



# Preparatory School

PROSPECTUS



SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL



# Welcome to Sutton Valence Preparatory School

Thank you for taking the time to consider Sutton Valence Preparatory School (SVPS) for one of the most important decisions that a parent or guardian can make. Not only will your child be safe and secure here at SVPS, but they will find opportunities galore, passionate and curious friends to grow up with, and kind and knowledgeable staff to support them on their individual journeys.

In the heart of beautiful Kent with enviable grounds and facilities, we are a School where each individual can thrive. We celebrate each child for who they are whilst at the same time encouraging them to raise their expectations of themselves so that they might understand and achieve their true potential. Through these formative years of their education, the critical triumvirate of the pupil, the family and the School work together to develop values, knowledge and skills which will serve the children for life.

We provide a fabulous breadth of opportunities for children to develop and flourish in each of the areas that we hold

dear: Academic, Enrichment, Community, Leadership and Service. At the same time, we are acutely aware that childhood is something to be treasured and our children are encouraged to enjoy the many magic moments that are a part of daily life at SVPS. Here, they will learn to win with grace and humility, and err with confidence and magnanimity.

We expect our pupils to be kind, honest and open to the many experiences that are available to them at SVPS. It is our privilege and responsibility to prepare the children to be citizens of the future and we do this in an atmosphere of mutual respect, warmth and care. We are tremendously proud of our confident, compassionate and knowledgeable pupils and of the unique community which embraces and embodies our ethos of 'each cares for all' on a daily basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Scholey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Scholey, Head



Sutton Valence Preparatory school is situated in glorious countryside in the heart of Kent; it is also a School with great heart. I take enormous pride in our capacity to cherish each child for who they are, whilst at the same time encouraging them to raise their expectations of themselves so they might achieve their true potential. We are a School that values individuality and ensures every pupil enjoys their own, unique journey through these most formative years of their education.



“ An inspiring journey with time to challenge, time to experiment, time to mature and time to succeed. ”



# Pre-Prep

RECEPTION TO YEAR 2



# Welcome to Pre-Prep

Our children are precious; ensuring they are safe, happy and learning new skills in their formative years is incredibly important.

The building blocks learned at this stage are fundamental to their education, and provide a sure foundation for their next steps. At Sutton Valence we work closely with you and your child to provide individual support, to engage them in learning and to discover new talents and opportunities.

Every child is different and, therefore, has a different approach to learning. We recognise this and understand how to support and develop each child through their academic, enrichment, community and leadership journeys. We will encourage their curiosity and grow their confidence; inspiring a love of learning which will support them throughout their education.



Carly Froggatt,  
Head of Pre-Prep







**“ What the staff do so well in the Pre-Prep is balance their academic expertise with creativity, endless enthusiasm, and a kindness which gives me great confidence as a parent. ”**

Current parent







# Our learning experience

PRE-PREP IS WHERE WE BEGIN TO PUT THE FOUNDATIONS IN PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD TO SUCCEED IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION AND DEVELOP CONFIDENCE AND VALUES THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL IN LIFE.

Young children's education should be tailored around the individual and engage naturally with their enthusiasm and interests. We make our activities fun and allow the children to change and adapt what they are doing to reflect their natural style of investigation.

With a dedicated form teacher, the pupils flourish as we tailor their educational journey to suit the individual. Within the happy Pre-Prep atmosphere, children enjoy playing, learning and developing skills in a safe environment and without fear of failure.



In Reception a more formal approach is introduced alongside play and, over the next three years, a more structured approach to teaching and learning is introduced.

We encourage parents to be involved in all aspects of their child's life here, be

it through workshops, parent evenings, our Parents' Association and, of course, we have an open door if ever you want to see us.



“ Safe, secure self-discovery  
with education at its heart. ”







# A broad journey of discovery

OUR MISSION IS TO TURN THOSE UNSTEADY  
NURSERY FOOTSTEPS INTO PURPOSEFUL  
STRIDES AND ALLOW OUR CHILDREN THE  
OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES THAT  
WILL SHAPE THEIR FUTURES.

We provide a healthy balance where real importance is attached to time spent both inside and outside the classroom.

Children are inspired to learn as our enthusiastic staff share their passion for their specialisms, which are woven into the weekly routine. Music, Drama and Sport all play an integral part in the development

of each child and, in addition to being enjoyable, they play a vital role in developing self-esteem and building social skills. Music and Drama work hand-in-hand to develop children's confidence, concentration and creativity. Sport is an important part of education, and our emphasis is always on having fun, behaving properly and working together as a team. French, Music, Dance

and Physical Education are taught by specialists from Nursery upwards.

Our wide range of activities allows your child to take on new challenges, explore and develop new interests and grow in confidence.



**“ We aim to inspire inquisitive minds and actively engage our pupils in their own learning. ”**

Mrs Philippa Crampton, Teacher

DANCE







# Leadership, confidence and consideration

AT SVPS WE HELP OUR CHILDREN  
TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE  
TO SUCCEED AT SCHOOL AND IN LATER LIFE.

Leadership has many attributes. As well as self-esteem and motivation it also requires patience, listening skills, empathy for the views of others and the ability to make properly considered decisions.

Through play, activities and lessons our pupils learn how to become considerate and attentive to the feelings of others as well as being confident in themselves.

From an early age children are given responsibilities that help the teachers and their fellow classmates. These range from simply handing out books or looking after a new child in the School to running their own charitable activities or being part of the School Council.

We are always there in support, but as children progress up to the Prep School



they become more independent and increasingly competent in organising and leading events and people. By the time children are ready to move on from Pre-Prep they have learned how to build positive relationships with others and have a sense of citizenship, understanding their responsibilities within our community and the wider world.



“ Pre-Prep is a fun, exciting and dynamic place. My main goal for the young children in my care is to ensure they move on with all the tools they need as they embark on their next phase of learning. ”







# Our caring community

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROVIDES A SOLID FOUNDATION ON WHICH CHILDREN FEEL CONFIDENT TO GROW AS INDIVIDUALS.

We believe in building a strong relationship with parents and take a holistic approach to each child's education, ensuring their emotional, physical and intellectual needs are fully met.

The atmosphere in Pre-Prep is always positive as children play, learn and explore together. Our teaching team welcome children in the morning and our children greet teachers and their peers in return.

Good manners, respect for others and friendship skills are core parts of a Sutton Valence education.


Our community gives children the opportunity to celebrate success and the confidence to approach staff openly and confide in them if they need to.

Our Year 6 Prefects love to help out with the younger ones and are a big hit when



they read and play with them. They also provide positive role models for the Pre-Prep pupils to look up to.

Every new Sutton Valence child is entering into a happy and secure community with a long history and a bright future.

A young girl with freckles and a boy in school uniforms are smiling. The girl is in the foreground, wearing a black cardigan over a light purple top. The boy is behind her, wearing a blue school uniform. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

**“ Being friends and feeling safe are my favourite parts of School. ”**

Year 2 Pupil





# Prep

YEARS 3 TO 6





# Welcome to Prep

As pupils transition from the Pre-Prep into Prep, they continue to grow and develop across the same core four areas of Academic, Enrichment, Community and Leadership and Service, but with the increased focus that comes from their growing maturity. Their four years in the Prep are formative in their development and our bespoke approach allows them to flourish as individuals as they begin to discover and explore their interests and aspirations.

SVPS has a long history of successfully preparing children for the next stage in their education, be that for our own Senior School, the Kent grammar schools, or other schools close to home or further afield. By working closely with families, we can support the children every step of the way thereby ensuring every pupil is fully prepared for the next part of their educational journey.

Furthermore, our emphasis on character values enables us to ensure all our children grow to be confident, articulate, creative, kind and open minded, leaving us with the tools and strength of character required for

them to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. I see it as being vitally important that children are not afraid to step out of their comfort zones and that they learn to overcome setbacks and see mistakes as being opportunities for learning. In the safe and secure surroundings of our School, pupils learn to be brave and make the most of the varied opportunities that are provided both in and out of the classroom.

From the moment children enter Prep, our aim is to develop their values and self-confidence, guiding them through finding their personal strengths and tackling their weaknesses in a secure and supportive environment. It is our responsibility to prepare them to be leading citizens of the future by showing mutual respect and providing endless opportunities for responsibility. This is of utmost importance as they develop into confident and compassionate pupils within a community in which 'each cares for all' on a daily basis.

James Watkins, Deputy Head





# Academic excellence

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL, OUR CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM A THOROUGH, YET FORWARDTHINKING EDUCATION DELIVERED BY HIGHLY COMMITTED TEACHERS WHO CONSTANTLY SEEK THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND STIMULATING WAYS TO DELIVER THEIR SUBJECTS.

The School offers outstanding learning opportunities for a wide-ranging cohort, and loves challenging enquiring young minds and encouraging individuality. Well-qualified and experienced teaching staff deliver a vibrant, diverse and challenging curriculum. Trips and workshops bring

learning alive and residential trips in Years 5 and 6 foster independence and social skills.

Small class sizes and individual monitoring allow us to support and adapt learning for each pupil to ensure that every child





achieves their potential. In the younger year groups we have form teachers who take the children for most of their lessons. As they progress through the School, children are increasingly taught by specialist subject teachers, although the form teachers are still on hand with a holistic view of each child's education and offering daily pastoral support.

Sutton Valence has an excellent academic record, preparing pupils to progress successfully to the next level of education. We provide a good academic foundation whilst also nurturing children's natural interest in learning and their ability to work independently, as well as within a team.



**“ We support and inspire every pupil to develop a love of learning and to take responsibility for their progress. ”**







# Activities and experiences

A GOOD EDUCATION STRETCHES FAR BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. MANY OF THE JOBS OUR CHILDREN WILL BE EMBARKING ON AS ADULTS HAVE YET TO BE CREATED AND WE CANNOT BE SURE WHAT THE WORLD WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THEM.

Friendships, respect for others, clear moral values and self-confidence are all part of a Sutton Valence education.

There is plenty of time for pupils to take part in Sports, Art, Music and Drama, and these are extended further through lunchtime and after-school clubs.

Whether it is expressing ideas and feeling through art, discovering the joy of singing in the choir, playing a musical instrument or exploring different characters through drama, it is wonderful to watch children's confidence grow as they develop interests and discover their gifts. If children enjoy an activity they are more receptive to learn,



work together and improve.

We are proud of the vast array of clubs and activities our pupils can engage in. From Chess to Ballet, Gardening to Mindfulness; this breadth offers children the opportunity to try new things and delve in depth into those that inspire them.

It is in these enrichment activities that our pupils develop confidence, commitment, flexibility and teamwork. They grow their strengths and gain the courage to tackle their weaknesses in a secure environment.



“ I used to be shy until I started playing my violin with the orchestra. I now feel confident to try lots of new activities. ”

Current student





# Leadership skills for life

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES PATIENCE,  
THOUGHT AND CONSIDERATION AS WELL  
AS CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION.

It comes in many forms: being prepared to stand up for your beliefs; on the field of sport; holding a position of responsibility or just managing your way through the busy School week.


With the right skill sets, children can make confident and clear decisions and learn how to successfully lead others. By taking on responsibility, pupils find their own voice and develop their confidence and identity.

We provide opportunities for them to be responsible for activities within the School and the wider community, and to organise events that require initiative and planning. Through the Leadership programme, pupils develop a whole host of practical and interpersonal skills. We're always there in support but, as pupils progress through the School, they quickly become more independent in their ability to organise and manage events and people. By Year 6



our children are skilled leaders, able to take on key positions of responsibility As Prefects and Head Pupils they assist with the organisation of School events and take on specific responsibilities. Every year we have an enrichment week that celebrates leadership skills and always proves a great success.

Our Leadership programme instils self-confidence and teaches pupils to accept accountability, appraise risks and make informed decisions. They learn to take the rough with the smooth, to be gracious both in success and failure, to speak publicly and to deal with adults and peers with courtesy, honesty and good humour.



**“ During my time as a Prefect I have learnt a lot about myself, my strengths and weaknesses. The Head meets with us every other week to talk about anything we find hard and how to be a good leader. ”**

Current student







# A caring community

PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ITS POSITION IN OUR WONDERFUL KENT COUNTRYSIDE, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF OUR LONG HISTORY, BUT CERTAINLY BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE AND CONNECTIONS WHICH RUN SO DEEP, AT SUTTON VALENCE THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY IS TRULY EMBEDDED AND ALMOST PALPABLE.

Many schools talk of community, but rarely is it so evident as here, where all is child-centred and mutual support is important. For us, pastoral care and the success of our children in every School arena are manifestations of community operating effectively. Loyalties are strong here and all the constituent elements of the School

- pupils, parents and those who work here - are passionate about it. Lifelong friendships are formed at Sutton Valence and the School really matters to all who are associated with it.

As our children make their own individual journeys through the School, it is always





within the framework of this most supportive community. Together, success is celebrated and when things go wrong, all attention is focused to put things back on track.

Our students are, in turn, educated about the importance of community, their role in it and, through that, their responsibilities in the wider community as citizens. As a parent you are essential to our community structure and we work closely with you and your child to make School an inspiring and happy experience.

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms. The boy in the foreground is smiling and holding a black camera. The boy behind him is looking at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or library setting with bookshelves.

**“ The School community is warm and accepting. School friends and parents are a big part of our family social life, and that’s really important to us. ”**

Current parent



To arrange a visit, please contact  
our Admissions department  
[admissions@svs.org.uk](mailto:admissions@svs.org.uk)



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SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL

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