



DURSTON HOUSE

NEW  
Pre-School  
from September  
2023 for  
3+ years

We're  
welcoming  
girls from  
September  
2023!

# Admissions Information 2023-2024

Key Information on the Admissions Process at Durston House





# Welcome

Dear Parents(s),

Thank you for attending our Open Morning. We hope you enjoyed your visit and that you were able to get a sense of the inclusive, warm and dynamic environment that we are so proud of at Durston House.

Please find enclosed our Admissions Information Pack that includes a significant amount of information regarding the Admissions process and other key School information we hope you will find useful.

Many of you may have already registered your child(ren) with us, however, if you are yet to Register and you would like to do so, please visit [durstonhouse.org/admissions/apply/](https://durstonhouse.org/admissions/apply/)

If you have any queries arising from your visit, I would be very happy to hear from you, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes

Mrs Caroline Ferns  
Registrar

[cferns@durstonhouse.org](mailto:cferns@durstonhouse.org)

020 8991 6532

# **Durston House and Harvington Preparatory School to merge in September 2023**

In April 2022, we announced our exciting news that Durston House and Harvington Preparatory School & Nursery will merge in September 2023, creating an exceptional co-educational school for families in Ealing and the West London community.

Our vision is for an academically ambitious co-educational school that serves all children, regardless of their ethnicity, gender or faith. Pupils will benefit from a richer, outward-looking educational experience, founded on equality, diversity, inclusion and respect.

We will continue to deliver excellent academic preparation and the highest standards of pastoral care, as we support each child to achieve their best and aim for entry to their senior school of choice – including the top academic schools in London and beyond.

While the schools will operate independently until September 2023, we will come together to share expertise and facilities more quickly where this will benefit pupils. Our joint working party is looking at every aspect of the merger, to support the transition and get us ready for September 2023, when Harvington Prep will fully join Durston House, as we become a co-educational prep school.

Together, we look forward to a thriving future ahead.

## **Welcoming boys and girls from 2023!**

From September 2023, pupils will see both their male and female peers excelling academically across a variety of subjects, and understand that no one gender is better at a subject than the other.

They will grow to respect and appreciate the opinions and attributes of both genders, understanding that even though they may not be the same, they are still equal. Pupils will have the opportunity to work in mixed-gender groups in the classroom, and same-sex groups during sports and other activities. This varied experience means that both female and male perspectives are constantly explored and the varied modes of communication amongst the genders are better understood. We believe this will help give our pupils the rounded experience and preparation they will need to form positive relationships in later life and to become a force for good in the world.

## Pre-School - Opening from 2023!

An inspiring, stimulating and creative Pre-School experience for children aged 3-4 years old. We aim to provide a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and will work alongside parents to help every child reach their full potential.

Our Pre-School will sit alongside our Pre-Prep site on Castlebar Road, and will offer a smooth transition for all our pupils into Reception. Durston House Pre-School will follow the EYFS Framework.

Children can join the Pre-School in the term after they turn 3 years old. The nursery will offer only full day provision, term time only. For those needing additional wrap around care there will be the breakfast club and after school care provision available at an additional charge.

Early Years Funding will be available for 3-4 year olds. This can be claimed up to a maximum of 15 hours.





# School Fees for the Academic Year 2022/23

Fee	Description	Cost
Registration Fee	Non-refundable	£100
Assessment Fee		£100
Acceptance Fee	Payable on return of the completed Acceptance Form Refundable after the end of the pupil's final term, without interest and net of any Extras or outstanding balances, unless the pupil has been permanently excluded.	£1,800

## Tuition Fees

Tuition – including Personal Accident Insurance, dental cover, and the annual residential trip for pupils in Years 4-8. Fees do not include lunch, optional outings and trips, individual music lessons or after school care.

	Termly
Pre-Prep (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)	£4,740
Junior School (Y3-Y4)	£5,455
Middle and Upper School (Y5-Y8)	£5,720

## Optional Charges

Lunch	Hot lunch – vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, dairy free and halal suitable options are available.	TBC
After School Care	Supervision of pupils who remain after school up to but no later than 6:00pm. Charged in 15 minutes segments.	£2.90 per 15 minutes £10.00 charge if not collected by 6:00pm
Musical Instruments	Hire charge per instrument (where available).	£52.00
Music Lessons	Individual Music Lesson fees – 10 half hour lessons per term. Lessons are invoiced by peripatetic music teacher concerned.	£270.00
Old Durstonian's Association	Subscription to the Old Boys Association payable by ALL pupils in Years 5-Year 8 within the Autumn Term bill.	£7.00

## Notes

**Payment Arrangements:** Tuition fees are payable by direct debit termly or monthly.

**Due Date:** The 1st of each month, commencing on 1st July prior to the beginning of the school year.

**Late Payments:** Late Payment Charge on Overdue Accounts are applicable in accordance with the Schools Terms and Conditions which can be found on our website.

**Queries:** For any fee related queries please contact the Finance Department by email to [bursar@durstonhouse.org](mailto:bursar@durstonhouse.org)



# Reception Class

The majority of pupils join Durston House Pre-Prep in Reception, and from September 2023 Durston House will open its new Pre-School provision. In Reception, pupils have an optional Wednesday afternoon when they can be picked up at 11.55am or 1.00pm. If they wish to stay then they are collected at the usual time of 3.15pm.

The school aims to give each pupil a balanced education that enables them to attain excellence in academic, creative and physical pursuits, whilst guiding their social, moral and spiritual development. This is achieved in a disciplined environment within which security and happiness are paramount.

A positive partnership between school and home aids to the pupil's well-being. The Reception year is seen as a transition from nursery/pre-school and the home environment to school; parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged.

There are three Reception classrooms in the Pre-Prep building. All classes use the Pre-Prep Library for both Library sessions and Music lessons. There is a garden

at the front of the building which is timetabled for use by Reception classes throughout the week.

Assemblies and House Meetings take place in various rooms in Haven Green Church Hall. Games Lessons, playtimes and Field Lessons take place at the Castlebar Field where there is a Pavilion that is used for lessons, activities and workshops.

There is a three-form entry with a maximum of 17 boys in each class. Each class has a fully qualified class teacher who is their 'Key Worker' and a full-time Teaching Assistant. The 'Key Worker' ensures that each pupil is happy and well-cared for in school and that he makes progress in all areas of the curriculum.





# Principles of the Reception Curriculum

At Durston House, we believe that:

- the youngest pupils benefit from a broad, stimulating, challenging curriculum that encourages exploration and discovery through purposeful play and teacher-led lessons.
- the curriculum should be designed to develop the whole child.
- all pupils in a year group should have equal access to the curriculum.
- all pupils, including those with SEND (special educational needs or disabilities) or EAL (English as an additional language), will have the opportunity to learn and make progress.

## Curriculum Overview

The curriculum is designed to be broad and challenging and to allow each pupil to reach their potential. Class teachers remain with their forms for the majority of lessons but specialist teachers take pupils for Music and Games each week.

Much of the planning and teaching is cross-curricular with many subjects overlapping one another. Lessons are taught in English, Mathematics, PSHME, Topic (encompassing Geography, History and Science), ICT, Art, Music and P.E.

## English

The 'Jolly Phonics' scheme, alongside 'Letters and Sounds', is used to teach Reading, Writing, Spelling and Comprehension. Children use a combination of interactive software, table-top games and worksheets. From the start, teachers emphasise the importance of forming letters and holding the pencil correctly.

Later in the year, once all of the letter sounds have been introduced and are secure, pupils begin to take reading books home. Initially these are from a variety of reading schemes, but towards the end of the year the Oxford Reading Tree is mainly used.

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for learning about English through play, including speaking and listening activities, which help build vocabulary and confidence. Role play activities and

Small World equipment, along with other toys and games, encourage 'pretend' play. Staff and pupils read stories regularly and create class stories and books. House Competitions, the Literary Festival, Class Assemblies, the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Production offer multiple opportunities for pupils to perform in front of an audience and to learn songs and poems off by heart.

## Maths

Initial learning in Maths is through practical experience, both through play and adult-initiated activities. Pupils have the opportunity to explore number, shape and pattern, and measure and position, using a variety of resources. Children learn to form their numbers correctly early in the year, and are introduced to formal recording, particularly of addition and subtraction, before moving to Year 1.

## Computer Science

Pupils use the Interactive White Board throughout the year and participate in activities and games. In the second term, pupils are taught how to use the programme Purple Mash on the school tablets. Children learn to manipulate the screen and open and close a variety of programmes. They use modelling and simulation games and Paint programmes to make their own artistic creations and learn about the multitude of features available to them. They are also introduced to programming skills using BeeBots and ProBots.

## Art

A large variety of creative art materials are available for children to use throughout the year. Work is celebrated in class and exceptional pieces are displayed in the Pre-Prep art gallery on the Pre-Prep stairwell. Children create both 2D and 3D pieces and they are given opportunities to show their work to the class.

## Music

Pupils attend two half-hour Music lessons with a specialist Music teacher every week. They have the opportunity to explore and learn about a range of instruments and musical techniques, and learn a variety of different songs. In the Autumn Term and at Christmas, they learn songs for the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Production; this gets pupils used to performing on stage in front of an audience.

## Music & Movement

In Music and Movement, pupils use the participative 'Sticky Kids' programme, along with a variety of other songs and activities, and create their own dances and movement. 'Sticky Kids' is also used to support the PSHME curriculum, both through exercise and with the use of their 'Munch and Crunch' program.

## PE

Pupils have one outdoor Games lesson every week with a specialist teacher. In this they learn many skills which will support their future development in Games and PE, and they have the opportunity to develop their co-ordination, balance, listening skills and self-control as well as learn how to work as part of a team. Pupils also have opportunities for free play outdoors, several times a week, at Castlebar Field. During playtime, they can use bikes, climbing equipment, or play ball games.

## Topic

Planning is cross-curricular and covers a different topic area each half term. The six topics are: *People Who Help Us, Festivals, Animals, Ourselves, Transport and Minibeasts*. Pupils have the opportunity to share and discuss their prior knowledge of each topic, and to use the internet and books, as well as class activities, to learn more. Topic lessons are interactive and creative, often leading to displays and artwork being produced.

There are two topic-related outings in the Spring and Summer Terms, which are evaluated by staff each year and adapted as appropriate. Pupils also have opportunities throughout the year to attend various workshops, and, as part of our *Animals and Minibeasts* topics, to watch ducklings and butterflies hatch in school. Much of our topic work takes place outdoors, where pupils can explore in the woods and the gardens, and use natural resources to enhance their play.





## PSHME

### (Personal, Social, Health, Moral and Economic Education)

PSHME is taught across all areas of the curriculum, and followed up with regular Circle Time where necessary. Pupils learn to work together, take turns and play co-operatively. They are made aware of the expectations set and the rules and boundaries that are in place. Pupils learn to behave in a way that keeps them and those around them safe. They are taught to be kind and to respect others and their environment.

## Spiritual & Cultural Development

Reception pupils are encouraged to use their imagination and be creative in all areas of the curriculum but especially in Music, Music and Movement, and Art. They are afforded numerous occasions to enjoy being outside, owing to the extensive outdoor areas.

Twice during the year, Reception pupils go on an outing, and they learn about the community in which they live through assemblies, visiting speakers and lessons focusing on religious festivals. They are encouraged to work together well and are taught to respect and celebrate diversity.

## After School Care

We provide a flexible after school care provision for children who wish or need to stay at School beyond school hours.

Our After School Care Supervisors know the pupils very well, they support pupils with their homework, reading and play, depending on their age.

- £11.60 an hour (£2.90 per 15 minute session)
- Open to all
- 3:15pm – 6pm (Pre-Prep) 3:45pm - 6pm (Junior, Middle and Upper School)
- 1:8 Staff to pupil ratio

# Leavers' Destinations & Scholarships 2016-2022

At the end of Year 8, our pupils secure places at the most prestigious senior schools with many winning top scholarships.

1 Abingdon	1 Arts Educational	1 Bradfield	1 Brighton College
3 City of London	1 Eton	1 Epsom College	2 Haberdashers' Aske's
46 Hampton	1 Harrow School	1 Ibstock Place	43 John Lyon
1 Kings College	76 Merchant Taylors'	1 Northbridge House	3 Radley
1 Reeds	13 St Benedict's	1 St James'	42 St Pauls
1 Stowe	4 Westminster		





DURSTON HOUSE  
*Where else?*

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