



DURSTON HOUSE

NEW
Refurbished
Pre-School
for 3+ years

Admissions Information *2024 - 2025*

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/

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

020 8991 6532

Pre-School - For children aged 3+

Full of exploration and creativity, our Pre-School offers children a delightful, engaging and inspiring school experience.

Pupils are based in our brand-new Pre-School setting, boasting its own intervention workspace, sensory areas and dedicated, creative facilities. The Pre-School is made up of a team of three Qualified Teachers and two specialist Early Years assistants, whilst pupils are also taught by specialist teachers for Music and Sport.

Throughout their time in Pre-School, pupils make impressive academic progress. The Pre-school routines, timings and lessons imitate the day of a Reception pupil, which further enables children to become 'school ready' for their Reception Year. The curriculum is enhanced by local trips and a weekly field lesson at our playing fields where we can explore all the wonderful natural resources at our fingertips.

On-going partnership between parents and the teaching staff in Pre-School are a priority. Each term, pupils are assigned a key worker whom parents will get to know and speak with on a day-to-day basis regarding their child.

Parents are often invited into the setting for special days and events such as stay-and-play days, and there is a daily message book for communication with staff, as well as regular online updates through our Blog and our observation and assessment app, Tapestry.



Pre-School 8 Areas of Learning

1. **Expressive Art & Design.** Pupils in Pre-School have access to art activities within their indoor and outdoor provision each day. Children are also encouraged to join in with adult-led Art tasks where they can learn new skills to further develop their creativity and fine motor skills.
2. **Literacy.** We focus on a love of books and reading. Pupils are encouraged to develop the habit of engaging with stories by learning how to listen and answer questions, to begin to read by blending basic sounds and they have weekly library visits within the school.
3. **Physical Development - Gross Motor Skills.** During sessions, pupils have opportunities to learn about movement, and begin to understand, appreciate, and move their bodies whilst relating positively to others.
4. **Understanding The World.** A Cross curricular approach introduces pupils to the subjects of History, Geography, Science and Religious Education. We encourage children to ask questions, show curiosity and further enhance their knowledge of the world around them.
5. **Computer Science.** Within the Pre-School setting, we have a children's desk and computer for children to use interactive Educational Games under the supervision of the teachers. Pupils learn to draw and write using the interactive whiteboard software and love being able to develop their IT skills.
6. **Mathematics.** Pre-School use the EYFS framework to integrate a mastery curriculum, which is further developed as the children progress through the school. The Maths Mastery approach makes it practical, engaging and visual, and brings maths to life. Making Mathematics as practical as possible is our main goal.
7. **Music.** Children in Pre-School have two music lessons per week with a specialist Music Teacher. They are introduced to core musical elements, such as; pulse, rhythm, pitch, sound, tempo, and dynamics.
8. **PSED.** In Pre-School, pupils will focus on 3 main themes: Health and Well-being of Yourself and Others, Relationships, and People of Past and Present. Within each theme pupils explore topics such as Self-esteem, Kindness and Confidence, Friendships and Playing Together, Bullying, and learning How to be Part of a Team.

Joining Durston House

For Entry at Pre-School (3 years of age)

Entry to Durston House at **Pre-School** is non-selective. Children can join the Pre-School in the term after they turn 3 years old, with a September, January or April entry point. There are a maximum of 40 places in the Pre-School. There is no formal assessment of pupils at this age. We recommend you register as early as possible to have the best chance of securing a place.

For Entry at Reception (4 years of age)

Entry to Durston House at **Reception** is non-selective. There is no formal assessment of pupils at this age. There are a maximum of 48 places in Reception.

How to Apply

Complete the PDF Registration Form on our website and email the completed form to info@durstonhouse.org. Registration Form: www.durstonhouse.org/admissions/apply/
Registration for a place is conditional on payment of the non-returnable Registration Fee of £150.





School Fees for the Academic Year 2023/24

Fee	Description	Cost
Registration Fee	Non-refundable	£150
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-School	£4,750
Pre-Prep (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)	£5,120
Junior School (Y3-Y4)	£5,890
Middle and Upper School (Y5-Y8)	£6,180

Optional Charges

Lunch	Hot lunch – vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, dairy free and halal suitable options are available.	£289
Breakfast Club	Light Breakfast served from 7:30am-7:45am with supervision of pupils continuing until 8:10am	£7.00 per day.
After School Care	Supervision of pupils who remain after school up to but no later than 6:00pm. Charged in 15 minutes segments.	£3.15 per 15 minutes £10.00 charge if not collected by 6:00pm
Musical Instruments	Hire charge per instrument (where available).	£55.00 per term
Music Lessons	Individual Music Lesson fees – 10 half hour lessons per term. Lessons are invoiced by peripatetic music teacher concerned.	£290.00

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



Reception Class

Full of adventure and discovery, our Pre-Prep offers its pupils a wonderful, caring and stimulating school experience.

Approximately one third of Reception pupils in Reception come from our Pre-School. In Reception, pupils have an optional Wednesday afternoon when they can be picked up at 12:30pm. 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.

There are three Reception classrooms in the Pre-Prep building. All classes use the Pre-Prep Library at least once a week. 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 the school hall, or in Haven Green Church Hall. Games Lessons and Field Lessons take place at the Castlebar Field where there is a Pavilion that is used for lessons, activities and workshops. Pupils visit the Music room in the Harvington building next door for specialist music lessons twice a week.





Principles of the Reception Curriculum

At Durston House, we believe that:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning
- children develop well and learn to be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured in an enabling environment
- 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 and recognise that children develop and learn at different rates
- 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 the pupils for Music and Games each week.

Much of the planning and teaching is cross-curricular with many subjects overlapping one another. Timetables do indicate where the main focus of the lesson will be, but it is recognised that flexibility is required when teaching very young pupils. Lessons are taught in English, Mathematics, PSHME, Topic (encompassing Geography, History and Science), ICT, Art, Music and P.E.

English

The 'Jolly Phonics' scheme is used to teach Reading, Writing, Spelling and Comprehension. Pupils 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 Mathematics 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. Teachers use Power Maths equipment and software to introduce many concepts. Numicon and Teejay Maths are also used. Pupils 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. Pupils 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 pupils to use throughout the year. Work is celebrated in class and exceptional pieces are displayed in the Pre-Prep art gallery. Pupils 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. The pupils get used to performing on stage in front of an audience. From Year 1, the pupils can have tuition in Violin, Piano, Guitar, Cello, Clarinet or Recorder.

Music & Movement

It is recognised that the youngest pupils benefit from regular movement breaks, and children in Reception participate in 'Cosmic Kids' yoga, 'Koo Koo Kangaroo' dance songs, the participative 'Sticky Kids' programme, along with a variety of other songs and activities to 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. Regular Vertical Group meetings allow the pupils to get to know others from year groups throughout the school.

They are taught about right and wrong and learn the Golden Rules. During Anti-Bullying Week they are encouraged to think about the importance of being a good friend and of accepting everyone. They learn to use social skills in different contexts and are taught strategies to help with conflict resolution. There are many opportunities for teambuilding.

Pupils are encouraged to be confident, and to be proud of their achievements. They earn Plus Points for good work or exceptional behaviour. These contribute to the whole-school House Shield. Pupils receive Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates when they have earned 60, 120 or 180 Plus Points. Each pupil has the opportunity to be the class Star of the Week and achievements are celebrated in Assemblies and are displayed on the Celebration Noticeboard for parents.

Independence is expected in work, play, and in managing personal needs and behaviour. Pupils starting at Durston House must be fully toilet-trained and parents are encouraged to teach their children to dress and feed themselves. Instruction in personal hygiene is given throughout the day and its importance is emphasised.

Healthy eating is actively encouraged and pupils are taught about good table manners and the need to wash their hands before eating. Pupils bring their own healthy snack and lunch to school; they are not allowed to bring in sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks or foods containing nuts. Pupils have the opportunity to try a variety of healthy foods throughout the year in topic work and to discuss why eating a variety of healthy foods is important. In PSHME lessons pupils are taught about the importance of practising good oral health and this is promoted through various play and adult led activities. In PE and Music and Movement, pupils have many opportunities to experience a variety of sports and other physical activities and to talk about why physical exercise is important for good health.

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. Their sense of awe and wonder is encouraged as they have first-hand experience of watching ducklings hatch and butterflies develop in the classrooms.

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.



Leavers' Destinations & Scholarships 2016-2023

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	2 Epsom College	2 Haberdashers' Aske's
49 Hampton	1 Harrow School	1 Ibstock Place	44 John Lyon
2 Kings College	79 Merchant Taylors'	1 Northbridge House	3 Radley
1 Reeds	13 St Benedict's	1 St James'	53 St Pauls
1 Stowe	5 Westminster		







DURSTON HOUSE
Where else?

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