



St Hilary's
School

Explore
Encourage
Educate

Boys 2 to 7 years

Girls 2 to 11 years

“A thriving, buzzy place with a warm and happy atmosphere and very impressive academic achievements for a non-selective school.”

The Good Schools Guide 2011



Explore.. Encourage.. Educate..

Dear Parent

Each individual matters at St Hilary's where we aim to provide a stimulating learning environment in which boys up to 7 and girls up to 11+ can develop, be happy and flourish.

Your child deserves the best education available and the chance to gain in self-esteem whilst receiving a firm foundation of knowledge and understanding in all subjects. We aim to give each child such an academic foundation whilst providing opportunities for creativity, self expression and social development.

To do this requires appropriate facilities but above all, well qualified, dedicated staff who believe in nurturing and drawing out the best in each child. An ethos of care is combined with a policy of inclusiveness so that boys and girls enjoy enriching experiences: for example, playing in matches, singing in choirs, playing in musical groups, and participating in the many school productions.

Specialist teaching in the Upper School from Years 3 - 6 alongside an Able, Gifted and Talented programme means that children fulfil their potential and achieve excellent results, with many obtaining awards to senior school.

We believe in traditional values supporting high expectations. Children are encouraged to explore new ideas and take on challenges. We celebrate individual successes as a school community and with each pupil's record of achievement.

Our children can move on with confidence having developed the motivation to learn and achieve whilst mastering skills which are necessary to support them in their adult lives and careers.

No informative literature can replace the value of direct experience. Enjoy reading this prospectus but do come and see us. We will be delighted to welcome you and show you St Hilary's: a school we are proud to belong to.

Susan Bailes

Mrs Susan Bailes BA (Hons) MA PGCE FRSA

“The quality of pupils’ learning and achievement is excellent. Pupils of all abilities achieve highly in all aspects of their learning.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010





“Children’s achievements are outstanding. All children make good and often rapid progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities. Children are happy, feel safe and approach all activities enthusiastically and confidently, responding well to high expectations of staff. Their behaviour is exemplary. They know how to keep safe and lead a healthy lifestyle. Relationships are strong. Children respect each other and work in harmony.”

Schools Independent Inspectorate 2010



Early Years Off to a flying start!

Much time and care have been spent to provide our Early Years boys and girls with a superb, stimulating, exciting, safe environment in which they can develop and explore. We want each individual to feel valued and cared for.

We encourage independence by children leaving the parent/carer and developing a relationship with the dedicated staff. We encourage the children by adults demonstrating skills and allowing them the freedom to practise and perfect them.

We encourage self-discipline with our carefully planned structured sessions. This enables each child to learn about the work cycle and conform to it. We encourage tidying up and co-operative behaviour:

We seek to nurture sociability. We know that self-respect and self-esteem will increase as each child develops skills. As children learn to work in groups they also learn about cooperation and helping others.



“Children benefit from an exceptional outdoor area, which is used as an extension to the indoor learning environment. The older children in Nursery join the Reception classes for ‘club time’ on a daily basis where they take part in purposeful activities that promote the different areas of learning.”



Early Years

We seek to encourage each child's intelligence. Children learn about their immediate environment and the possibilities and limitations of the world around. They have excellent opportunities for outside play with our beautiful grounds and all-year-round play facilities. All activities encourage the use of language, thinking and numeracy skills.

We develop children's concentration, assessing each child's abilities and providing activities appropriate to their ability, interest and needs.

We believe all children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and that all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.

We are delighted to welcome very young children to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Children may attend the 'Wrens' from two years old and progress into either 'Robins' or 'Jays' where they remain until transferring to Reception in the September following their fourth birthday.



“Teachers’ high expectations and their depth of knowledge, enthusiasm and meticulous planning make a strong contribution to pupils’ successful learning. Systems of assessment are thorough, established and used effectively.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010



Explore

Who? Why? When? Where? How?

Exploring is a vital part of education as children try to reason and find out answers to puzzling questions.

Inside the classroom pupils are encouraged to explore by their teachers. Our science laboratory and specialist teachers mean children carry out experiments and test hypotheses.

The modern ICT suite, in addition to well equipped classrooms throughout the school, means that children have access to technology and varieties of teaching methods can be directed at individual's needs.

Right from the Early Years, reading is encouraged with library provision and children are encouraged to carry out research and extend their learning.





Explore

Outside the classroom

Outside the classroom pupils can enjoy the woodland, the Yurt in the grounds as well as the play opportunities with the very popular Taurus Trail and the exciting Young Explorers' Area. Pupils share a love of growing things with our gardens and appreciate the safe, beautiful surroundings.

Clubs and Trips

Children are given the opportunity to participate in a wide, varied number of extra curricular activities. To give you a flavour of what is on offer these have included: Gardening, Football Skills, Drama, Science, Make & Do, Art, Pottery, Textiles, Debating, First Aid, French, Chess, Gym, Cross Country, Judo, Cricket, Dance, Tap, Choirs, Woodwind, String Ensemble, Percussion, Orchestra, Recorder Groups and Suzuki Violin.

The school takes advantage of its ideal location and access to London for visits to galleries, museums and theatres, as well as rural field centres and residential trips, including the Year 6 trip to France. So many of our pupils have special talents which we want to discover and nurture and what better way to educate them than to provide another dimension to work in the classroom or library?





“The curriculum is enriched by numerous relevant visits and visitors to school. Residential trips of increasing length for pupils in Years 3 to 6 foster independence and self-confidence. Pupils benefit greatly from the imaginative range of extra curricular activities provided.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010



“Super Art studio that looks like Hansel and Gretel’s cottage filled to the brim with examples of imaginative art.”

The Good Schools Guide 2011

“Pupils show high levels of creativity, the art work of older girls is sophisticated and carefully executed.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010



Encourage

Art & Design

Regular weekly lessons ensure all pupils are introduced to a wide selection of techniques. Full use of the kiln is made by Upper School pupils who enjoy working with clay in many forms. They also create sculptures using three dimensional materials such as Modroc, wire and wood. There are plenty of opportunities to use batik and silk painting equipment, printing tools, stencils, collage materials, a variety of paints and mark making materials. Each child is encouraged to explore and experiment with ideas and is able to learn technical skills in a supportive environment.

Children’s work is celebrated and shared in displays and in a number of exhibitions.

There is a specially designated workshop for Design Technology equipped with work benches and a range of woodworking tools. Textile work is also carried out making use of the sewing machines alongside detailed hand work. Key skills are taught with challenges and projects include cross-curricular links, for example the electrical light up scenes and pneumatic models which make good use of knowledge acquired in Science.



Drama & Performing Arts

Drama is a means of fostering understanding, confidence and communications skills so it is not surprising that it is an integral part of the curriculum as well as a dynamic part of the extra curricular life of the school.

From the earliest days in Nursery to the Year 6 Production in their final term, all pupils are encouraged to share their talents confidently with Nativity plays, Form Assemblies and Year 3 and Year 6 full scale productions.

Speech & Drama is a highly popular option for many with pupils preparing for LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations and becoming involved in the local Godalming Festival.

The high standards reached are celebrated and firmly established. In recent years, for example, the Headmistress has directed Year 6 in 'Salad Days', 'The King and I' and 'Calamity Jane' and every year the pupils respond to challenging material and the high expectations set.

Our younger pupils enjoy dance with our specialist dance provision and St Hilary's hosts an enviable variety of extra curricular dance clubs after school and on Saturdays with classical ballet, jazz, tap and modern on offer.

Overall creativity abounds and the staff skillfully collaborate so that musical, dance and acting skills are maximized for all and learning is fun.

“Pupils are highly successful in the many individual examinations taken in dance, drama and instrumental music. Pupils benefit from their participation in a wide variety of activities and competitions, in sports, mathematics and the arts they enjoy frequent success at local and regional levels”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010



Encourage

“The Music at St Hilary’s is excellent and inclusive. There is a belief that learning an instrument is the norm and there is a good ethos of practice makes perfect. All pupils are given the chance to try our musical instruments in Year 3.”

Year 6 Parent of leaver

Music

Music plays an important role in everyday life at St Hilary’s with all pupils experiencing music in the classroom and in solo and group music making. With the aim of developing individual talents, expert individual tuition is provided for many instruments including: flute, piano, clarinet, trumpet, piano, violin, Suzuki violin, viola, cello, guitar and drums as well as singing. Orchestra, choirs and numerous ensembles ensure pupils experience rehearsing and performing.

Concerts abound both inside and outside school with highly successful results and many of our pupils have obtained Music Scholarships over the years.



“Sporting activities are wide-ranging and very inclusive so that all can enjoy, regardless of talent and ‘There are fixtures for all the teams left right and centre,’ says a mum.”

The Good Schools Guide 2011



Sport


Physical Education and Games feature highly at St Hilary's. The department gives all pupils equality of opportunity to participate in a broad and balanced range of activities. All pupils experience a variety of competitive and challenging situations. Through enjoyable learning experiences we hope to foster a positive attitude towards physical activity, an increase in self confidence and a feeling of achievement. The Physical Education Department wholeheartedly endorses the aim of helping pupils reach their full potential.



Year 1 and 2 boys learn football, cricket, gymnastics and dance as well as athletics. Upper School pupils learn Netball, Hockey, Rounders, Tennis, in addition all pupils from Year 2 learn to swim.

Our House system encourages healthy competition with matches, a swimming gala and Sports Days. St Hilary's operates an all-inclusive policy and the fixture list is full and varied.

Teams play successfully against other schools and in tournaments within Surrey and there are additional opportunities to participate in clubs such as Judo, Dance, Gym and Football. Facilities include: four netball courts, a grass pitch, a flood-lit astro-turf pitch. Swimming takes place at Broadwater Leisure Centre with an additional swimming squad at Charterhouse. The Hiorns Centre, a multi-purpose building, provides an indoor space as well as a suitable venue for match teas.

A young girl with brown hair tied back, wearing a brown school sweater over a striped shirt, is looking thoughtfully to the right. In the background, another student is blurred, and a blue wall is visible.

“ Results in national tests at the age of 11 are excellent. Effective teaching, the pupils’ well developed skills and knowledge, and their thorough understanding are significant contributory factors in the high levels of attainment and progress.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010

“ Wonderful nurturing environment - a school that achieves the right balance in every way. A fantastic safe, secure foundation has been provided for all three of my children. Strong clear leadership of the school led by a Head that knows and understands each of the children well.”

Yr 6 Parent



Educate

In Years 1 and 2 most subjects are taught by the class teacher to give children a feeling of security but they have some specialist teachers for Music, Dance, Games and French. In Year 2 boys are prepared for their important entrance examinations and the girls progress into the senior part of the school, where there is specialist teaching.

In the Upper School (7-11+) pastoral care continues to be the responsibility of the form teacher but further specialist teaching is introduced.

This is an excellent preparation for secondary school and means that specialist expertise is available throughout this important Key Stage. All Year 3 pupils receive Chess, Recorder and Drama lessons in the curriculum as well as the opportunity to learn about other instruments from peripatetics and trial them. In addition to English (including Library skills), the curriculum includes: Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, French, Art, Music, Design & Technology, ICT, Personal Social Health Education and Citizenship Year 6 have an introduction to Latin.



Educate

“The quality of pupils’ learning and achievement is excellent. Pupils of all abilities achieve highly in all aspects of their learning.”

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High expectations and an optimistic, non 'hot housing' approach, with care taken over each individual, mean our boys and girls do well. We are justifiably proud of the excellent results they obtain in external exams and the prestigious scholarships awarded every year.

Education of the whole child includes the spiritual and moral. Assemblies reflect the school's Christian ethos and value placed on respect for others.

The School Council elected in Upper School and the Eco Committee involve pupils throughout the school in democratic processes and encourage a sense of responsibility as well as a sense of right and wrong. St Hilary's is committed to sustainability and has been awarded the ECO Green Flag as well as being the first independent school in Surrey to obtain the Fair Trade School Status award.



“An excellent sense of social awareness is evident in the way in which pupils fulfil their responsibilities. Whether acting as playground ‘buddies’, organizing fundraising events or helping with tasks in class, they take their duties seriously and carry out tasks conscientiously.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010





St Hilary's School

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