



# OAKLANDS SCHOOL

2 ½ - 11 | CO-EDUCATIONAL | DAY

Prospectus





Oaklands is one of the longest established preparatory schools in the Epping Forest area. It was founded on the corner of Traps Hill in Loughton in 1937 by Miss Elizabeth Lord, and moved to its present site in Albion Hill in September 1944.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

The main building, then called Firbank, was built in 1837 and the iron railings around the main field go back to the 1870s. The Howards of Howard's Aspirins lived at Firbank from about 1915 until around 1930, and during the war it was home to a number of Belgian refugees. The assembly hall was enlarged and further classrooms were added in the 1940s. Miss Lord retired in 1982 and handed over to the Hagger Family.

#### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

From 2006 onwards there has been a programme of renovation and modernisation on the school site that includes a purpose-built Art/Music Studio, use and development of Oak House for our Lower Kindergarten and Group Management, a large astroturf pitch and remodelled interior rooms and classrooms in the main building.

From 2009 to 2020, an extensive £1.2m building project was undertaken at the school which included the creation of a new car park, a hall extension, Science room, additional classroom, new Reception toilets and entrance foyer, all-weather play area for Lower Kindergarten and the complete modernisation of the school kitchen and servery area. The project has enhanced the educational opportunities we provide for all pupils.

# Welcome

When you arrive at Oaklands School you will experience a warm welcome from us that invites you and your child to be part of a very special community.

As the School is so well-established in the area and has been educating local children for around 80 years, we are seeing more and more children joining whose grandparents were at Oaklands themselves.

We value the close partnerships with our parents and the contributions you make to the education of your children. We attach a great deal of importance to keeping parents involved in their child's academic progress.

Our teaching methods combine the traditional and the modern to provide a stimulating and creative learning environment where children have access to highly qualified professionals who teach with flair and sensitivity.

Academically, we encourage our children to aim high and to have the confidence to learn new skills and interests. The broad range of activities both inside and outside the classroom provides a rich environment where all our children can discover hidden aptitudes and talents.

We emphasise the acquisition of social skills and encourage respect and consideration for others at all times. This helps children to understand the needs of others. Good manners, respect for others and self discipline are fundamental aspects of the core values we teach.

We pride ourselves on how well we know every child and how each one is treated as an individual. Children enjoy their time with us and develop into confident young people with a wide range of interests, a love of learning and a solid foundation on which to build their future at senior school and beyond.

You will have many questions when your children begin and continue their education at Oaklands. Our 'open door' policy enables parents to be quickly reassured by a class teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or myself. We are happy to discuss any aspect of the education we provide.



Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed.(Hons), QTS  
Headmistress



# The Oak-Tree Group of Schools



The three schools in the Oak-Tree Group are located within a 6-mile radius on the South West Essex/North London borders and include Coopersale Hall School in Epping, Normanhurst School in North Chingford and Oaklands School in Loughton.

Owned and managed by the Hagger Family, the Oak-Tree Group is well known in the Epping Forest area for its schools' strong family values and outstanding academic education. Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands are known for their excellent teaching and strong pastoral care. The schools aim to provide their pupils with a well-rounded education and the best possible start to their educational career.

The Oak-Tree Group is family-run, which helps its long-term outlook with greater investment in the staffing, facilities and resources needed for the schools to continue to thrive.

One of the many benefits of joining one of the Oak-Tree Schools is knowing that the owners identify closely with the needs of the pupils and their families. Matthew Hagger, Group Managing Principal, continued the family tradition with three of his children previously attending Oaklands. A qualified teacher and Masters graduate himself, he ensures that the shared vision across the Group includes the pursuit of excellence.



## Oaklands School

Loughton

Oaklands School in Loughton provides an excellent education for boys and girls from 2½ to 11 and continues to be a very popular choice for local families.



## Normanhurst School

North Chingford

Normanhurst School, North Chingford's leading private primary and secondary school, caters for girls and boys from 2½ to 16.



## Coopersale Hall School

Epping

Coopersale Hall School is Epping's leading independent school for girls and boys from 2½ to 16 and now boasts a newly opened senior department.





# EARLY YEARS: KINDERGARTEN AND RECEPTION

**Our aim is to support children and parents, introducing them to school life with continual guidance and encouraging the youngest to develop a love of learning.**

Children in the Early Years are offered caring and stimulating environments that enable them to learn, experiment, play and gain independence. We place emphasis on kindness, helpfulness, sharing, courtesy and respect for others.

The curriculum is based on seven areas of learning: Communication and Language; Physical development; Personal, Social and Emotional development; Literacy; Mathematics; understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design.

Experienced keyworkers oversee all social, academic and pastoral aspects of development and get to know children and parents very well.

## **Lower Kindergarten (2½ to 3 years) and Upper Kindergarten (3 to 4 years)**

These classes are accommodated in their own separate well-resourced areas. We develop the safe and secure environment that parents find so assuring. Children in these classes are taught by specialist teachers for Music, Dance, PE/Games and use the main school facilities such as the Studio, ICT Suite, School Hall and extensive grounds.

## **Reception (4 to 5 years)**

As the children's education starts to become more formal, they move to the main building. Each Reception class is assigned a teacher and an assistant who are responsible for monitoring their personal, social and academic progress.

We develop the children's reading and writing skills through a nationally recognised phonics scheme. We encourage creative practical play and number games to help improve numeracy skills.

Pupils are taught by specialist teachers for Computing, French, Music, PE/Games and Dance. Throughout the academic year they are encouraged to take part in drama performances, school assemblies and whole school events such as World Book Day.

## **Partnership with Parents**

Parents and families are a valued part of the learning process and we try to involve you as much as possible. There is regular daily contact with each keyworker or teacher so that any questions or concerns can be addressed immediately without the need to wait for the more formal parent teacher meetings. Contact can be made via telephone, email, daily link books and, in Reception, reading diaries.

## **The School Day**

Although the school day begins at 8.45am, we have a supervised Breakfast Club from 7.30am to 8.30am each day, and a Tea-Time Club until 6pm.

Tea-Time Club runs to 6pm and is staffed by the same team. Sandwiches and fruit are provided every day and homework can be completed in the quiet area. There are also many activities on offer.

“

*We have been very happy with the way our son has settled in to Upper Kindergarten.*

*His keyworker keeps us informed with regular updates about his progress.*

”

Mother of Early Years child



# KEY STAGE 1: YEARS 1 TO 2

“Oaklands has an excellent reputation as a happy, friendly school.”

**Building on solid foundations - a happy place to grow and learn academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.**

## Curriculum

Although we use the National Curriculum as our framework, we add much more to enhance the quality of the education we are able to offer. Pupils are mainly taught by their class teacher and specialist teachers add to the learning experience in subjects such as Science, Computing, French, Music, PE/Games and Dance. Reading aloud individually is encouraged on a daily basis and children learn at their own speed with guidance and assistance. Reading diaries are used to monitor children's progress and are useful for passing messages to and from school.

Spellings, writing skills and basic punctuation form part of the Years 1 and 2 curriculum, whilst in Maths children continue to enjoy number work and grow in confidence throughout the year. Numeracy skills are practised through a variety of tasks, games and problem solving activities.

Children have a broad range of subjects during the week that include Science, Computing, Music, PE, French, RE, Art and DT, Geography, History and PSHE.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Learning goes on outside the classroom through the use of our extensive grounds and on educational trips. Children take part in a variety of clubs, with most taking up several activities. The latest list of extra-curricular activities is available to download from our website.

## Recognition and Progress

Recognition and rewards for effort, achievement and behaviour form regular parts of our assemblies. Our pupils take pride in their life at Oaklands and are delighted when rewarded. House Points are important for children to work towards House targets. Regular class assessments help our teachers to monitor progress in different areas of learning and to differentiate their teaching accordingly.

## Partnership with Parents

We encourage families to become as involved as possible in their children's learning to maximize their full potential. Oaklands has an open door policy for parents to discuss their children's learning on a regular basis.

There are parent coffee mornings, class assemblies, formal parents' evenings, written bi-annual reports and workshops to enable parents to understand our modern teaching methods.

## The School Day

The school day starts officially at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. However, children often start from 7.30pm through our popular Breakfast Club and stay later when attending one of our after school clubs, including Teatime Club that finishes at 6pm.

A healthy and nutritious lunch is served daily in the School Hall, with all dishes freshly created by our experienced chef and his team.

## Friendly, Family Atmosphere

As a relatively small school, we get to know every child well and this familiarity helps us to encourage and support the learning journey. Parents and inspectors have consistently praised the outstanding relationships between staff and pupils. We have an open door policy so you can talk to your child's keyworker, class teacher or the Headmistress on a daily basis.

# KEY STAGE 2: YEARS 3 TO 6



## Curriculum

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are taught in smaller class sizes with an excellent staff to pupil ratio that allows for a more personalised approach to learning.

Although we follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2, we add so much more from a variety of additional sources to extend our pupils and enrich their learning experience.

Homework takes on more structure as pupils find their thinking and creative skills challenged.

Class teachers are responsible for their pupils' daily welfare, overall academic progress and social development. There are specialist teachers for Science, Computing, French, Music and PE/Games.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Children take part in a variety of clubs, with most taking up several activities each week. The latest list of extracurricular activities is available to download from our website.

As pupils move through Years 3 to 6 they are given more opportunities for educational visits to enhance their classroom learning.

## Progress, Attainment and Responsibilities

The pupils are rewarded for effort, achievement and behaviour, both as part of our assembly programme and the House Points system.

National standardised tests and regular teacher assessments help staff to monitor progress and attainment. Year 6 pupils take on extra responsibilities in preparation for senior school life.



# PREPARATION FOR SENIOR SCHOOL





# Room to be inspired

[TAKE OUR VIRTUAL TOUR](#)



# CREATIVE ARTS



## Art and Design

In the Art and Design department, pupils develop their imaginative and artistic talents working with a broad range of materials.

In Years 1 and 2 Art and Design stimulates the minds of our pupils and allows them to be creative and imaginative.

As children develop they become more self-critical and are able to see how their work can be developed or enhanced. Through encouragement and guidance it is important that all children feel they have succeeded and are proud of their finished product.

In Years 3 to 6 the focus of Art and Design is to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the subject. The subject provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a way of understanding and responding to the world.



## Music

Music plays an important part of our school life at Oaklands School.

Music is taught by a specialist teacher as a separate subject to all pupils from Upper Kindergarten upwards in our fully-equipped Studio. To complement our music curriculum, a number of visiting staff offer peripatetic tuition in instruments such as piano, flute, drums, cornet and violin. Every pupil is given the opportunity to perform to parents during the year. The choir and orchestra are growing larger and more proficient each year and perform regularly during events.

Oaklands takes part in the biennial Oak-Tree Schools Festival of Music and Dance, which brings together around 500 children from Oaklands and our three sister schools at a large concert venue to showcase our choirs, orchestras and dance groups to families.



## Drama

Drama is used in class assemblies to illustrate a variety of themes and topics to assist learning in the wider curriculum.

Through drama the pupils develop self-confidence, presentation skills and teamwork. Pupils enjoy rehearsing and performing in the annual school production and Christmas Carol Service. Extra classes are offered in Speech and Drama, with many children choosing to take LAMDA examinations.

Drama is used throughout the curriculum to develop speaking and listening skills, self-confidence, co-operation and community. Each year group has the opportunity to watch performances and workshops take place within school.

All pupils in Years 3 to 6 perform in several dramatic productions over the course of the academic year. This will involve them learning scripted lines, songs, choreographies and following directions. In later years, pupils help with making props, scenery and costumes, and are introduced to various backstage roles.



# SPORTS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sport is a popular aspect of our curriculum and the Physical Education programme is very well-structured.

All pupils have at least two hours of Games and PE each week. Some of our sports include: football, tag rugby, gymnastics, cricket, hockey, netball, athletics, swimming, and tennis. Pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 compete in local competitions as part of school teams.

Our large astroturf pitch is used extensively for matches all year round and our sports field is used for sports such as football, tag rugby, cricket, rounders and athletics.

The curriculum is taught by specialist PE teachers and is designed to offer a comprehensive range of experiences

There are a number of after school clubs for children to continue their interest in sport, which range from netball and football clubs to running and cross country.

Further extracurricular clubs include karate, gymnastics and dance. Children in Years 3 to 6 swim at Loughton Pool throughout the year, where they are taught by specialist swimming teachers.

Our annual swimming gala is a very popular event with parents. through which pupils are encouraged to develop the personal qualities

We aim to develop positive attitudes towards sport and encourage our pupils to develop their own initiative, determination and courage whilst stressing the value of exercise and fitness; healthy habits and social cooperation. Oaklands runs many teams, including cross country running, athletics, netball, football, swimming and tag rugby.

Our teams are selected based on pupil achievement and we are proud of our sporting reputation as a school. Where appropriate we also run 'B' teams so that we can give as many pupils as possible the opportunity to represent the school.

We organise many in-house competitions such as cross country running, swimming and athletics, giving every student the experience of competitive sporting events.

## Activities include:

- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Running
- Tag rugby
- Swimming
- Football
- Netball
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Rounders
- Fitness circuit
- Dance
- Cricket



# Beyond the classroom







### Extracurricular Activities

We have a wide range of extracurricular clubs throughout the term such as Fencing, Choir, Football, Chess, Dance, Speech and Drama, Tennis, Yoga, Art, and Cross Country. Pupils are able to join clubs from as young as Upper Kindergarten.

They also have the opportunity to learn one of the many instruments on offer including clarinet, brass recorder, flute, guitar, piano or violin or join the school orchestra or choir.

### Educational Visits

Our younger children enjoy a range of interesting and educational visits such as Hertfordshire Zoo and Southend Sealife Centre.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are taken on a variety of educational visits to enhance their curriculum. These include local visits such as the Queen Elizabethan Hunting Lodge and visits to Central London to the Houses of Parliament, Gunpowder Mills, Globe Theatre and Warner Bros.

### Outward Bound

Year 3 children camp out overnight and undertake team building activities in the Autumn Term. Years 4 and 5 spend time at an outdoor pursuits centre and Year 6 go for a week of adventure at a national residential centre. Years 5 and 6 also visit activity centres as part of their PE curriculum. Year 6 pupils can take part in our biennial ski trip.

### Events

We give all pupils many opportunities to participate in sport, art, drama, music, charity work, school council, community events, assemblies, the Oak-Tree Award and more.

There are regular whole school events throughout the year including musical performances, drama showcases, Prize Giving, Science Week, Sports Day, Performing Arts Showcases and the Christmas Carol Service.

We celebrate many different annual events such as Christmas activities, a Fireworks Night event and a visit by the Easter Bunny in Spring. We also enjoy taking part in charitable days throughout the year such as World Book Day and Harvest Festival.



# PASTORAL CARE



*We believe in developing the whole child, taking into account their individual needs or talents and providing a personalised programme of learning.*

## **Social and Emotional Development**

We attach great importance to the acquisition of social skills and encourage respect and consideration for others at all times. This helps children to understand the needs of others. Good manners, respect for others and self-discipline are fundamental aspects of the core values we teach.

At the heart of the Oaklands ethos is the recognition that each child is an individual who deserves a differentiated and more personalised education.

Our excellent team of class teachers are supported by experienced support staff who work with different groups of children.

## **Gifted and Talented**

From Upper Kindergarten upwards throughout the school, the Gifted and Talented programme identifies pupils who have a particular flair for a subject and helps them to maximise their full potential.

'High Flyers' who display a particular talent or flair for a subject are given additional time to develop it in a 1:1 or small group learning environment with a specialist.

Topic work, which combines History, Geography, Art and Design Technology, offers opportunities for individual research projects and extended use of computing skills.

Creative talents are also catered for through clubs, music peripatetic lessons, the school orchestra, choir, art competitions and annual dramatic performances.

Sporting talents are encouraged via our broad extracurricular club provision and our entry into local dance, netball, football, swimming and athletic competitions individually or in teams.

## **Dedicated Support**

Our team is able to help personalise each child's education so that focused support may be provided in class as well as in extra lessons. This is given individually in or out of the lesson, in pairs or groups or through extra materials.

We also have access to a large number of independent specialists, such as Speech and Language therapists who are able to offer individual programmes to help children's learning and general development.



# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

At Oaklands School, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing for our whole school community. We recognise that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable at times, and may need additional emotional support. Our aim as a school is to ensure that our pupils are supported, and are able to access help when they need it.

“*Our House system offers a solid foundation for our pupils to form friendships across year groups.*

*Older children also visit the younger classes as Reading Ambassadors to encourage a love of learning and build a sense of Community among Oaklands pupils.*”

Oaklands Teacher

## PUPIL RESPONSIBILITY

Throughout Years 3 to 6 our older pupils have many opportunities to develop their confidence and self-esteem. There are special responsibilities such as being a School/Food Council representative, or volunteering to be one of the many playground buddies helping younger children.

Year 6 pupils become School Prefects, and are expected to act as role models for the younger children. Prefect positions include House Captains, Games Captains and Librarians.

All children from Years 1 to 6 are divided into Houses. House competitions are held regularly to give pupils the opportunity to work together for a shared goal. The merit point system used throughout the school encourages pupils to achieve high standards in work and behaviour.





# ADMISSIONS

**Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you may face as parents, and at Oaklands we're here to help you get it right first time around.**

The admissions procedures differ depending on the age of your child. However, the process usually begins with a visit to the school, either on one of our Open Events or on a pre-arranged, personal tour.

## Registration

Parents are invited to tour the School and meet with the Headmistress to discuss their children. In order to secure a place on our waiting list parents will need to complete the Online Registration Form which requires a non-refundable deposit payment of £50.

A place on the waiting list does not guarantee admission. The School must feel reasonably sure that it will be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his/her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by the pupil's peers.

## Entry into Early Years (ages 2½ to 5)

At all points of entry in the Early Years, the School sets its own tests as appropriate through extensive informal observations that take place by one or more members of staff during an extended Taster Session.

Taster Sessions will last for between 40 and 70 minutes and will mainly consist of informal play-based activities observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

## Entry into Years 1 to 5 (ages 5 to 9)

At all points of entry from Year 1 to Year 5, the School sets its own tests as appropriate through informal classroom observations and formal academic assessments.

Children will be invited to spend a long morning in school at a mutually convenient time. The morning will include formal academic assessments in English, Maths and reasoning, with additional informal classroom observations.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

The School is looking for pupils who show potential as well as those who are academically able.

In all cases there will be a general interview to explore the candidate's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the school community, support available at home and any relevant connection with the School.

Our Open Events are held in October and March and are a great way to get an insight into school life and see the school in action.







# SCHOOL FEES

We recognise that parents make many financial sacrifices when choosing us for their children's education, and we pride ourselves on providing an all-round educational experience that extends well beyond the traditional confines of the classroom.

**Tuition Fees For Academic Year September 2024 to August 2025**  
 (Fees per term, of which there are 3 per year)

Please note that the government requires VAT to be added to all independent schools' fee invoices from the Spring Term 2025.

<b>Early Years</b>	
Lower Kindergarten: minimum of 3 half-day sessions per week (inc ams & pms)	
Upper Kindergarten: minimum of 5 half-day sessions per week (inc ams & pms)	
Morning Sessions (including lunch)	£575 per session/term*
Morning Sessions (not including lunch)	£545 per session/term*
Afternoon Sessions	£315 per session/term*
Full Time (5 full days per week)	£4,300 per term*

\*Lower and Upper Kindergarten are exempt from VAT

	Autumn Term 2024 Termly Fee pre-VAT	Spring and Summer Terms 2025 Reduced Termly Fee
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	£4,350 per term	£5,040 per term
Years 3 and 4	£4,495 per term	£5,210 per term
Year 5 and 6	£4,525 per term	£5,245 per term

The Oak-Tree Group is absorbing a significant amount of VAT on school fees. Our new fees quoted above from the Spring Term 2025 include VAT and are 15.9% above our Autumn Term fees.





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