



Culford

Preparatory School

Culford is an independent boarding and day school
for boys and girls age 2¾ to 18 years

Ages
7–13





Culford Prep School caters for 250 children aged from seven to 13 with some 50 children living as part of a caring and vibrant boarding community. The School is located close to the market town of Bury St Edmunds, just 45 minutes from both Cambridge and Norwich. We share 480 acres of beautiful Suffolk parkland with the Senior and Pre-Prep Schools and benefit from all the facilities on offer, including the 25m heated indoor pool, the sports hall with its superb climbing wall, the Indoor Tennis Centre, the AstroTurf pitches, the art & design centre and the state of the art £2.2 million library at the heart of the estate.

Your son or daughter will be welcomed into a safe and happy environment where we will recognise, celebrate and respect your child's interests. We will work hard to identify new talents and support them to achieve their individual potential.



Challenging, enriching and fun

Welcome to Culford Prep

My wife, Sarah, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Culford. We have been delighted to watch our own two sons immerse themselves in school life and flourish into young men with a breadth of interests, both at Culford and in the wider community.

Culford Prep has a clear ethos based upon the traditional values of respect, responsibility and knowing right from wrong. We firmly believe that children thrive when they are happy at school and fully understand exactly what is expected of them.

We want our pupils to develop a clear understanding of their own learning and this requires that they become increasingly proactive in all aspects of school life with each passing year. In today's fast-paced world we teach pupils to be increasingly resilient; and we do not allow fear of failure to stand in the way of children stretching themselves to develop their learning and leadership skills.

We positively encourage pupils to seek out new experiences, from outdoor pursuits or martial arts, through to participating in school plays and concerts. Every child has the opportunity to try a huge variety of activities. In all that we do, our Christian values underpin behaviour and expectations.

Our teachers seek to lead by example, and in all areas of school life we look to challenge and engage our pupils. Our talented staff and outstanding facilities are important, but our success also comes from the warm and friendly relations we have with our pupils.

Culford is a vibrant and welcoming community and a prospectus can only give a partial impression of our school. Do come and visit us, spend time with our teachers and pupils, and join the Culford family for a time; we would love to show you what it is that makes an education here challenging, enriching and fun.

I hope that you will visit us soon.



Mike Schofield BEd, Headmaster



“My parents describe the school as a hidden gem.”



Lower Prep

Ages 7 to 10

Starting in Lower First (Year 3) your child will have a Form Teacher who will be responsible for all aspects of their life at school, both pastorally and academically. Classes are deliberately small so that we can carefully monitor the progress of individuals. The Form Teacher will also be your first point of contact whether you have a question about your child's French homework, their reading book, or simply need help to track down a lost kit bag.

Children are placed in mixed ability classes and from the middle of Upper First (Year 4) they are set for maths. This enables us to ensure that your child is appropriately challenged academically, according to his or her needs.

A number of your child's lessons will be with the Form Teacher and there is specialist teaching for Science, French, Art, Design Technology, Music and Sport. All have access to the Prep School's science laboratories as well as to the sports facilities at Culford Senior School.



“Teachers are patient and listen to us.”



A love of
learning



Upper Prep

Ages 11 to 13

In the final years of the Prep School (Years 7 and 8), your child will follow the Common Entrance syllabus in preparation for entry to the Senior School. Classes are small and children are streamed and set in all subjects, allowing us to support those who most need it whilst ensuring the most gifted and talented pupils are properly challenged.

Children are taught by specialist staff in all subjects. A weekly lesson is dedicated to individual tutorials, independent learning skills and PSHCEE (physical, social, health and economic education).



Extending Learning

Our pupils enjoy a wide variety of educational trips to places such as Norwich Castle and the Colne Valley Railway, as well as further afield to London and the National Film Theatre. Overseas trips to France, covering a residential week and a bi-annual ski trip, are both popular and provide good practice in speaking French. An adventurous outward bound trip overseas, following the Common Entrance examinations, challenges and builds confidence prior to moving on to the Senior School.

Visiting authors attend regularly and help to put literacy at the heart of the curriculum and outside speakers help to bring specific topics to life. There are many opportunities for learning within the magnificent Culford Park itself. All of these aspects contribute to and enrich your child's learning experience.

We are treated
as individuals.



Monitoring Progress

Throughout the Prep School we continually monitor and measure your child's performance in a comprehensive but unobtrusive way and their progress is regularly reported to you. There are formal Parents' Evenings during the year and teachers maintain regular, close contact with you.

It is our expectation that children will usually transfer to Culford Senior School and your child will be prepared for the entrance examinations as well as Common Entrance.



A Caring Community

Culford is a Christian school with a Methodist tradition; we feel that these roots are alive and serve our pupils well.

The clear moral values expressed through our Christian faith remain beacons of certainty in a confusing world. Pupils at Culford see Christian compassion and charity as natural expressions of the community in which they live and work; not as abstract moral ideals.

Class volunteers join the School Council and the Charity Committee to plan and organise the Prep School's fundraising activities. They also bring about an awareness of the needs of others through their assemblies. Fancy dress days, sponsored events and the Christmas Fair are some of the exciting ways the pupils raise money for their chosen charities.



Clear Values

The children have one morning and one afternoon service which they help to lead and boarding pupils attend services with the Senior School at St Mary's Church, which is located on the school estate, on Sundays. The school Chaplain is an integral part of the Culford community and takes an active role in the pastoral care of the children. There are informal meetings in the Chaplaincy Centre and a variety of social events organised by the Chaplain for boarders, from teddy bear's picnics to film and popcorn nights.

In our community, anti-social behaviour is not accepted. Your child will be protected by a very strong and effective anti-bullying policy. Pupils themselves enforce clear, positive behaviour patterns, stemming from the Christian ethos which gives Culford its special atmosphere of care and calm combined with a real sense of purpose.

Methodism is rooted in social justice, inclusivity and tolerance. In today's world they are values that continue to serve us well.

“There is always
someone to
talk to here.”



Encouraging Creativity

A broadly based education is at the heart of our philosophy. Music, Drama, Art and Design Technology are essential elements of life at Culford - as part of the curriculum and within the wider culture of the School.

Our music teaching facilities are excellent with a wide range of classroom instruments and an iPad for each pupil. Throughout the School, children enjoy music lessons twice a week, covering all aspects from the elements of music and reading musical notation, to learning about the music of different cultures.

First Form pupils take part in recorder lessons, which complement the woodwind starter-scheme, running parallel to Upper First music. Outside the classroom, individual lessons are available on a wide range of instruments. There are also a variety of ensembles and choirs, offering performance opportunities in and beyond the programme of regular concerts.

Drama is highly valued by Culford Prep School. A major production is staged each year in which pupils perform and contribute to other areas of stagecraft such as set and prop making.

The well-equipped art room provides a wonderful environment for pupils to explore their creative talents and all pupils are taught the basic skills of drawing, painting, printing and working with clay. Design Technology is taught as a separate subject for all year groups and Upper Prep pupils study different specialisms in both Art and Design Technology, using the superb Senior School facilities.

Concert outings, master classes, workshops, theatre trips and gallery visits all form an integral part of the curriculum and every child is encouraged to participate.





“There are so many opportunities to get involved here. There is definitely something for everyone.”



“The facilities here are amazing and there is so much choice in sport and activities.”





Sport for All

Your child will have exceptional opportunities for both team and individual sports at Culford Prep School and by the time your son or daughter moves on, we hope to have created a love of sport that will last a lifetime.

Facilities are of the highest standard. Sports grounds at the Prep School provide tailor-made pitches for children at this age, including the use of two artificial turf pitches. Culford Sports and Tennis Centre is at our disposal too. This magnificent facility includes a swimming pool, squash courts, cricket nets and indoor facilities for netball, football and basketball, as well as a climbing wall, and a championship-standard, four court Indoor Tennis Centre. Your child will receive specialist tuition, whatever his or her particular interests.

Our expectation is that everyone has the chance to represent the School in fixtures against other schools. Girls play hockey, netball, tennis and cricket as major sports, whilst boys play rugby, hockey, tennis and cricket. In addition, children can play golf, squash and table tennis, as well as swim, run cross-country, ride horses or train in athletics. Every year pupils from Culford Prep School represent the county and region in a variety of sports. Culford offers high performance programmes in tennis, swimming, golf and cricket as well as specialist programmes in rugby and hockey.

We believe that there is a sport and activity to suit everyone and we will do our utmost to help each child discover the ones they love most and to play them to the best of their ability.



An Active Life

Culford believes that what goes on outside the classroom is just as important as the work that goes on within it and there are plenty of opportunities for children to get involved in a whole host of activities.

As well as major sports, children may opt to play football, golf, take up climbing, run cross-country, or go horse riding, amongst the many alternatives on offer.

A variety of non-sporting activities are offered too, including the orchestra and choir, Pioneers, Spanish, Latin and French clubs as well as an opportunity for budding journalists to get involved with the production of the school magazine.

“Wet weather
never stops us
from having fun!
There is always
something to do.”





Boarding Life

The pastoral care of your child whilst they are at Culford is our highest priority.

Cadogan House, the Prep School's own Boarding House for boys and girls, is in an enviable setting at the heart of the School. The Housemaster and his dedicated team of residential staff ensure a real home-from-home experience.

During the week the focus is on completing prep, playing and getting ready for the following day. There is a superb programme of events for the weekends. From den-building in the woods to quad biking, from ice-skating and cinema trips to a day at the beach, there is always something to look forward to.

While many children choose to full board, some take advantage of our flexible boarding scheme, committing to two or three nights boarding each week. Others choose occasional boarding. For busy parents, we also offer an extended day which provides breakfast in school from 7.30am through to evening pick-ups for day pupils.

Culford also has its own medical centre on-site. There is a resident nurse and a school doctor is always on call should your child need urgent medical attention.

If you have any questions about boarding life in Cadogan House, please contact our Admissions Team on admissions@culford.co.uk or 01284 385308.

“Boarding at Culford is like one huge sleepover every night. It’s really homely and I have made lots of friends.”





“Culford Prep School has given my child the confidence and inspiration to leave his comfort zone and try new things.”

Come and visit us

We hope you have enjoyed reading about what life at Culford Prep School is like. Of course, the best way to get to know more about our school is to come and visit us.

Culford holds regular Open Mornings each term as well as welcoming individual visits at a time to suit you. We encourage you to visit us as many times as you wish and to ask lots of questions of both teachers and pupils while you are here.

Please contact the Admissions Office to arrange your visit. You will be made very welcome by us all.

We look forward to meeting you.



L-R: Sarah Preston (Head of Pre-Prep), Julian Johnson-Munday (Headmaster) and Mike Schofield (Head of Prep).

Tel 01284 385308 Fax 01284 385513

Email admissions@culford.co.uk

www.culford.co.uk





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This prospectus describes the broad principles on which Culford School is run and the information within it may be subject to change. The prospectus does not form part of any contractual agreement between parents or guardians and the School.

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