



Sunninghill
PREP SCHOOL DORCHESTER



A Warm Welcome to Sunninghill Prep School

I am often asked what are the essential ingredients that we blend together to make such a wonderful school.

The recipe is a traditional one that has stood the test of time for many excellent schools:

Take a large measure of warm welcome, add a small number of pupils who arrive at school every day wanting to make the most of their opportunities; mix in inspiring teachers of the very highest calibre and bind together with excellent facilities and outstanding pastoral care. Wrap this up with passionate parents eager to share a learning journey

and slow bake for eight years!

As always, a prospectus can only ever offer a brief glimpse of all we have to offer. I would encourage you to visit us in person, have a tour around our lovely school, meet me for a chat and a cup of tea and find out for yourself.

I can assure you of the warmest of welcomes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Thorpe".

John Thorpe, Headmaster



Who We Are

We are an exceptional and much sought after co-ed Prep school in the heart of rural Dorset.

Our playground extends into our beautiful market town of Dorchester, to the World Heritage Jurassic Coast and the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy; our dreams to the horizon and beyond.

Our mission is to provide an outstanding and distinctive education in a stimulating learning environment that prepares all our pupils for a happy and fulfilling life.

Our vision is to inspire each and every individual to have the confidence and desire to achieve their full potential.

Our nurturing and supportive community empowers pupils to be themselves and do their very best.

We aim to set a strong fire burning for the joy of learning that will last throughout the remainder of their school lives and beyond.



Providing outstanding and distinctive education in the heart of Dorset



A small school that cares passionately about our pupils

Small School, Big Family

One of the great advantages Sunninghill has over other schools is our size. As a small school, we are able to get to know our pupils, to find out what motivates them and provide the precise support they need to achieve their best.

At Sunninghill, we pride ourselves on the family atmosphere we have developed in the school. A commitment to family and community guides

our journey ahead. This can be seen daily in the wonderful interactions between pupils, parents and staff.

Our school operates as a tight knit community in an atmosphere that is encouraging, enthusiastic and supportive. To achieve this, there is regular participation from members of our wider school community.

During the academic year, there are many opportunities for parents, grandparents and extended family to join us to celebrate the successes of our pupils across a variety of disciplines, from music recitals to sport fixtures and school assemblies.

These events give us an opportunity to come together as the family that we undoubtedly are.



Inspiring Learning

It's our mission at Sunninghill to ignite a love of learning in all our pupils.

Creativity is at the centre of our engaging, inspiring and varied curriculum.

Pupils work with specialist



teachers and have access to fantastic facilities to learn in.

We also take learning out of the classroom to ensure that our pupils' creative minds are always questioning and exploring.



What makes learning at Sunninghill special?

- A rich and challenging curriculum
- Inspiring teachers
- Individualised programmes of study
- Excellent facilities
- Small class sizes
- Regular celebration of achievement
- A broad range of extra-curricular opportunities



Learning is at the heart of all we do



How do we create an environment where learning can flourish?

- Mutual respect
- Outstanding pastoral care
- Motivated pupils who are determined to do their very best
- Personal Learning and Thinking Skills programme
- Dedicated support

Approach To Learning

At Sunninghill, we create an environment where learning can flourish.

We aim to develop the potential of each and every pupil through a broad and exciting range of learning experiences in an

atmosphere of mutual respect.

Our success comes from carefully blending the highest calibre teachers and enthusiastic pupils who are motivated by the pure joy of learning together.



Your Academic Journey

The vast majority of our pupils join us in the Early Years Foundation Stage and remain with us until the end of their Prep school career in Form 8.

Our aim is to encourage a self-confident and reflective learner, well prepared for the next stage of their educational journey.

This is supported through a wide variety of activities such as a prefect system, team building skills, expeditions, developing leadership and communication skills.

We have established excellent links with local senior schools in both the state and private sectors and we regularly achieve major scholarships to independent senior schools.

There is an excellent choice of outstanding Senior Schools in Year 9 from The Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester to nearby schools such as Bryanston, Canford, Clayesmore, Milton Abbey and Sherborne.



Fully prepared for the next stage of your academic journey



Sport

Sport features very strongly in the academic diet of all our children.

We have excellent facilities that include a heated outdoor pool that is in constant use in the warmer months, an all-weather

pitch and multi-purpose grass pitches.

While many sports at Sunninghill feature combined boys and girls teams, the major sports for boys are football, rugby, hockey and cricket and

for girls they are hockey, netball and rounders.

Fixtures take place against local schools on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and tasty match teas always follow when we play at home.



Fantastic sporting opportunities
for all pupils



Creativity at the centre of our curriculum



Music And Performing Arts

We believe that having a strong focus on music and performing arts compliments our pupils' learning and greatly enhances school life at Sunninghill.

Individual music lessons are offered from Form 1 and most children in school learn at least one instrument.

Our pupils regularly take Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) examinations and

have lots of opportunities to perform in public within school.

They can also take London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts exams (LAMDA).

We delight audiences with whole school performances, most recently of 'Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' that included 139 children on stage and hundreds of costumes that we made ourselves.

Enrichment And Clubs

We believe that enrichment activities are incredibly important in our pupils' development and as a result, a full programme of activities takes place every Friday afternoon.

This can include eco schools

work, windsurfing, debating, sporting activities, and much more.

A broad range of extra-curricular lunchtime and after school activities and clubs are available.



Enrichment and Clubs

- A range of language clubs (including Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese)
- Science Technology Engineering and Maths challenges (STEM)
- All the major sporting activities
- Sailing and skiing
- Fencing
- Performing Arts
- Chamber Choir
- Scholarship classes
- Cookery
- Chess



Taking learning outside the classroom

How To Find Us

If you are visiting us in person, Sunninghill Prep School is located in the heart of the county town of Dorchester, on South Walks Road.

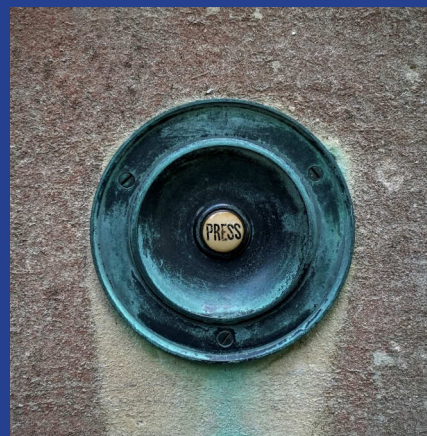
Our central location is within easy walking distance of the amenities in the town centre.

If you are travelling by car, Dorchester can be reached via the A35 from the east or the west and by the A37 from the north.

All vehicular access is via our entrance on Culliford Road where there is ample visitor car parking.

If you are travelling by train, the nearest stations are Dorchester South and Dorchester West, both just a nine minute walk from our school.

Trains from these stations travel direct to London, Bristol and Weymouth.



What's Next?

We actively encourage prospective parents to come and visit us at school and we always provide a very warm welcome.

We believe in showing new parents and pupils the school in action so we hold all our Open Mornings when the school is in session. That way, you can experience a normal day at Sunninghill.

When you visit us at an Open Morning, you will have the chance to meet our existing pupils, our teaching and our support staff.

Email: registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

Web: www.sunninghillprep.co.uk

Tel: 01305 755909

We will be very happy to answer any questions you have and our pupils will guide your journey around the school. If you cannot attend any of our scheduled Open Mornings, give us a call and we can arrange a visit just for you.

Our website has up-to-date information on all forthcoming events. Alternatively, for any other admissions enquiry, or to register for one of our termly Open Mornings, please contact the Registrar.



Inspiring Learning

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