



Little Heath School

PROSPECTUS 2026-27



1. Welcome

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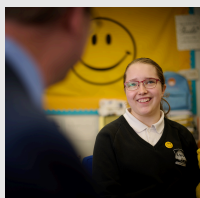
2. Our Vision

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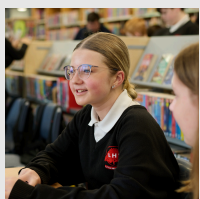
3. Academic Standards

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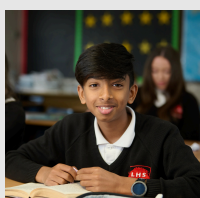
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Headteacher | Governing Body

WELCOME



Dear prospective students, parents and carers,

On behalf of staff, governors and students, we would like to welcome you to Little Heath School's online prospectus. We hope that this serves as a useful introduction to our school, and that it will inspire you to apply for a place with us at Little Heath School in Year 7.

We are proud to say that Little Heath is a traditional school founded on traditional values. Although we also pride ourselves on our modern and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, we recognise that "old-fashioned" values of respect, politeness, honesty and integrity are just as important in the modern, fast-paced world of the twenty-first century as they were in the past. We are very much a large school with a small school ethos, valuing a sense of community and respect that is shared by students, parents and staff alike.

Much of our work at the school is centred on a long-standing tradition of high academic achievement, coupled

with a caring approach where every student matters. We want to ensure that students leave Little Heath School with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will serve them well in the next stage of their learning, whether in employment, at college or at university.

Our Open Evening and Open Morning events are highlights of the early Autumn term in September, and we look forward to meeting you there. In addition, we are always happy to arrange tours of the school should you wish to visit on an alternative date.

D J Ramsden

Mr D J Ramsden | Headteacher

OUR VISION

Tailored Education for Success

At Little Heath School, our vision is that we will offer high quality learning that promotes respect, resilience and success for all our students. We believe that everyone matters. Young people only get one chance at education and we believe that it should be an outstanding one, tailored to their personal needs.

Through a shared partnership between teachers, students and parents, we want all our students to become confident and well-balanced citizens, prepared for life in the twenty-first century. We strive to provide high quality learning that promotes respect, resilience and success. In short, we want all children to fulfil their potential at Little Heath School.

This ambitious vision is underpinned by the following educational principles:

- we raise achievement in partnership with students and their parents;
- we value a curriculum which fosters a lifelong love of learning;
- we want all of our students to be safe and to enjoy their education;
- we believe that the views of students and parents are important and we listen to them carefully;
- we expect all of our students, as part of the school community, to be ready to learn and prepared to take responsibility for their own learning, growth and development.

We want Little Heath to be a school where every parent can be confident that their child will be happy, supported and successful. Our school badge - an image of the iconic oak tree at the heart of the site - is representative of the idea of nurture and growth that is so important to us as a school.

We hope that you share this vision for success and want to join us at the school.





Learning

Develop respectful, resilient and successful learners, well-prepared for their future

Curriculum

Inspire personal excellence and a lifelong love of learning

Staff

Attract, nurture and retain high quality staff to drive continuous school improvement through excellent teaching

Governance

Ensure the school runs efficiently, sustainably and effectively to achieve its goals

OUR VISION

High quality learning that promotes respect, resilience and success.



ACADEMIC

Standards

We have very high expectations for all of our students at Little Heath School.

Teachers, students and parents alike know that hard work is a vital component to academic success. We aim to build on the great work done by our primary feeder schools, taking seriously our responsibility to challenge students from the moment they join us in Year 7. We have extremely dedicated staff who are committed to maintaining high standards at the school. Their passion for their specialist subject and for learning in general is part of our continuing success – they want to inspire young people to enjoy their learning.

Academic standards are high for all students. Including those with Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or those who are eligible for Pupil Premium (separate funding available to support the progress of disadvantaged children). Our Student Support Team works effectively to encourage the learning of all students in order to close any gaps in knowledge and skills.

“*The school is ambitious for all its pupils.*”

OFSTED 2023





CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

At Little Heath School, the care, support and guidance of every student are of the utmost importance to us.

At our latest inspection, OFSTED noted that “(students) appreciate their learning about wellbeing and consider this to be an important part of their education.” We are rightly proud of our reputation for superb pastoral care. We want students to be able to thrive academically, emotionally and socially at the school.

Much of this reputation is due to the commitment of our pastoral team at the school. We are a large school with a small school ethos, with each year group feeling like a close-knit community within the wider school. Students develop good moral values and respect for each other.

We have a peer mentoring programme (SMILE) that supports students on their arrival at the school in Year 7. We insist that students treat each other with respect, and we respond very seriously to bullying, including cyber-bullying. We use assemblies and other school events to remind students of the necessity to take care whenever they are online. This was recognised in our recent OFSTED report, which stated that “pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe...when online”.

We have a thriving Student Voice programme that allows all students to become fully involved in school life. In recent years, students have been directly involved in teaching and learning developments, working with us on key issues such as homework, curriculum and even the design of our school buildings.

“Pupils enjoy their time and their learning at this school. They feel safe, cared for and welcome.”

TRANSITION

From Primary School

Early Pastoral Engagement

Our strong pastoral care begins even before students arrive with us in Year 7.

Collaborative Transition Planning

We work hard with our Primary feeder schools to discover as much as we can about students before they arrive with us; our transition events in the summer term allow us to meet the students properly and to establish high expectations from the start about their work and behaviour.

Delivering Academic Progression

We believe that transition from primary school should be natural and seamless, building on the good work done in Key Stage 1 and 2 so that our students immediately aim high.



“I enjoy seeing my friends and being part of a community which allows me to learn, have fun and develop as a person.”

STUDENT COMMENT, FEELING SAFE SURVEY 2024

CURRICULUM

An Engaging Programme for Academic and Personal Growth

Our curriculum is one that has breadth and balance; it encourages our students to enjoy their learning, building confidence in their own abilities in a range of disciplines. We want our students to challenge themselves, becoming resilient and determined individuals who are able to reflect on their learning experiences in order to develop their skills further.

We strive to keep our curriculum relevant, innovative and engaging. The high quality of teaching ensures that students can develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of traditional and modern curriculum subjects. Our curriculum develops effective skills for learning for all students, by:

- encouraging them to engage actively in their own learning;
- supporting them to become self-managers of their learning and their own time;
- providing opportunities for them to reflect on their learning;
- ensuring that teaching activities allow them to develop team-working skills.

The most fundamental skills of all, of course, are the ability to read and write confidently and the use and understanding of number skills.

These crucial elements are at the heart of our curriculum at Little Heath School and we want to ensure that no student leaves us without the ability to transfer these skills into later life. Employers comment regularly on the pressing need for students to be equipped with strong communication skills so that they can operate successfully in the world of work, and we take our responsibility in this area very seriously. We want all students to have functional communication skills by the time they start Key Stage 4.

“*[The Curriculum] is designed to help pupils build a deep knowledge of each topic they study.*”

OFSTED 2023



Beyond the **CLASSROOM**

At Little Heath School, we believe that education is about the nurturing and development of rounded individuals. Thus, a great deal of emphasis is placed on extra-curricular activities and the development of personal skills beyond the classroom.

Students are able to access a full and enriched extra-curricular programme, including year-round sports fixtures, whole school productions, and a number of exciting lunchtime and after school clubs. Our music department has an especially varied musical performance programme.

Lessons are brought to life through a wide range of trips to places of cultural and historical interest. Opportunities include Battlefields trips to Belgium, curriculum-led trips to the theatre, ski trips, water sports residencies in France, and weekend expeditions to wild country in Britain as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Individual departments also host a wide range of events within school including talks by visiting speakers, local organisations and careers events.



“Pupils value and eagerly participate in activities designed to broaden their education.”

OFSTED 2023



PARTNERSHIP

With Parents, Carers and Students

The partnership between parents and the school is crucial. We encourage all of our parents to engage fully in their child's education from the moment they join us in Year 7.

We know that parents and carers want to share in their child's learning and to monitor their progress. We value parental support with homework and independent study, but at the same time recognise the key role played by the school in reporting on progress in a timely and constructive way. We report home formally on an annual basis, as well as undertaking checks on progress throughout the year. We are delighted that parents recognise the importance of reading and writing, for example through encouraging reading for pleasure at home.

The Governing Body take their role in developing a supportive partnership with parents very seriously. The Chair of Governors welcomes any comments or suggestions about ways to improve standards.

Similarly, partnership with students through our Student Voice provision is at the very core of what we do at Little Heath School. We believe our students are partners in learning; students are valued and their views are taken seriously. We very much feel that our young people are the best representatives of our school, and our greatest ambassadors.





HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PLACE AT LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL?

All applications to Little Heath School are processed by West Berkshire Local Authority. As a Year 6 parent, information about admissions is distributed to Primary schools before parents choose to apply for a secondary school place. Applications are now made directly to the home authority, for example Reading, who will then pass the application to West Berkshire Local Authority. Our admissions policy is available for download on our school website.



HOW WILL I FIND OUT ABOUT MY CHILD'S PROGRESS AT THE SCHOOL?

Regular progress checks take place in every subject throughout the year. We ensure parents know how well their children have settled into a new academic year at Little Heath School through an Introductory Review. This is followed by a formal Performance Review at a specific point in the year. End of Year recording is designed to ensure that students are on track and making at least the expected level of progress.



HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THE CURRICULUM AT LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL?

Queries about subject delivery can be addressed initially to Heads of Department. A summary of each of our curriculum areas is also available on our website. Any formal comment about curriculum delivery, for example in relation to Personal Development lessons, can be directed to the Headteacher. Of course, parents are welcome to contact their child's classroom teacher if there are any specific queries about the curriculum that relate to their lessons.

FAQs

I HAVE BEEN USED TO A CLOSE PARTNERSHIP AT PRIMARY SCHOOL. HOW WILL THAT RELATIONSHIP WORK AT LITTLE HEATH?

The first contact for any parent is a student's form tutor, who will be available to guide and support their tutees throughout their time at Little Heath School. There are two tutor periods each day, also used to complete formal registration. For more important matters, it is entirely appropriate to contact your child's Head of Year or Senior Leadership link directly.

To improve further communication with parents, our Main Office staff act as a first port of call for most enquiries.



WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S POLICY ON SCHOOL UNIFORM?

We have a clear and easy to understand Uniform Policy at Little Heath School and continue to ensure that the uniform is both easy to obtain and affordable for parents. We maintain a number of suppliers, and there are lots of opportunities to purchase good quality second-hand uniform from the school. If you have any further questions, or any difficulties in obtaining school uniform, please contact the school on 0118 9427337.



WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S POLICY ON ANTI-BULLYING?

Little Heath School has very clear policies on anti-bullying and e-safety. All new students are issued with an anti-bullying leaflet containing information to help them should they ever need support in their time at the school. We aim to make the school an environment where students do not suffer from bullying, and with this in mind we make sure that there are clear systems for reporting bullying should it occur.



HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL?

By visiting our website: www.littleheath.org.uk



LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL

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