our pupils regularly attend these after school or at the weekend.



Children in Year 3 participate in swimming lessons at Godalming Leisure Centre. It is our aim to help all pupils to achieve a 25 metre standard and many go on to greater distances and further 'Challenge Awards'

Music

We teach music through singing, playing of instruments and composing. We value music in allowing children to express their creativity.

We are very proud of our Christmas Carol Concert and the spectacular summer Year 6 production rounds off the year and the children's time at the school perfectly.



MFL

French as a modern foreign language is taught to all pupils throughout the school. Children are introduced to the language and culture of France through the use of oral, interactive and practical activities, including singing. These activities help the children learn greetings and phrases, French vocabulary, numbers, colours, and parts of the body. Opportunities are provided to taste foods from France which enrich the children's experiences.

Religious Education

Although the school has no affiliation with a particular religious denomination, assemblies and religious education lessons are an integral part of school life. The children learn about the main teachings of different religions, including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism. We follow the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Surrey. The children are encouraged to value themselves and grow in self confidence, to behave as responsible individuals and to show care and understanding towards others. Parents may of course exercise their right under the 1944 Education Act (Re-enacted 1988) to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons.

Assemblies

Assemblies are arranged for all the children in the school, which is non-denominational and broadly Christian in character. These assemblies are led by the Headteacher, the Deputy

Headteacher, members of staff, class groups, visiting clergy and speakers. The school adopts a values based approach to assemblies and these alternate each term. Further work on these values is followed up in class in different subjects including PSHE.



Educational Visits

To support our curriculum in school, we provide the opportunity for children to go on worthwhile educational day visits which are supported by voluntary contributions from parents.



In addition, we enjoy activity workshops with visiting Theatre Groups to support our work. Year 4 pupils have the opportunity of visiting a local educational centre for a weekend in the summer term. Our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoy an annual residential activity week incorporating outdoor adventurous activities at United Kingdom Sailing Academy on the Isle of Wight.



Homework

We see homework as being a relevant and purposeful activity, one that provides a continuation and extension of the learning taking place at school. It is a link between home and learning in school. The support, encouragement and interest of parents are of vital importance.

Homework is introduced to children during their first term at the school and this is gradually increased through the school. The activities which we consider appropriate for homework tasks are as follows:

- Taking home a current reading/library book to be read independently and shared with an adult.
- Spellings to learn and practise
- Presentation of research linked to the current topic
- Mathematics activity linked to current learning including a times table focus
- A grammar based activity to support the learning in class
- Discussion with someone at home to generate ideas for a piece of writing
- Observational drawing linked to a curricular area

Special Needs

Children who have general or specific learning difficulties have differentiated learning activities provided by their class teacher. Extra support may take place which is given by the SENDCo or Learning Support Assistant. This may be individual attention or in a small group situation with other pupils. We regularly identify children who require additional support to continue making good progress in their learning. All identified children receive support with some children having Educational Healthcare Plans matched to their need.

Able children are encouraged to develop and extend their skills by their class teacher. Their learning activities are matched to ensure they make accelerated progress.

Expectations, Attitudes and Behaviour

We are very proud of the behaviour of our pupils and we believe that the setting of appropriate work and a high teacher expectation will lead to the development of sound pupil-teacher relationships built on mutual respect for one another. Praise and encouragement are considered important as we strive towards a feeling of achievement for each one of our pupils.

Our School Rules and Behaviour Policy clearly set out the expectations that are understood by every member of the school. Children are awarded house points and to celebrate their achievements we hold a weekly celebration assembly. We celebrate successes and recognize a Pupil of the Week who has achieved something special or consistently worked hard. Other acknowledgements such as stickers are used to celebrate success. Parental involvement and a mutual understanding of our expectations are essential in this matter.



Transfer to and from our School

The majority of our pupils transfer to us from our two main contributory schools, Moss Lane School and Farncombe C.E. Infants, every year. A handful of children also successfully join us from other schools in the local area and further afield.

We have established, extremely supportive and rigorous transition processes to not only ensure all children settle into Godalming Junior School well but that their quality and level of work has continuity and consistency. To achieve this, the teachers from both schools meet to discuss all children and pass on relevant information but more importantly, the children meet their teachers in their own school and when they come to Godalming Junior School for their initial visit in July.

We ensure that we get to know all of our children personally and support them in settling in to the routines at Godalming Junior School.



Parents and the School

We believe that it is most important for your child's learning that home and school work together. This close co-operation can be brought about in a number of ways.

All teachers are available after school and are always available for longer

meetings or phone calls which can be arranged through the school office. You can always email the class teacher and we endeavor to respond within 48hours.

In consultation with parents, we have produced a 'Home-School Agreement', which sets out clearly the responsibilities of the school, parents' responsibilities and our expectations of our pupils.

Parents' evenings are held twice a year and you are invited in to school to see your child's work and an opportunity is provided for a consultation with the class teacher. At this meeting you will be able to discuss your child's progress and you will be informed on their effort and attainment. Annual School Reports are written and circulated towards the end of the Summer Term.

We try very hard to keep parents regularly informed about what's going on at the school and subscribe to a service called *ParentMail*®, which is used by many schools to communicate with parents by email and text message. You will quickly know about important or urgent messages and we can tell you more about what's going on at the school.

We welcome the help of parents and many activities would be poorer without your support.

Parents can also help in school on a regular basis. We always welcome parents in the classroom hearing readers, helping with cooking, computing, bookmaking, needlecraft and other such activities. Please do make yourself known to us if you can help in any way especially if you have any skills that we may be able to utilise such as gardening.

Newsletter

One of the most vital links between the school and the home is the weekly School Newsletter. This provides up to date information, diary dates, school developments and forthcoming events. You will also find all the children who have received awards so everyone can share their success. Current and previous editions can be found on the school's website.

Parent-Teacher Association

All parents and teachers are members of our PTA. This provides a platform for fund raising and social activities. It is an active body with an elected committee that plans and organises events throughout the year. Regular meetings are held during the term and all parents are welcome to attend. The parents of the school are very generous in so many ways and during this last academic year have raised well over £5000.

Attendance

We expect that all pupils will attend school every day. This ensures that they do not miss anything that may hinder their learning and progress. However, there may be some occasions where your child is unable to attend school:

Illness: If your child is ill, please telephone the school by 9.30 to report this. An answerphone is available at all times. Following an absence of more than one day we ask that you also send a note on return to confirm the reason for absence. As part of our rigorous safeguarding procedures we will put in place procedures to investigate all unexplained absences.

Holidays: All holiday absence is recorded as unauthorized in line with other local schools. Please complete and return to school the appropriate form notifying us of all planned absences.

Medical or Dental Appointments

If your child has an appointment with a Doctor, Dentist or other medical practitioner during school hours, the request to leave school early should be made in writing. Children must be collected from school for these appointments. Parents collecting children for appointments are asked to report to the School Office. On *all* occasions, pupils must report to the school office before leaving the premises and upon their return.

Medicines

If your child has to take medicines at school, you are required to complete a form, giving your permission for the medicine to be administered and stating the dosage and other information. To comply with the Health and Safety Act, any type of medication must be handed in at the school office clearly marked with your child's name.

Valuables

Only essential money should be brought into school. Money should only be on the premises for payment of lunch money, school visits, swimming or any other authorised event or activity, all of which can be paid via *Parentmail*. This money must be in a sealed envelope with the child's name, class, amount and event or trip clearly marked on the front. All money must be given to the class teacher during morning registration. Watches may be worn to school but must be removed for PE, games and swimming. Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school.

Jewellery and Safety in P.E

Godalming Junior does not allow jewellery to be worn to school except for small stud earrings which may be worn but for safety reasons these must be removed for PE, games and swimming lessons. ***We suggest therefore that if you are considering having your child's ears pierced that this be done at the start of the summer break.***

Meal Arrangements

School Meals are prepared and served daily during the school week in our canteen. These meals are available at a cost of £2.25 per day. The menus are appetising and varied, and an alternative for both courses is always available which the children can choose the day before so everyone gets to eat the meal they want. Children whose parents receive Income Support or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowances are entitled to free school meals, so if you are eligible, please contact the School Office for details.

A number of children bring a packed lunch in an appropriate lunch box. It should be clearly marked with the child's name and taken to the Dining Room on arrival to school each day. Please do not allow children to bring drinks in glass containers or pressurised cans - cartons or small plastic bottles are far more preferable.



School Uniform

A neat school uniform helps children to feel part of the school community and gives us a community identity.

GIRLS Winter uniform (worn for the Autumn and Spring Terms only):

Plain white blouse or plain white shirt

School Tie

A dark grey school skirt (at or around knee length)

Plain white or grey socks, (black or grey tights may be worn instead of socks during cold weather).

Traditional and smart black shoes with flat heels (no trainers, boots, flip flops, sandals or high heels)

School jumper** or cardigan**

Summer uniform (worn for the Summer Term only): as above plus green and white gingham style dress

BOYS Winter uniform (worn for the Autumn and Spring Terms only):

Plain white shirt (short or long sleeved)

School Tie

Grey trousers (no jogging or tracksuit bottoms)

Grey socks

Traditional and smart black shoes (no trainers, boots or sandals)

School jumper**

Summer uniform (worn for the Summer Term only): as above plus traditional grey shorts and white polo shirt option

P.E. Equipment

Green Tee shirt with school logo**

Black shorts*

Sports socks

Plimsolls or trainers.

School tracksuit (for colder conditions).

A drawstring bag* is most suitable for our cloakrooms.

House T-Shirt - These are available from the school office at £2.00 and are for House Events that run throughout the year.

***These items are available from Ballethoo, 113 High Street, Godalming, 01483 416233.**

Hair Styles

Extreme haircuts or styles are not appropriate for school. Shoulder length hair must be tied up at all times. Hard hair bands may be worn in school but must be removed for PE lessons



School Staff

Teaching

Mr A Samson	Headteacher
Mr J Poole	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs A Crook	Assistant Headteacher
Miss N Jones	Lower School Phase Leader
Mrs R Trinder	SENDCo
Miss R Holcombe	
Miss R Pulleyn	
Miss S Dlugokecka	
Miss E Martin	
Mrs A Johnson	
Mrs A Harvey-Williams	MFL Teacher
Mrs K Wilkinson	Intervention Teacher

Learning Support Assistants

Mrs J Pearne	HLTA
Mrs L Balchin	HLTA
Mrs S Bartlett	
Mrs S Bradford	
Mrs P Killen	
Mrs S Bott	
Mrs J Farrow	
Mrs D Lewis	
Mrs S Mole	
Mrs J Nash	
Mrs V Blacklidge	

Non-teaching

Mrs K Sutton	Home School Link Worker
Mrs L Munz	Bursar
Mrs J Wright	Office Manager
Mrs S Pateman	School Assistant
Mrs N Brough	School Assistant
Mr N Sanders	Caretaker
Mrs K Thorne	School Caterer
Mrs H Owen	Catering Assistant

Governing Body

Mr M Guest	Chair of Governors
Mrs K Stanley	Clerk to the Governors

National Curriculum KS2 Results - Comparative Report

These tables show the percentage of year 6 pupils achieving the expected requirements for Year 6 in 2017, compared to the national key stage 2 teacher assessment grading.

Figures may not total 100% because of rounding.

Test Results

	Combined	Maths	Reading	Writing	SPAG
Nat Average	61%	75%	71%	76%	77%
School	66%	73%	75%	75%	73%
Greater Depth	15%	25%	36%	25%	36%

