



# Sunninghill

PREP SCHOOL DORCHESTER



## A Warm Welcome to Sunninghill Prep School

Our beautiful school and grounds are located in the heart of Dorset's county town, Dorchester. Our innovative curriculum makes full use of our glorious location, just minutes away from the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, as we believe learning should be an adventure!

Education here is child-centred and we give our pupils the confidence to be creative, adventurous and to lead so they can learn and discover more.

Our school is built on the values of compassion, creativity, courage and commitment, along with a real passion for learning,

which shapes every aspect of our school community.

Small classes, personalised learning, excellent facilities and strong pastoral care all help us to achieve our goals of happy, hard-working children. Academic, sporting, musical and artistic endeavours are all equally valued.

I very much look forward to meeting you in person, where you will see for yourself the energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment that is Sunninghill Prep.

*David Newberry, Head*



## Who We Are

Our mission is to create opportunities for all our children to succeed, by providing an outstanding and distinctive education in a stimulating learning environment that prepares all our pupils for a happy and fulfilling life.

We have a team of dedicated professionals committed to understanding every child; what makes them happy, what motivates them and where they are on their academic and pastoral journey. Through careful assessment we then tailor a pathway for each child.

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 become the best versions of themselves.

Our school values of compassion, creativity, courage and commitment are at the heart of everything we do, and are embedded into daily life at Sunninghill. These values are part of our school curriculum, our 4C's lessons, and are rewarded in our weekly assemblies.

We aim to set a strong fire burning for the joy of learning that will last a lifetime.



Providing outstanding and distinctive education in the heart of Dorset

## 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 all our pupils really well, 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 Sunninghill family.



## 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. In our ever changing world, these skills of creativity and adaptability are vital.

From Nursery, pupils learn music, games and French



with specialist teachers. ICT is taught by specialists from Year 1, Art from Year 2 and DT from Year 3.

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





## 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

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.



## Approach To Learning

Our success comes from carefully blending the highest calibre teachers and enthusiastic pupils who are motivated by the pure joy of learning and achieving 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 Hardye School in Dorchester to nearby schools such as Bryanston, Canford, Clayesmore, Milton Abbey, Sherborne Girls and Sherborne Boys.



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.



We are lucky enough to regularly visit the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre and OTC Watersports at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy for sailing, windsurfing and powerboating.

While many sports at Sunninghill feature combined boys and girls teams, as well as



many fixtures, 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.





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) and we are a registered site for these exams.

We delight audiences with events which include our regular music concerts, Nativity, Sunninghill's Got Talent and whole school productions such as *Aladdin*, *Moana*, *Lion King* and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. These include all the children on stage with costumes and props made by 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 cookery, eco schools, sailing,



## Enrichment and Clubs

- windsurfing, debating, badminton, archery and much more.
- A broad range of extra-curricular lunchtime and after school activities and clubs are available.
- Science Technology Engineering and Maths challenges (STEM)
- All the major sporting activities
- Languages
- Sailing and skiing
- 4C's
- Gardening
- 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 would love you 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 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.

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, please call us 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.

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# Inspiring Learning

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