



Windlesham School
& Nursery



Preparing children for life



Welcome

to Windlesham School

Windlesham School, a charitable trust founded in 1948, is an independent prep school for boys and girls aged 3 to 11 years with a long history of successful preparation of children for the next stage of their education.

Windlesham is a true family school; we value the relationships we cultivate with our families and nurture the talents of our pupils in a supportive and purposeful environment. Small classes are important to create a safe and caring atmosphere so that learning is targeted and fun.

Pupils at Windlesham School are taught by highly committed, caring teachers and assistants who know their pupils well and support and challenge them as appropriate. Staff encourage an enjoyment of learning, independent thinking and creative problem-solving.

A strong foundation of key literacy and numeracy skills is essential, and as children progress, a healthy balance between academic rigour and experience of a wide variety of other artistic, musical, sporting, intellectual and outdoor pursuits provides a rewarding all-round education for every pupil.

Most importantly, we aim for our pupils to be good people: sociable, kind, respectful and able to demonstrate a charitable spirit.

We have a prospectus and a website – but neither can replace the experience of a tour of the school in action, led by our pupils.

I very much look forward to meeting you.

John Ingrassia
Headmaster





“ I love Windlesham as every time I enter the school gates, I know there’s a great day ahead.”
Khian, age 10

Ready for life

Windlesham School aims to help children develop as happy, well-rounded and motivated individuals, who respond positively to every new challenge. We support children in developing their particular talents and abilities; most importantly, effort and enthusiasm are always encouraged.

Joy in learning, pride in achievement and respect for others are intrinsic to the values of the three main school departments.

<p>Nursery from 3 years</p> <p>A self-contained environment with a family atmosphere gives young children the confidence to explore and learn through play and structured activities.</p>	<p>Lower School from 4-6 years</p> <p>Small, friendly classes provide a gentle introduction to school life, in which each child is seen as an individual.</p>	<p>Upper School from 7-11 years</p> <p>A broad curriculum and individual attention inspire growing pupils to extend their capabilities and shine.</p>



We learn



We make friends



We play



We progress

NURSERY

A head start

Busy parents need assurance that their children are in good hands, within a secure and happy environment, where learning means fun.

The Owlets Nursery is dedicated to providing the perfect environment for exploration and play. It is superbly equipped and staffed by a caring, qualified and experienced team.

The Nursery is a self-contained unit within the school – the younger children can see what is going on elsewhere, but are never overwhelmed by the wider school environment.

Inside, there are areas designated for messy play, arts and crafts and role-play as well as quiet corners for reading. The children are introduced to pre-reading and numeracy skills within a play context.

They also gain the benefit of the school's focus on specialist subject teaching with a first taste of music and French.

There is access to two playgrounds with soft surfaces, as well as a lawn and a patio. These provide safe play areas for outdoor activities and making new friends.

All this, along with the emphasis on working together and promoting independence, helps to prepare children for a smooth transition to the Lower School.

"I like building a house with the Lego."

Ilyse, age 4

"I like doing the rhymes for our sounds."

Hugo, age 4



Pride in progress

Lower School from 4-6 years

The Lower School provides a gentle introduction to formal school life in which every step forward is valued.

Small, friendly classes ensure individual attention and the freedom for children to develop at their own pace.

All children are taught to read and write using Read Write Inc, a tried and tested synthetic phonics reading programme. Its systematic and structured approach results in rapid learning of sounds and blending, enabling children to be successful from the very beginning.

French and an introduction to computing supplement gradual development in reading, writing and numeracy skills. Progress is carefully monitored in consultation with parents.

We also attach high priority to creative subjects, including art, drama, music and singing. Staff organise a variety of trips to places related to

curriculum subjects, and there are regular drama and musical performances which link into current work topics.

Philosophy is introduced in the Lower School to encourage discussion, listening skills and debate from an early age.

P. E. lessons include gymnastics, dance, athletics and swimming. There are many extracurricular activities to join, such as ballet, speech and drama, Lego, chess, sewing, keyboard skills and sports.

Ongoing encouragement in every aspect of development ensures that the children move on to the Upper School feeling confident and proud of their achievements.

“ I love Windlesham because the teachers are really nice and teach us lots of things.”

Zoe, age 6



Small, friendly classes ensure individual attention and the freedom for children to develop at their own pace.



All children are encouraged to develop their particular talents and abilities.

Expanding horizons

Upper School from 7-11 years

Class sizes remain small, with a focus on individual attention, as the expanding curriculum widens horizons in Windlesham Upper School.

Emphasis on maths, English and sciences remains in line with the National Curriculum, but pupils also study geography, history, French, religious studies, music, computing, art, craft, design and technology.

Reasoning is introduced in the Upper School to help pupils prepare for their secondary school entrance examinations. Philosophy lessons continue with a focus on developing critical thinking.

From Year 5, the children are taught by subject specialists. While the class tutor is key, children also benefit from teachers who can share their subject expertise. Classrooms have flat-panel interactive display boards and children use iPads when appropriate to practise skills in a fun and interactive way during lessons.

A variety of competitive sports are introduced from Year 3, including touch rugby, football, netball, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, tennis and cricket, while stroke techniques and racing tactics are taught in swimming.

The Upper School is divided into Houses, Arundel, Bodiam and Lewes, each with a House Captain. The positions of Head Girl, Head Boy and other posts give pupils the chance to take on responsibility, gaining confidence and developing maturity.

After-school clubs are popular, with extracurricular activities ranging from scuba diving and biathlon, to chess and gardening.

All children are encouraged to develop their particular talents and abilities. Academically able pupils are stretched to fulfil their potential. Children with special needs receive expert help to enjoy and extend their learning.

“ I love being in Year 6 at Windlesham School because we get posts of responsibility and I am Music Senior Prefect.”

Joe, age 10



Moving on

Options and opportunities

Special guidance is given to Year 6 pupils to prepare those taking entrance exams; the vast majority win places at their first choice of a wide range of independent and state secondary schools, with a significant number receiving scholarships. In the past few years pupils have been offered many awards, including academic, art, dance, drama and music scholarships.

Being totally independent, we are also able to offer impartial advice and guidance to parents on secondary school options, based on each pupil's individual needs and abilities, so the best option can be chosen for each child.

The options and opportunities available to our children are the result of a carefully planned teaching programme delivered in a coeducational context. Our goal is not only to ensure that pupils are academically prepared for the next stage of their education, but also that they are engaged in a wide range of extracurricular activities and are comfortable in a variety of social groups. This can only be found in a school which teaches boys and girls together.

Our aim is that all children leave us as well-balanced, caring, confident individuals, all set to succeed at their next school and beyond.

“ I loved my time at Windlesham, and my friends and I were all really sad when we had to leave, but we also felt excited and ready to move on. I'm really enjoying secondary school and I think my great experience at Windlesham has helped me take all the challenges of my new school in my stride.”

Hugo, age 13





Inspiration to grow

Reward for effort

Hard work is rewarded at Windlesham School and our Owl Awards celebrate outstanding achievements by children, helping to inspire further success.

Pupils are treated as individuals in all subject areas and our view is that every child should be given the chance to shine. Effort and enthusiasm, as well as attainment, are celebrated, to encourage everyone to achieve their best.

Merit badges are also awarded in assembly to children who have made a special effort or gone out of their way to help others, either in the classroom or in other aspects of school life.

“ When I get an Owl Award I feel proud because I have worked hard, and when my friends get one I am also happy because they deserve it.”

Astrid, age 8

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A chance to shine Fit for action

Windlesham School believes that active children are more alert and eager to learn and we offer a wide range of sports, including gymnastics, netball, tennis, hockey, rounders, lacrosse, football, touch rugby and swimming, either in school, or as part of a broad programme of extracurricular activities.

Music also features strongly in the school. There are several Choirs and a Beginner Orchestra, and all pupils benefit from many opportunities to learn a variety of instruments and perform in assemblies and musical productions. Children learn music notation from an early age and are exposed to a variety of musical styles and genres.

Our 15 metre indoor heated swimming pool in Cooper House has been purpose built with excellent provision for changing and showering, plus a viewing gallery for spectators. These superb facilities enable every child in the Lower and Upper School to swim regularly, all year round, a factor that has yielded great results in competitions and attainment.



“ My favourite part of Windlesham is our swimming pool because the water is so warm and I love going into the deep end.”

Diego, age 7

Delight in achievement

Equipped for success

The facilities at Windlesham School are excellent. As well as our swimming pool, we have a dedicated computer suite in Cooper House, equipped with fully networked computers. Internet access is available, giving up to 20 children at a time the opportunity to master computer skills. From a young age, all our pupils are able to learn from a selection of the latest software packages.

The science room allows pupils to explore fantastic new worlds in a safe and stimulating environment, taking part in various practical activities. We also have specialist music, French and art rooms, a hall and gymnasium.

A hard court on site is used for netball, lacrosse and five-a-side football, while athletics, cross country, rugby and football training take place on the sports field in Dyke Road Park, opposite the school.

“ French is really fun because we sing songs to help us learn words, like all the different colours or prepositions.”

Allegra, age 10





Educating the generations

Julie, Jayden and Mia Hobbs

Visitors, parents and pupils alike often say that Windlesham feels like a big family; indeed, many current pupils have relatives who also attended the school. Julie Hobbs (née Pullin) was at Windlesham in the 1980s and on becoming a parent she was keen to send her own children here too. Julie, a former British no. 1 and World Ranked 125 professional tennis player, was a member of Team GB at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Julie: *"My lasting memory of Windlesham is how happy and confident I felt here. As well as giving me a good academic grounding, the school encouraged me to pursue my passion for tennis and I wanted my children to have the same positive experience at this unique school."*

Jayden: *"We loved coming to Windlesham because the teachers are fun and supportive and we made lots of friends."*

Mia: *"My favourite subject was art because I loved being creative and making lots of exciting things."*

An inspirational founder

Miss Irene Cooper



In 1948 a dedicated and inspirational teacher, Miss Irene Cooper, opened a school with eleven pupils in Windlesham Gardens in Brighton. With the strong support of parents and friends – and a sympathetic bank manager – the school went from strength to strength, quickly outgrowing its original premises and moving to 190 Dyke Road in 1952. Three years later, 180 Dyke Road was also purchased. Its large grounds adjoined 190's and by simply removing the fences the current school site was created.

Over the years pupil numbers grew and facilities such as a gym, swimming pool and specialist classrooms were added. Miss Cooper died in 2002, but her vision of providing a high-quality, private education in a respectful, kind and nurturing setting still pervades the school.

True to Miss Cooper's beliefs, Windlesham School remains inclusive, offering places to children with a broad range of abilities and providing a selection of bursaries to enable wider access to private education. Today, Windlesham School continues to thrive. Its deceptively large site, tucked away behind residential houses opposite Dyke Road Park, always surprises visitors.



Come and see for yourself



Bursaries available

To make an appointment or to receive further information please contact our Admissions Secretary at:

Windlesham School & Nursery
190 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 5AA

Telephone 01273 553645
admissions@windleshamschool.co.uk

“ I love to come to school because I can be myself and do what I love.”

Fleur, age 11



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