



HOPELANDS  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire  
Ages 4 - 11

Children who love learning, children who love life



## A WARM WELCOME TO HOPELANDS

Thank you for showing an interest in our school.

We are a small, happy school dedicated to enabling each child to achieve their full potential. We create a nurturing, supportive environment that will enable all children to become resilient, confident young people. We believe in providing the ideal platform for the challenges in life that lie ahead.

Hopelands offers a supportive environment for furthering academic excellence. Each year an average of 80% of our pupils go on to one of our many excellent local Grammar Schools, while others regularly win scholarships in the independent sector. For a non-selective school, we believe that this says a great deal about the quality of our teaching and learning.

We keep our classes small – at an average of just 14 pupils per class – and have specialist subject teachers in a wide range of subjects. All our teachers get to know each child personally and make a positive contribution to their development.

Because not everyone is naturally a high academic achiever, we seek out the innate talents in each child; we provide additional assistance and encouragement where needed, and delight in helping them on their future path - whatever that might be.

Above all, we strive to instil in our children a love of learning that will stay with them for life. Visit our school, talk to our staff, our pupils or their parents, and you will see just why Hopelands is a very special and unique place where children thrive and love their school.

**Sheila Bradburn**  
Headteacher



## WHAT MAKES HOPELANDS SO UNIQUE?

Not all preparatory schools have the same ethos, values and teaching culture, so what makes us unique?

**We provide individual attention:** we are a small school, fewer than 100 children, in which every child is known by each teacher and we can focus on them as individuals.

**We work to build resilience:** our secure environment promotes positive attitudes in every child so they feel able to take risks and become more confident.

**We achieve academic excellence:** the majority of Hopelands pupils qualify for places to study at local grammar schools while many others win scholarships at independent schools.

**We aim to maximise potential:** because we are a non-selective school, every child is encouraged to be the best they can be.

**We believe in respect:** manners are very important to us and each child is taught to be respectful and courteous to each other and to staff.

**We open young minds to new ideas:** we provide a wide range of field trips and other activities to enable children to understand and explore the wider world.

**We encourage creativity and self expression:** there are plenty of opportunities within the school day and in after school activities for children to express themselves through art, music, drama and dance.



**We promote healthy minds in healthy bodies:** a full range of sports and games, led by a specialist sports teacher, gives the children physical confidence, improves mobility and flexibility, and promotes the ethos of collaboration and teamwork.

**We look beyond the national curriculum:** we find time in our pupils' busy day to introduce them to a range of subjects and topics that will broaden their minds and provide them with the skills necessary for a confident start to their secondary education.

**We instil pleasure in learning:** we encourage children's natural curiosity, to question the world around them and discover the joy of acquiring knowledge.

# OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING

How do we nurture the enquiring minds of our young pupils? Quite simply by employing passionate, committed, and valued staff who are dedicated to opening young minds to the joys of learning. We give them the opportunity to explore new subjects and ideas.

Hopelands is a non-selective school. Our approach is to encourage each pupil to discover and achieve their full potential in whatever direction that lies.

Class sizes are small, on average just 14 pupils, and this enables teachers to give the individual attention each child needs to progress.

Our Key Stage 2 children receive lessons in a wide range of subjects from specialist teachers – including English, French, Spanish, German, science, maths, music, drama and PE – and learning a foreign language begins in reception.

While achievement in the traditional subjects will always be central to our syllabus, we also encourage other skills which will stay with, and inform, the children throughout the rest of their lives. These include verbal and non-verbal reasoning, computing and design technology.

The children's knowledge and experience is also enhanced through a wide variety of field trips and activity holidays.

We recognise that children progress at different rates but encourage them to challenge their own comfort zones in order to succeed.



Our teaching structure and small class sizes enable us to meet the needs of those children who need extra support with their learning as well as encouraging those whose talents lie in other areas.



# BROADENING YOUNG MINDS

## MATHS

Maths is taught by the form teacher at Key Stage 1 and specialist teachers at Key Stage 2. We believe that maths is a broad subject that goes beyond the learning of facts and processes. We encourage children to be independent, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Maths investigations are included regularly in lessons and children accept that mistakes are part of learning. Children are encouraged to take risks and explore their potential. Our belief is that everybody can enjoy and be good at maths.

## ENGLISH

Hopelands offers a wide variety of teaching strategies and approaches to our English curriculum. From the Early Years through to Year 6, our pupils are encouraged to experience quality texts to enthuse their flair and passions in speaking, listening, reading and writing. We celebrate the spoken world of literature via choral poetry, modern and classic poetry and Shakespeare. We regularly share these successes in assemblies with each other and with parents. Cross curricular writing opportunities are enhanced by regular field

trips, museum visits, guest speakers and drama workshops.

## SCIENCE

We consider science to be a core subject. It is taught for two hours per week by form teachers at Key Stage 1 and specialist teachers at Key Stage 2. Our aim is to equip children for their next steps in life by offering a wide range of experiences in the three strands - physics, chemistry and biology - beyond national curriculum requirements. Children do practical work and are encouraged to work scientifically. We frequently take part in science workshops, challenges and demonstrations.

## GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Geography and History are taught throughout the school as independent subjects for an hour a week each. Children are taught the key skills of enquiry and interpretation through a variety of topics. Visits are a key element of the subjects and enhance the children's overall enjoyment and learning experience.

# CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Stimulating children's interest in the creative and performing arts is central to life at Hopelands, as is opening avenues to their imagination, communication skills and confidence.

## ART

Our art curriculum creates an environment where pupils develop their observational and imaginative powers – and this is reflected in both two and three-dimensional work. Hopelands has been recognised by the Arts Council, who have awarded the school with Gold in the highly acclaimed Artsmark Award.

## MUSIC

Through specialist teaching, we aim to provide all pupils with a rich musical experience through performing, composing, listening to and appraising music. We have won several awards at the Cheltenham Festival in recent years with performances from our choir and musicians. All pupils have the opportunity to learn a range of instruments from drums to the piano.

## DANCE

We encourage all children to participate in dance, and Years 2 – 4 receive an hour of dance tuition per week covering a wide range of dance styles. At our after school dance club, pupils can contribute their own ideas and choreography; and, as a school, Year 6 take part in an integrated annual dance festival together with a special school. We also regularly put on our own productions.

## DRAMA

Taking part in productions and role play gives pupils the chance to perform and extend their creative thinking processes. They can portray different characters and act out stories other than their own. As well as giving them confidence to speak in public, this enriches the children's writing skills.

## SPORT & PE

We aim to improve a child's mobility, flexibility, agility and endurance in a wide range of sporting activities, tournaments and competitions. As part of our curriculum, all



children from Years Reception to Year 6 attend 12 hours of swimming at Dursley pool each academic year.

Hopelands offers the advantage of a highly experienced sports specialist, and the wide range of sports offered provides the children with a firm foundation for them to take part in, and excel at, sports at secondary school.

## SPIRITUAL ARTS

The school promotes a rich spiritual ethos. Children are encouraged to consider others within and outside of the school. The curriculum includes wide ranging religious studies and supports charitable causes; planning events through their school council. Family values are reflected in our inclusive philosophy and nurturing ethos.



# BEYOND THE CURRICULUM



## PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care sets us apart. Our close, warm and caring environment enables our staff to nurture our children – taking them from young, inquisitive children through to resilient and confident 11 year olds who are prepared to move to the next stage of their educational life. We know each child and what makes them tick, so we can keep them motivated, confident and passionate about learning.

## PUPIL VOICE

We all remember our school days, and it is our aim that our pupils look back at their time with us with fond and happy memories. Our pupils' experiences matter to us and we value every child's opinions and suggestions to make their school days as enjoyable as possible. Our active and elected school council voices the views and opinions of our pupils and a budget is set aside each year to act upon the pupils' wishes.

## PARENTS, TEACHERS AND PUPIL PARTNERSHIPS

The close relationship we share with our parents allows us to work together in partnership for the benefit of the children. We believe that communication between home and school is vital to meet our joint aim of achieving outstanding pupil progress. To aid this, all our teaching staff's email addresses are made available to parents, and we operate an 'open door' policy where parents can readily meet with teachers and the Headteacher if they wish.

## FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

We offer a comprehensive range of field trips and excursions to enable children to understand and explore the wider world. All trips are organised to complement the rich curriculum and stimulate the children's natural curiosity. Our Years 5 and 6 attend a residential trip to PGL for three days each year, which helps to build their independence, resilience and confidence: key qualities in life.



# IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS...



“A school where the children’s best interests are at the heart of the ethos.”

“*The school goes above and beyond with extra curricular activities.*”

“If you want your child to have a good start in secondary school - be it grammar, private, or state - this school sets the building blocks very well indeed.”

“My daughter has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Hopelands – and our youngest now goes too. The children you meet there are rounded, polite, confident young people from such an early age – and that’s a fantastic start in life.”

“*Happy, smiling children with a passion for learning.*”

“*Each teacher really takes the time to get to know your child and this manifests itself in confident, polite and happy children, of every ability.*”

“The small class sizes and excellent teaching staff ensure that every child is known and is encouraged to fulfil his or her individual potential.”



“*Not only has my daughter thrived academically, she has also been introduced to a love of sports which were not on offer at her previous school. I am certain that she will leave Hopelands with the life skills she needs to confidently enter secondary education.*”

This is the end of this brochure, but hopefully the starting point of the next stage of your child's life!

If what you've read in these pages resonates with your values and aspirations for your child's future, why not visit us and see for yourself what makes Hopelands such a unique and happy place?

For a personal tour at a time and date of your convenience simply call 01453 822164, or email [admissions@hopelands.org.uk](mailto:admissions@hopelands.org.uk).



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