



# SILVERHILL SCHOOL

## Curriculum

### Prep School

Reception. (Ages 4 to 5) In the Reception classes we further develop the skills learned in the Transition classes and broaden the curriculum. Tangible results in the three Rs are expected by the time the children leave the Reception. These include: the manual dexterity to form all their letters; to be able to copy sentences independently; to be able to recognise, count and write numbers to 10; to do simple addition and subtraction; to be able to differentiate, sort, match and group shapes, sizes and colours; to have a good basic mathematical and literary vocabulary; to be accustomed to making basic observations in elementary science and nature studies; and to have started reading the books in the chosen reading schemes.

Computer skills are taught in the classroom and in the computer room.

Personal, social and health education is taught through assemblies and circle times. Children are taught to behave in a responsible manner, caring for each other and their environment.

Children are assessed and monitored constantly; parents are informed of their progress at Parents' evenings and through written reports.

Children are encouraged to take phonic practice and reading books home.

### KS1

In Years 1 and 2 (ages 5 to 7) the emphasis is on a more formal education. We consider these early years to be among the most important in a child's education, and it is during these formative and vital years that we must lay a thorough and sound foundation upon which all the future learning will stand. Each class has its own teacher responsible for the three Rs, and a great deal of emphasis is placed on the core National Curriculum subjects of Mathematics, English and Science.

Classes remain small in order that each child has the individual attention to suit his or her needs within the statutory learning programme. The children have French lessons from Year 1.

Classes from Transition to Year 2 share a 3-year topic plan.

Planning is done together by each year's teachers.

There is an overall plan for the year. This is put into greater detail during the holiday preceding each term.

There is on-going assessment and parents are informed through parents' evenings and written reports (and daily conversations!)  
Reading and spelling homework is begun in Year 1.

There are after-school clubs and lunch-time clubs. A number of these activities are available to the KS 1 Children.

## PREP SCHOOL

Children join the Prep school for Years 3 to 6, KS2 (Ages 7 to 11).

The main aim is a continuation of the skills begun at KS 1; developing self-confidence, self-discipline, manners and consideration for others in a vibrant yet secure atmosphere.

We also prepare the children for 11+ examinations. The curriculum incorporates basic requirements of the National Curriculum and places an emphasis on the entrance examination subjects of Maths, English and Study Skills.

The curriculum includes Mathematics, English, Science, French, Art and Craft, ICT, Design and Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Religious Education, Study Skills, PE and Games. Latin was introduced in 2006 for Year 4 onwards and Classical Mythology just for Year 3.

Each class has its own tutor responsible for the overall pastoral care of the children.

From Year 3 the children are taught increasingly by specialist subject teachers.

The children are encouraged to develop their own personality and take on responsibility through duties and activities.

Whilst as an independent school we are not bound by the National Curriculum, we try to ensure that our curriculum encompasses the national requirements as well as going as far beyond as the children's progress allows.

In addition we have a very strong tradition in French, Drama and Music.

Our curriculum is constantly reviewed and updated to meet changing requirements.

Morning assemblies are held for different age groups. Children and staff participate in these, saying poems, prayers and performing music and plays to illustrate a particular theme. The aim of these assemblies is to nurture in the children a spiritual, social and moral awareness, rather than any particular doctrine. The children are told Bible stories to suit their level of comprehension and maturity.

We have a wide range of creative technology available to the children: the Art Room, the Food Room and the Music Room all encourage a 'hands on' approach.

We consider that all of our pupils should be taught to touch-type by the age of eleven. Children of our present generation need to be familiar with and able to use a keyboard and learn word processing, desk top publishing and data base programming skills. Children throughout the school are offered experience on computers.

French is continued into KS 2 with children learning to sing French songs, to recite poems and to act short stories but there is a little more emphasis on formal teaching and some written work.

Pupils with Special Needs will have an IEP with targets to be met. These will be discussed with relevant staff and with parents. Additional help and support will be given to these children whenever possible.

Parental requests for curriculum variation will be listened to, discussed and implemented where it is considered beneficial to the child and workable within the school.

National tests (SATs) are taken during Year 6. The interim tests in Year 3, 4 and 5 are also used.

At the beginning of Year 6 we assess the children in Verbal and Non-verbal reasoning. This acts as a beginning in their further education as it gives the children an insight into the sort of examinations they will be expected to sit in the following year and their targets for their preferred school.

Predictions for their achievement at KS2 are made based on the results of these tests.