



St Wystan's School

Background Information on St Wystan's School

School Organisation:

St Wystan's School is a co-educational Independent Preparatory Day School for pupils aged 2½-11. The Pre-Prep and Prep School consist of Kindergarten to Form 6 with one class per year group and places for 16-18 in each class. Whilst there are organisational differences between the ways in which school life is structured for Early Years, Pre-Prep and Prep pupils, the school still operates as one unit from Nursery to Year 6.

The majority of pupils transfer through the entire school and proceed to their first choice of Senior School at the end of Form 6, many with Scholarships and Exhibitions including academic, art, music and sports awards. Since St Wystan's does not have a Senior School, the choice of Senior School is guided by the strengths of each individual pupil so that the most appropriate School is chosen.

The School has a Senior Leadership Team which includes the Head, a Pastoral Assistant Head, Academic Assistant Head, Bursar and Head of Nursery/EYFS. The team meets weekly chaired by the Head to discuss organisational items. Pastoral care and pupil welfare is paramount in the school and all Form Teacher ensure their pupils are happy, confident and successful.

The School:

St Wystan's School was founded in 1926. It is a co-educational school and is located in the picturesque village of Repton. It has approximately 100 pupils aged between 2 ½ and 11 years. It operates a five-day week and provides wrap around care from 7.30am to 6.30pm including Pre and After School activities and Pre/After School Care. We are proud of our strong links with many local secondary Independent and State schools.

Facilities:

The School occupies, all of which are arranged around a central courtyard. In addition, through the school's link with Repton School, there is a fantastic separate Forest School area, sports hall, astro pitch and large sports field.

Nursery is situated apart from main school and have their own designated gardens specifically designed to cater for younger children's needs.

Staff:

St Wystan's School provides a stimulating and exciting working environment where staff are given challenges, opportunity and autonomy. Every classroom is a castle! We offer a thorough induction programme where staff are fully supported on their entrance to the school, and a continuous professional development programme through a structured performance management process where all staff are given opportunities to continue to learn and develop in their careers. Staff are supported through a mentoring system which provides a less formal support structure throughout

their first year. We are a close-knit family and have a number of social events throughout the year to ensure we have the right balance of work and play!

The School enjoys a talented, committed and loyal teaching staff. The ratio of teachers to pupils is low and a generous level of non-contact time is provided to enable staff to undertake their job effectively in school. Work life balance is an essential part of St Wystan's and working parents are supported in 'having their cake and eating it!' In addition to Form Teachers, there are specialist teachers for PE, Games, French and Music, as well as a plethora of Peripatetic Music Teachers. Form Teachers, in addition to subject specialists take on subject leader roles.

All staff, who teach at the School make contributions to school life outside their own specialisation as well as to our co-curricular programme and in pastoral support across the School. The school has a strong community feel and new members of staff invariably speak of the supportiveness and friendliness of their colleagues and the pupils. NQTs are given full support in their official induction year towards acquiring Qualified Teacher Status.

Staff meetings are held weekly and may be general in nature or consider a particular subject or aspect of school development and life. Meetings are manageable and we ensure that they are neither unnecessary nor time consuming: everyone needs a little time to take stock!

Support staff include the Bursar, the Marketing & Communications Manager and the Maintenance Manager.

There are Teaching Assistants from Nursery to Form 2, as well as an additional teaching assistant working across the Prep School. There are designated staff to provide support at lunch time. Catering staff cook on site and lunches are provided free of charge.

Learning at St Wystan's:

St Wystan's learning enables children to prepare for a world in which simply absorbing and regurgitating bite size chunks of knowledge will be worthless. Our pupils undertake a 21st century education, where they become armed with a toolkit of learning skills which are transferrable to their future education and the inevitable demands of the workplace.

As part of our Habits for Learning, pupils learn through collaboration, the development of resilience, reflectiveness and resourcefulness, skills which are encased within a formal academic curriculum. We aim to equip our children to work well with others, think creatively and distinctively, to explore and take responsibility for their learning through questioning, curiosity, courageous risk taking and ongoing reflection. Children of all abilities are enabled to broaden their own potential by truly believing that their ability is expandable, not fixed. We talk to the children about strategies, teach them to think independently, explore and use their initiative in seeking the answers. We are helping to shape the next generation, a cohort of creative, excited and innovative young people to be ready to change the world. Children should have large aspirations!

The school a child wants to be in is one which will teach them how to live, which will abandon the exam rat race and instead create thinking individuals who can reason, learn to understand fellow human beings and above all, think creatively and originally. Schools are not simply invented for little people to become the same as big people, but for the pupils to learn how to move into the world.

Curriculum:

The School not only focuses on core subjects such as Maths, English and Science, but provides a broad curriculum including Art and DT, IT, Humanities and specialist teachers in Music, French and Sport.

The Creative Arts are particular strengths of the School. Musical opportunities abound through choirs and orchestras as well as performances both informal and formal throughout the year. Art and Drama afford opportunities for the children to explore their creative side. Drama takes place in the curriculum every week, as well as Form Assemblies. Every pupil has the opportunity to perform and take to the stage.

Sport is another strength. Pupils follow a varied programme of activities which include rugby, football, hockey, netball, rounders, gymnastics, athletics and dance. Weekly fixtures are held against neighbouring schools inspiring not only competitiveness but also a recognition of being part of a team and participation. Excellence is fostered whilst always adhering to a policy of sport for all. Sports Day is a highlight in the School Calendar.

Pastoral:

Pastoral care is primarily in the hands of the Form Teachers and overseen by the Pastoral Assistant Head. There is a simple and effective system of rewards and sanctions. A House System is in place and all children and staff are associated with one of the four houses. The children are able to earn House points for good behaviour and kindness as well as for academic or sporting achievement. All staff are responsible in helping to ensure that all the children are happy in school. The school prides itself in its outstanding pastoral care.

Terms and Conditions:

The School has its own salary scale depending upon the role and responsibility. All lunches are provided on site. There is a strong policy of supporting teachers' professional development; in addition to internally organised staff training, teachers at the school are encouraged to attend courses, conferences, undertake post graduate or graduate training and visit other schools which will further their expertise and career.

Finale:

St Wystan's is a truly unique school where children are genuinely happy and develop a love of learning within a family orientated community. We believe that children achieve academic success when they are happy and fulfilled, where each child is recognised, cherished for their individualism, fully supported and enabled to grow and develop at their own unique rate.

As a small school, all our children have the chance to shine, to discover their talents and their strengths in addition to dealing with their inevitable weaknesses. All children have the opportunity to compete in school teams, perform in assemblies and concerts and most importantly, be valued for their individuality. Everyone is someone at St Wystan's, no matter what they contribute to the school.

Our aims at St Wystan's are:

1. To **nurture** the individual
2. To **inspire** academic success
3. To **prepare** children for their future, whatever that may entail
4. For children to **achieve** their first choice of senior school, one in which the child will thrive and succeed

More information can be found on the School Website at www.stwystans.org.uk