

Ready Culford Anything



Preparatory School (ages 7-13)

Independent boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 1 to 18 years



Clare Bentley BEd
Head

Welcome

Life at Culford Prep School is an exciting and enriching time, full of challenge and fun. Our teachers work hard to ensure lessons inspire children to be curious and inquisitive, tapping into their imagination and creativity. As they move through the school, pupils start to make things happen for themselves and revel in the opportunities to be adventurous. They are flexible in adapting to challenge and change and love the journey of discovery through the years at Prep School. Our rich and varied co-curricular programme is stimulating and exciting, and as the pupils note, there is something for everyone.

We help our pupils to become innovative, dynamic, flexible and resilient young people equipped for the challenges of 21st century life. This prospectus will provide you with a great deal of information but come along and visit us in person to get to know us better and meet our pupils and teachers. Our friendly Admissions team will be happy to make arrangements to suit you, so do please give them a call.

A Love of Learning

Academic

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 part-way through Lower First they will be 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 their Form Teacher and there is specialist teaching for French, Spanish, 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.

The Library, located at the heart of the Prep School contains a great array of fiction and non-fiction works, along with plenty of research resources.



Ready for Innovation



We aim to develop confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and high ethical standards, who have fun together in a spirit of mutual care and toleration.

Enrichment

Extending Learning and Monitoring Progress

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 very popular and provide good practice in speaking French. There is also an adventurous outward bound trip overseas, at the end of the Summer term, which 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. And 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.



Our ethos of mutual respect and friendliness between pupils and teachers creates the ideal atmosphere for teaching and learning.





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Culford is a truly wonderful school that educates from the heart. In today's world this foundation is more meaningful than anything.

Parent Survey

A Caring Community



There is a thorough Induction Programme for new pupils and parents, with careful liaison between the Prep School and each child's current school, in an effort to make the process as seamless as possible.



Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

We pride ourselves on the high standards of pastoral care we provide. A relaxed and informal atmosphere with easy and open relationships characterises the school. Pupils are encouraged to speak their minds and to contribute to shaping the community in which they live, work and learn.

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.





Ready for Something Different

Culford Prep School seeks to give our pupils a memorable education through which they can develop and thrive.

The Arts

Music

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.

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.

Drama

Drama is highly valued here and a major production is staged each year in which pupils perform and contribute to other areas of stagecraft such as set and prop making.

Creative arts

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.



Celebrating Sport for All

Nurturing talent

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

Our 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.



The facilities are outstanding and there is so much choice in sport and activities.





Ready for a Busy Day

Cadogan is a mixed boarding house close to the school and overlooking our extensive playing fields and the adventure playground. All the outstanding facilities at Culford Sports and Tennis Centre are, of course, available to boarders, too.

Beyond the Classroom

Co-curricular activities

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.



A Home from Home

Boarding

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 and 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 on-site medical centre with a resident nurse and a school doctor always on call should your child need urgent medical attention.



All pupils are each assigned to an Activity House with a designated Form Teacher and take part in several inter-house competitions that encourages them to work in teams to win House and Honour points.



Ready for Self-awareness

Twice a week, the Prep School meets for Collective Worship and an assembly. One of these services is led by a senior member of the Common Room supported by the Chaplain and the other is a pupil led service.



Transition to Senior School

From Prep to Senior School

In Culford's Upper Prep, all teaching is carried out by subject specialists and, through streaming, we can support the less able and stretch the most gifted pupils.

Individual pupil progress is monitored closely and pupils take internal examinations in the Autumn and Summer terms. Subject teachers and form tutors work together so that all pupils are stretched and supported. We constantly seek to build strong partnerships between pupils, parents and teachers. Assessment grades are provided to parents at each half term with written reports at the end of the autumn and summer terms. Parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings to discuss children's progress with individual teachers.

All pupils are thoroughly prepared for progression to Culford Senior School at 13+ and there is a high level of liaison between the two schools to ensure that the transition is seamless. Pupils complete entrance exams individually to make the experience less stressful, with the results provided within a week. Successful candidates will be invited to the Culford Discovery Day, which provides an exciting and fun opportunity to learn what our Senior School has to offer.



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

Parent Survey



What to do next

Enquiries & visits

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 and we look forward to meeting you.





Culford

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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, pupils or guardians and the School.

Culford School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
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