

Best of the best

The best of the best preps

We present our annual, highly acclaimed guide to the UK's leading prep schools. **Emma Lee-Potter** and **Janita Clamp** have consulted a wide range of education experts, teachers, parents and pupils to discover the preps to look out for in 2019

Great for academic results

Seaton House School

The *Sunday Times* awarded Seaton House School in Sutton, Surrey the prized independent preparatory school of the year title in 2018 after its stellar SATs results for reading, grammar and maths. 'This all girls' school (the nursery is co-ed) is small and non-selective for pupils entering in nursery and reception, which makes its results even more impressive. As *The Sunday Times* reported: "Grounded in the good manners, courtesy and polite behaviour that is ingrained alongside the curriculum, Seaton House girls are academic high achievers who bag sought-after grammar school places at 11 plus." The school celebrates its 90th anniversary next year – it was founded in 1930 by Miss Violet Henry, who taught at the school till two days before her death in 1976 at the age of 93.

seatonhouse.sutton.sch.uk

Other contenders:

Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls
Junior School
Guildford High Junior School

Most idyllic setting

Aysgarth School

Aysgarth has been described as a place "where boys can be boys". Situated in the wilds of the Yorkshire Dales, this day and boarding prep (all boys, but there are girls in the pre-prep) boasts 50 acres of rolling parkland, a grand 19th-century school building and impressive sports facilities. The boys make the most of the idyllic setting, with lots of opportunities for rugby, football, cross country, fishing, sailing, riding, golf and climbing. Parents are equally appreciative. One described it as "quintessentially boys' own, rooted in a world of pillow fights, muddy pitches, secret tuck and *Jerusalem*, yet with a serious goal to launch the boys into the modern world, via the country's top public schools".

aysgarthschool.com

Other contenders:

Orwell Park School
Summer Fields

