



# Godalming Junior School PROSPECTUS





*"GJS is a loving community where we are taught the importance of values"*

*Emily*



## *Dear Parents*

**Welcome to our inclusive and ambitious school. I hope you are able to navigate around our website and online prospectus to get a flavour of what life is like at our happy and successful school.**

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 very 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, calm and purposeful learning environment through collaboration and enjoyment of being at school.

We offer an exciting, personalised, 'rights respecting', values based education that engages, challenges and stimulates the children. Our curriculum is constantly being reviewed to ensure it is relevant and purposeful to the children and takes into account what is happening at a local level as well as what is happening nationally and globally.

Every child is unique and is valued for their individual talents. We aim to strengthen every child's sense of belonging within our school and the wider world.

We believe every child should be equipped to leave GJS 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 pride ourselves in maintaining the calm and purposeful working environment, which has become synonymous to life at Godalming Junior School. We have ensured children continue to feel safe, happy and ready to learn each day and this is all underpinned by our ethos of Love – treating each other how we wish to be treated, Live – encouraging the children to live healthy lives and Learn – nurturing a life-long love of learning and curiosity.

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

**Adam Samson**  
Headteacher



# About Us



## OUR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

At Godalming Junior School, we provide a broad, ambitious and genuinely bespoke 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 focussing 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.

*"I honestly could not have hoped for a better experience at junior school; the combination of genuinely thoughtful teachers, immersive lessons and unforgettable trips" Sofia*

## 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 fulfil 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 children with essential knowledge and skills
- Celebrating creativity, resourcefulness, problem solving, perseverance and commitment
- Understanding our own learning

*"GJS is a school  
where everybody feels  
safe and included"*



# What makes us special...

## *"We are all life-long learners"*

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.

- Bespoke values based, language rich and **ambitious curriculum** – relevant to OUR children, demanding and fun!
- **Quality texts** form the bedrock of our English curriculum reinforced by our Talk for Writing approach
- **Dynamic staff** – teach with passion, personality, are willing to go the extra mile and are wonderful role models!
- A true sense of **community** – links with local schools, groups and charities
- Well behaved children who are **respectful, active learners**
- **Designated learning spaces** – Art Studio, Music Room and Food Technology area (kitchen), Mindfulness Pod
- **Sensory Garden**
- **Inclusive House System** – ALL children are encouraged to represent their house throughout the year by participating in the broad variety of events on offer.
- **'Dyslexic Friendly'** classrooms
- **Restorative Justice** behaviour policy
- A school which **values health and wellbeing** in ALL equally as much as academic success
- **Extensive club provision** – approximately 20 a term on offer!





# Facilities

*"A school where you never want to have a day off" Emily*

Our school comprises of three buildings and two playgrounds. Inside the main building, there is the school hall with displays of the children's work and eight classrooms. The school hall is used for assemblies, concerts, performances, indoor PE lessons and is the heart of our school.

Other accommodation at the rear of the school includes the **Music Room** for weekly lessons 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.

In a smaller building adjacent to the main school is our **Art Studio** and two focus group rooms (the Learning Lab and the NEST).

There are two playgrounds for the children. The larger playground situated at the front of the school has an astro-turf surface with small-sided football goals, a 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 Play Frame and Trim Trail. There are picnic tables, our **Peace Garden** and **Sensory Garden** area. We try to ensure the two playgrounds provide space for contrasting activities.

Additional seating and shade is provided by three wooden gazebos. We also have a covered area for cycle storage and decking area for PSHE and for quiet reading.

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







# Our Curriculum

## OUR TEACHING GROUPS

**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 demanding 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 is embedded 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 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. Reading is developed through individual and group sessions, focusing on not only the process, but also the comprehension and understanding of ideas that can be found when reading a quality contemporary or classic text.

*"I am leaving GJS  
with an education,  
friends and a smile  
on my face"*  
– Theo





## 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:

- Through Number Talks, help the children acquire an understanding of mathematical ideas and the ability to use them appropriately and in real situations
- Use practical work and representational resources 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. 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 in an ever changing world. We have laptops and tablets and every classroom is equipped with interactive touch screen technology.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP

This is a huge part of everything we do and helps develop lifelong skills. We discretely cover such aspects as internet safety, personal safety, drugs, mental health and wellbeing and RSE 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. We are also a **UNICEF Rights Respecting School**, and learn about the importance of human rights.

## MUSIC

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

# Our Curriculum continued...



## ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The children will have access to and will be able to produce, critique, and appreciate different media in our dedicated Art Studio.

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.

## 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 knowledge, skills and 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.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

**French** and **Spanish** as modern foreign languages are taught to all pupils throughout the school. Opportunities are provided to taste foods from France and Spain to further enrich the MFL curriculum. This gives the children a taste of two modern foreign languages before they move to secondary school.

## 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.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In our physical education lessons, we aim to develop secure 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.

*"The school offers so many opportunities! There are clubs, trips, visitors and great subjects"*

*Noah*





# Wider Development

## ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are arranged for all the children in the school, which is non-denominational. The Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher and the staff team lead these assemblies as well as class groups, visiting clergy and speakers. The school adopts a values based approach to assemblies and these alternate each half term. Further work on these values is followed up in class in different subjects including PSHE and weekly Circle Times.

## 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.

*“I have grown in confidence since coming to Godalming Junior School, going on school trips, being in a production and speaking up in class has enabled this to happen”*

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Most children's needs are met throughout their school life by their teaching team in their classrooms using Quality First Teaching methods. At Godalming Junior School, we aim to achieve this by offering a broad and ambitious curriculum that is accessible, appropriately resourced and delivered to meet the wide range of interests and abilities. We regularly assess children, using a variety of strategies, to ensure the children are reaching the age related expectations. We believe that the classroom is the best place for your child to learn, however, some children may require additional bespoke support.

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.

## EXPECTATION, 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 rooted in 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 unique Restorative Behaviour Policy clearly communicate the expectations that are understood by every child. Children are awarded house points and to celebrate their achievements we hold a weekly celebration assembly.



# Parent information

## TRANSITION TO AND FROM OUR SCHOOL

We have established, 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.

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. This is further supported by their 'buddy' in Year 6 who help our newest members navigate their way through the first few weeks and are 'go to' people in the school.

## 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.

## 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.

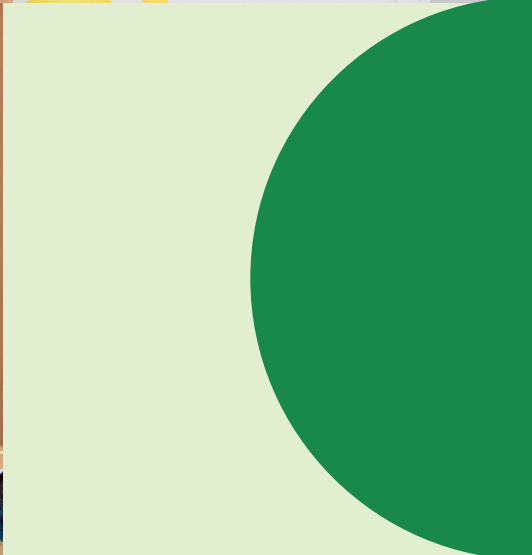
Parents' evenings are held twice a year and you are invited to a consultation with the class teacher. At this meeting, you will be able to discuss your child's progress and you will be informed on their effort and attainment. Annual School Reports are circulated towards the end of the Summer Term.

We keep parents regularly informed about life at GJS by using Arbor. You will quickly know about important or urgent messages via our online parent portal.

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









# Godalming Junior School

## Get in touch

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, QUERIES OR WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A VISIT CONTACT US AT:

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01483 421597

### FIND US:

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