



# BEECHWOOD

*Sacred Heart School*

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL



**PROSPECTUS**



## A Warm Welcome to Beechwood Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory School



Life at Beechwood is fun! Boys and girls have their childhood once only and we have a responsibility to make sure that it is a wonderfully happy time. This goes hand-in-hand with drawing out individual talents and developing personal strengths. Supported by a wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities, learning and understanding in the Prep School years is designed to provide a rounded, exciting and challenging education.

We are committed to encouraging the individuality and strengths of every pupil through fine teaching, excellent pastoral support and a broad range of opportunity, in areas such as sport, music and drama. As well as attaining places at selective Grammar Schools, many of our boys and girls will also go on to enjoy excellent academic success in our own Senior School here at Beechwood.

The school is set in 23 areas of beautiful grounds – great for play, Forest School activities or simply enjoying the peace and natural beauty of our surroundings. Recent investment has included improvements to our sports hall, the provision of a stunning all-weather play area, a new outside classroom and a recently completed music building.

We would love to have the opportunity to show you around.

**John Coakley**  
Head of Prep





**“At Beechwood School, we are dedicated to opening pupils' eyes to the joy of learning, developing to the full their natural enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge.”**

Set within the beautiful grounds of Beechwood Sacred Heart School, our Pre-Prep provides a happy, secure environment where children are given the care and attention they need to blossom as individuals.

Our aim is provide the maximum opportunity for our pupils to explore, discover and to be challenged.

At Beechwood we believe every child's happiness and wellbeing is of paramount importance and a happy, secure, confident child can make excellent progress in all aspects of their school life.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum – all the children are taught to their own particular needs and abilities.



**Discover  
Beechwood**

Beechwood is fortunate to have 23 acres of grounds, including much woodland for the children to explore and a fantastic 'outdoor classroom' which is open for all to use. Alongside this our Early Years have their own 'Forest School' where they can develop their knowledge for the outdoors.

**“The Staff are extremely enthusiastic – engaging and motivating the children to learn, to be curious and to be excited in all that they do.”** Recent ISI report



Our well-qualified and dedicated teachers value the privilege of educating young children and providing them with a broad and balanced curriculum.

In the Pre-Prep, learning and understanding is developed through stories, songs, rhymes, games, dance and imaginative play. The children are encouraged to experiment with numbers through practical 'hands-on' activities and we are committed to excite, engage and enthuse children with a love of literature and an interest in language.

## An introduction to Pre-Prep



Throughout Pre-Prep every day is different, we encourage each child to take daily, small steps to develop their confidence, curiosity and passion for learning. They learn through a range of play-based activities as well as more formal methods and have many opportunities to demonstrate their independence.

We offer excellent before and after school-care provision and work in close partnership with parents, welcoming communication as a two-way dialogue to provide the best learning environment for all pupils.

“Beechwood runs a breakfast club for all nursery, pre-prep and prep pupils from 8am every morning, and aftercare until 6pm every evening.”

“Pupils have a clear moral sense and, from a young age, are able to distinguish between right and wrong.”  
Recent ISI report





“Breakfast club, magic carpet, homework club and after school care! I don’t use every service, but it is so reassuring to know it’s there when I need to.”  
Prep parent

“Excellent relationships are promoted throughout... so that children are well cared for and behave very well. Careful planning and organisation promote creativity, problem-solving and the children’s thinking and learning. Children enjoy their lessons and are excited and enthusiastic about their learning and achievements. By the end of Reception, many children exceed levels of the EYFS learning development plan.”  
Latest ISI Inspection



The next step...

Starting full-time school is an important and exciting step in every child’s life, at Beechwood we are committed to making the adjustment to school as happy and smooth as possible for your child.

In the Reception Class, we continue the learning journey towards the Early Learning Goals as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

The Prep timetable is created to ensure that the skills essential for the core subjects of English and Mathematics have time to be embedded and flourish. All areas of the creative curriculum are explored and artistic and athletic abilities allowed to grow.

At Beechwood, we treat every child as an individual – learning experiences and the teaching of key skills are tailored to enable each boy and girl to achieve, and to develop the underlying skills needed for their future.

The children have access to indoor and outdoor learning environments, which together cover all the areas of the curriculum; Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design.

Educational visits, curriculum themed days and visitors to the school enrich our learning opportunities. Reception children are taught Physical Education, Music and Religious Education by specialist teachers.

Beechwood is an independent Catholic school originally founded by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. We welcome families of all faiths or none who wish their children to grow academically, personally and socially in a dynamic, challenging yet safe and caring environment.

From their early years through to the oldest in the school, Beechwood pupils learn to respect the feelings of other people and to show consideration for each other. Older children become playground buddies and later school prefects, giving them a sense of responsibility as they recognise that their actions are seen and emulated by younger pupils.

In Form Time and in School Council, pupils learn to listen and to develop their own opinions. In our small classes, everyone has the chance to speak and to feel that their contribution is valued. The House system also encourages all pupils to take part in events and feel part of a team.

## Our family ethos



We want our pupils to enjoy coming to school. Our teachers strive to inspire their pupils, who tackle their work with growing confidence, knowing that there will always be someone there to lend a hand.

Classrooms are well-resourced; teachers and their assistants work with individuals to ensure that they can all reach their goals. As the children move through Key Stages they have some lessons from specialist teachers such as Maths, Science, Drama, Music and Art helping to prepare them for the next stage of their education.

We always have time to treat each child as an individual, and to listen to their needs. No matter what their aptitude, Beechwood will find and nurture it, building self-esteem and a joy in learning. Across the whole range of abilities, children are encouraged to do their best and make excellent progress.



“I love playing with my friends.”

Year 2 pupil





“There are lots of fun clubs after school like chess, cookery and judo.”

Year 4 pupil

At Beechwood Prep School we do more than develop the essential life skills of numeracy and literacy; we have a broad curriculum, enhanced by real-life experiences on a wide variety of outings and by visiting experts who bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to the classroom.

Subject specific skills are enhanced by theme days, in which a whole day is devoted to one subject: Science Days involve investigation and research; literature comes to life on World Book Day; French Day brings language use, gastronomy, fashion and drama.



## Broad curriculum

After school and in lunchtime clubs, pupils have the opportunity to broaden their experiences. Many choose to take private lessons in instrumental music, speech and drama, chess, ballet, fencing and more. There is something for every child to enjoy.

“A sense of awe and wonder is developed through assemblies and in the classroom.”

Recent ISI report



**Big enough to challenge,  
small enough to care**

### **Moving from Prep to Senior school at Beechwood.**

Pupils are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education. They leave Beechwood Prep ready to meet their next set of challenges as capable, resilient and confident young people.

Beechwood Senior school is the perfect place for your child to continue their education to the next level. We are dedicated to giving every pupil the most comprehensive education possible. The Senior school curriculum is varied, allowing our experienced staff to work with pupils, studying subjects that suit their interests and ability.

**Seamless  
Learning**



**To truly appreciate what makes Beechwood unique do come and visit us.  
I will be delighted to introduce you to our wonderful pupils and the  
inspiring teachers who nurture and care for them.**

**To find out more, please contact [registrar@beechwood.org.uk](mailto:registrar@beechwood.org.uk) or visit [beechwood.org.uk](http://beechwood.org.uk)**

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or visit our website [www.beechwood.org.uk](http://www.beechwood.org.uk)**



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**BEECHWOOD**  
*Sacred Heart School*

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Chair of Governors: Mrs Constance Williams