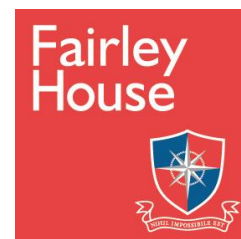


About Fairley House School



Location and history

The school is located in central London on two sites, the Senior Department (Years 6 to 11) in Causton Street in Westminster and the Junior Department (Years 1 to 5) in Lambeth (15 minutes' walk between the two sites).

The school was established in 1982 by Daphne Hamilton-Fairley whose husband was killed by an IRA bomb in 1975. Mrs Hamilton-Fairley was a speech and language therapist who had been providing therapy for dyslexic children at home. As a parent with four children of whom two were dyslexic, she knew how poor provision was for dyslexia in London and in the UK generally. She resolved to set up a school for dyslexic children as a memorial to her husband, hence the name Fairley House. She aimed to combine a medical focus: speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, then mainly delivered in hospital clinics, with education. In this respect she was a pioneer and although provision of therapy within school is now common place we stay true to her vision by pushing forward the boundaries of integrating therapy and education.

Currently the school is thriving with 190 -200 pupils. In response to demand and to enable our 10-year Strategy Plan we aim to provide help for more children and families affected by specific learning difficulties, through offering Assessment, Training and Research into effective teaching methods. The school is a charity and is run by a Board of Governors.

Distinctive features of the school and its governing structure.

We are registered with the DCSF as an independent special school for specific learning difficulties. We have children from a range of socio-economic backgrounds and from a wide geographical area (central and greater London)). The majority of pupils are private placements and parents manage to afford the fees which are high due to the favourable staff: pupil ratio and expertise available. 25% of children are statemented, the vast majority paid for by local authorities (LAs) with some coming from the poorest London boroughs. It is a tribute to our children that this diversity is embraced and friendships are forged by children from very different backgrounds and circumstances. Children do not arrive in Year 1 and stay until Year 11 because the aim is to provide intensive help for their difficulties and return them to mainstream schooling as soon as possible. We aim to return children to mainstream education after an average stay of 2 to 3 years.

The specific learning difficulties we cater for are dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, specific language impairment, attention difficulties and mild social and communication difficulties. Therapists and teachers work together in the classrooms.