



Oakhill
School and Nursery





Welcome

The oak tree, from which we take our name, represents a journey from tender beginnings to a symbol of strength and security.

Oakhill is a school in which all children are nurtured to allow them to grow in character and confidence and develop their independence through an inspirational education. The leafy campus of Oakhill is a natural, safe and stimulating location - an ideal start to a fulfilled and happy education for all.

Jane Buttery

Oakhill Principal



Vision

We are delighted that you are considering an Oakhill education for your child. When people ask what makes Oakhill different, the first response from both staff and pupils is that Oakhill is a family. One of the things that makes Oakhill a family more than any other school is the fact that we are committed to providing just one class per year group so that we can really get to know all of our children as individuals and members of our family.

We believe that being part of a family brings us so many benefits and opportunities. We encourage respect, honesty and a good sense

of humour. We support one another by celebrating our achievements and helping out in times of need. The Oakhill family includes both children, parents and staff and there are many opportunities for us to share in the daily life and all the special events in a school year.

At Oakhill we believe that every child has the right to achieve and we expect every child to do their best in whatever they do, whether it is inside or outside of the classroom. We challenge pupils to achieve their individual potential; inspire creative thinking and encourage independent learning.

Values

At Oakhill we believe in educating the whole child and that developing an appreciation of the world around us and the gifts that we have been given as individuals are necessary to help us live happy and fulfilled lives. We aim to give confidence to each of our children through encouraging a sense of self worth. We teach our children to think of others and to do something for others whether it be people in our school community or our national and international communities.

We believe that faith is central to our lives and we try to put this into practice in all that we do. Here at Oakhill, we tell our children about how they are valued and loved. They are loved and valued by God, by their parents, by their teachers and by each other. We look at the examples given by Jesus of how we should live our lives and focus on how we can help others through service and ourselves through prayer and reflection.

“I can’t praise this school enough. One child in prep and one in seniors. They absolutely love it. Thank you Oakhill.”

An Oakhill Parent



“Thank you so much to all of the Oakhill Team for supporting and encouraging my daughter to be the best she could be. It has been reassuring to watch her progress in all areas of school life and we know that moving her to Oakhill was the best decision we could have made.”

An Oakhill Parent

Learning

At Oakhill we follow a broad curriculum that is tailored to the individual. The academic achievement of each individual is recognised because the class sizes are small and there is only one class in each year group.

We follow national recommendations made by the Early Years Foundation Stage right up to the end of Key Stage 4 when our pupils sit their GCSEs. Modern Languages and Music are taught by specialist teachers from Nursery through to GCSE. In addition to the core subjects of English, English Literature, Maths, Core and Additional Science and RE, the following GCSE options are available: Art, Business Studies, Computing, Design and Technology, French, History, ICT, Geography, Latin, Music, P.E., Spanish and Triple Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).

We believe that pupils respond to a range of teaching and learning styles and we encourage both traditional and innovative approaches. From Key Stage 2 upwards children are issued with personal iPads to extend their learning, presentation and independent research skills. We provide extensive opportunities with external speakers and educational visits so that our pupils can learn from their varied educational experience.

Pupils' progress is tracked from the Baby Room through to Year 11 and we use the data from baseline and internal assessments to ensure that each child is achieving or exceeding their potential. We are fortunate in having an excellent, well staffed and well resourced additional needs department who work alongside the children in lessons or provide individual and small group support.



Caring

At Oakhill we pride ourselves on our pastoral care - the benefits of having a school family are clear as soon as you enter the grounds. It takes no time at all to get to know everyone and to feel safe and at home. The pupils quickly make friends with children from their own class and other year groups.

Another strength of the school is that we often have whole school events such as Learning Through Play Day, whole school walks, music concerts and school productions, which mean that the school often comes together to share and celebrate an experience – just like so many families do.

And just as in so many families when someone needs some help or extra attention there are a number of people around who will stop what they are doing and make time for

that person. We work hard to resolve problems and continue to keep a close eye on any emerging issues. We pride ourselves on our ability to identify potential difficulties before they escalate to become problems. There is a designated point of contact for parents from the key workers in the Nursery to class teachers in Prep and form teachers in the Senior School. We also have a school nurse, whom all the children know, and our approachable office staff, who get to know the children very well.





Teamwork

Working together is at the heart of an Oakhill education. There are many ways that we encourage this. All children from Reception upwards are placed in one of our two Houses: Martyrs or Scholars. Pupils earn points for their House through a reward system and there are also competitive interhouse events ranging from swimming and cross country to talent contests, spellathons and photography competitions. The importance of working with pupils outside of your year group is emphasised through the House System.

We rely on our older pupils in both Prep and Seniors to take on positions of responsibility as Prefects, Sports Captains, House Captains and Head Boy and Head Girl. These are highly regarded positions and an invaluable way of developing pupils' leadership skills.

A notable feature of our happy school is the very effective Student Council, in both the Prep and Senior school. Two pupils from each class stand for election as student representatives and meet on a weekly basis with a member of staff to discuss student issues and concerns and to arrange fundraising activities for their chosen charities.

We are also lucky to have an active Chaplaincy Group with two voluntary members from each class who help serve the school through their important work in preparing class and whole school Masses and contributing to the faith life of the school. Parents, as well as staff and governors, are also involved as much as possible.

Activities and Sport



As a small school what makes us unique is that we encourage participation from every member of the community in many different kinds of activity. We celebrate taking part and trying your best in everything. At Oakhill we recognise that learning is not just something that happens inside the classroom but also outside of the classroom.

The extra curricular activities and opportunities at Oakhill are outstanding. These range from a vast array of sporting and creative activities including gymnastics, dance, ballet, running, girls' rugby, enquiring minds, chess club, knitting, choirs and a range of musical groups.

We have activity weeks in the Prep and Senior schools and encourage the children to take part in day and residential trips to places such as Eureka and as far afield as Peru. There is a very popular annual ski trip and all Year 10 pupils usually take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award with many going on to take their Silver Award in Year 11.





Events

Like any school we have a series of annual events which form part of school life and to which parents and family are warmly welcomed. We have traditional occasions such as the Senior Prize Giving, the Prep Final Assembly and Nursery Graduation. We also have a school Carol Concert and a nativity play performed by Pre school, Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils.

We know how offering pupils the chance to perform on the stage or in a sport can make a huge difference to their self-confidence and we encourage all pupils to participate in areas that they can achieve. We have a whole school musical production which alternates with a whole school performing arts concert.

Team sports take place on a regular basis and we encourage parents to go and support their children. We also have annual sporting events like Cross Country and Swimming Galas in both Prep and Seniors.

Perhaps the most popular events are the family events which form part of the Oakhill Calendar. We celebrate harvest in Prep with a Harvest Assembly and with a conker competition in Seniors. We have a well-attended community Bonfire with pie and peas supper included and we also hold a very successful Christmas Market. In the Summer Term we have afternoon tea and ice creams to celebrate the end of a successful school year.



Oakhill Association

We know that we rely on a good relationship with parents to support our children in their learning and to give them the best start in life. We are very lucky to have an established parent teacher association that meets on a regular basis to organise special events such as world of wheels, roller discos, cookery clubs, teddy bears' picnic and plant sales both to involve families and raise money to provide additional resources for the school. All parents are automatically members of the association and are very welcome to attend the meetings or take part in supporting the events.

In recent years the association has provided the school with a redesigned play area for Pre school, a new wireless operating system for the school, iPads for teachers plus books and equipment for pupils in all areas of the school from Nursery through to the Senior School.

Helping out or supporting Oakhill Association events is a great way to get to know other parents and also support your children's education.



“I could not have done this well in another school. The teachers have gone above and beyond for me and I have gained real success in my GCSEs. I feel so confident now, knowing that I can really do it.”

Year 11 student

“Our class sizes mean that there is always time to listen if someone needs to talk. This is critical to our success. No-one feels dismissed or undervalued – we make everyone feel priceless.”

Staff member



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