

Information Culford Applicants

2024-25



Pre-Prep & Nursery (ages 1-7)

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

Ethos and Values

We believe that to make pupils ready for life means developing them to be flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient young adults. The first three are key values in a world in which change is the only constant; and children also need to learn resilience as our failures and setbacks can sometimes lead to our greatest successes.

To provide the right environment, we demand the same attributes from ourselves as a school and as teachers, modelling the values we want pupils to learn. We also seek to model the honesty to learn from our own flaws whilst treating others with compassion.

It is a simple proposition: young adults should leave Culford ready for life, a credit to us and a delight to you.

Admission to the Nursery

Culford Nursery (12-47 Months)

Our stand-alone Nursery is open Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. There are three separate rooms, Willow, Birch and Oak and a thoughtfully designed outdoor learning environment.

Pre-Reception (Ages 3-4)

Pre-Reception is situated within Culford Pre-Prep. Both the indoor and outdoor spaces foster learning opportunities to enable the children to develop new skills and challenge their thinking, whilst embedding previous concepts ahead of their journey into our Reception class.

Entry

Before joining us, you and your child will be invited to attend a stay and play session to ensure that your child will settle well and thrive within our caring environment.

Nursery and Pre-Reception Curriculum

Within our Nursery and Pre-Reception setting, our expert practitioners enhance a love of learning through play, exploration and curiosity. We excel in igniting and exciting the curious minds of all our young learners whilst promoting a positive approach to learning. Nursery and Pre-Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage with a focus on:

- Communication and language
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Expressive arts and design
- Physical development
- Understanding the world
- Personal, social and emotional development

Learning is enhanced through our Forest School, with the guidance and skills of specially trained Forest School Leaders. Over the course of the week specialist Pre-Prep teachers enrich the curriculum through French, dance, music and sports. During the year, children have opportunities to showcase their talents in productions and events such as the Dance Show and Easter Extravaganza.

General Nursery Information

The School Day

We offer a variety of school start and end times to meet individual needs, including morning and afternoon sessions, School Day (08:00 to 15:50) and Full Day (08:00 to 18:00). We also provide a Breakfast Club from 07:30.

Transition to Pre-Reception

Culford Nursery is a short walk from Pre-Prep. The children take part in many activities at the Pre-Prep throughout the year, often involving the Nursery and Reception children. Parents are actively involved in the transition process with an information meeting, stay and play sessions and communication throughout the process.

Transition to Pre-Prep Reception

Children in Nursery and Pre-Reception take part in a variety of transition activities with the Reception children and staff. Parents are actively involved in the transition process with an information meeting during their orientation day, a welcome afternoon in September and communication throughout the process.

Loyalty Scheme for Pre-Prep School

Our scheme allows parents of children in Pre-Reception to receive discounts of up to £800 against their Reception and PP1 Summer term fees. To find out more information, please visit culford.co.uk/pre-prep/fees.

Uniform

Children in Culford Nursery are only required to wear uniform in the Oak Room.

Children in Pre-Reception are required to wear the School uniform, encouraging even the youngest pupils to take pride in their appearance and their school. Uniform information can be obtained from culford.co.uk/parent-hub/uniform.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available from 07:30 and must be booked a school day in advance. There is a range of healthy food available, including: toast; cereal; yoghurt and fruit.

Holiday Club

Culford Nursery is open 50 weeks of the year, including throughout school holidays.

Admission to Pre-Prep (Ages 4 to 7)

Assessment

Admission to the Pre-Prep School is determined by an informal assessment. Your child will spend a morning, afternoon or day in the classroom with pupils of the same age while we observe their interaction and social skills. Children may also be invited for a second day.

In Years 1 (PP1) and 2 (PP2) they will spend a day in class, while we assess their reading, writing and numeracy skills.

Transfer to the Prep School is on the basis of an informal assessment in the Spring term of the year of entry, along with a satisfactory school report.

Pre-Prep Curriculum

We offer an enriching and engaging environment where each child is encouraged and expected to achieve his or her full potential. Academic standards are high, class sizes are small, and there are opportunities to explore a variety of interests and abilities.

Pupils access ICT through interactive whiteboards and iPads, and there is a well-stocked library. Culford is a Forest School and offers children exciting opportunities to learn and explore through play in the beautiful environment of Culford Park.

Reception (PPR)

While allowing time for learning through exploration, we continue to work on the Early Years Foundation Stage areas of learning with the emphasis on literacy and numeracy. The children also explore different areas of learning, including their understanding of the world and expressive arts. This runs alongside specialists lessons such as music, dance, French, Forest School and sports. Physical education, dance, French, music, swimming and tennis are taught by specialist teachers.

Year One (PP1)

Learning in PP1 starts to become more structured, with a continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy. The children study history, geography, philosophy, religious studies, science, art, design and technology and learning for life (PSHE). French, Spanish, dance, swimming and music are taught by specialist teachers. Pupils also learn to play the ocarina. Individual music lessons are available on request. Physical education is taught by specialist teachers and includes hockey, rugby and tennis.

Year Two (PP2)

PP2 study includes literacy, numeracy, history, geography, science, music, art, design and technology, French, Spanish, philosophy, learning for life (PSHE) and religious studies.

Pupils learn the recorder and weekly music lessons with individual tuition are available. Dance, music, languages and PE, including swimming and tennis, are taught by specialist teachers.

Transition to Prep School

Culford Pre-Prep has strong links with the Prep School. To aid the move from Pre-Prep to the Prep School we hold a number of events, including our Big Day In and our immersive Titanic Day so children can get a feel for the exciting times ahead of them.

Parents are kept informed about the transition process with an information morning in the Spring term, an orientation day in the Summer term, a welcome afternoon in September and communications throughout the process. Parents are invited to attend events including a transition morning, music events and celebration day.

Learning Development

Culford is a mainstream school with a small, highly-successful Learning Development Department serving the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools. We offer support to pupils with mild, specific learning difficulties who are able to manage independently in the classroom. Tailor-made provision is built into a broad and balanced mainstream timetable to meet individual needs.

Learning Development lessons are offered during the school day. Lessons are taught to individuals or pairs by specialist teachers and incur an additional cost.

Copies of our Handbook for Parents may be downloaded from Culford's website: culford.co.uk

Pre-Prep General Information

Uniform

The Pre-Prep uniform is one of our hallmarks and encourages even the youngest pupils to take pride in their appearance and their school. Uniform information can be obtained from culford.co.uk/parent-hub/uniform.

Breakfast Club – Pre-Prep

Breakfast club is available from 07:30 for £12 per session.

After School Provision

Many after-school activities are offered to Pre-Prep pupils, including: football; rugby; tennis; art; golf; yoga; cricket; musical theatre; choir and netball, these are run by our own specialist teachers. After-school care is also offered until 18:00 for Nursery and Pre-Prep children.

Holiday Club – Pre-Prep

Culford Sports and Tennis Centre runs a summer holiday and half-term sports and activity programme for children aged 5-12 years. This takes place daily from 08:30 to 17:30 throughout the holidays.

Activities include rounders, table tennis, arts, crafts and swimming. We also offer Tennis Camps for children aged five years and above and individual activities such as football, circus skills and skateboarding.

For more information, please contact the Sports & Tennis Centre on 01284 385370 or email cstc@culford.co.uk.

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a way of learning outdoors that helps children to develop personal, social and technical skills in a woodland setting. Culford is extremely fortunate to be situated in beautiful parkland with woodland on the doorstep. We use our unique location as a Forest School to encourage independence and self-esteem in our pupils.

What are the benefits?

- Builds confidence through having fun
- Develops fine and gross motor skills and co-ordination
- Enables social development through communication, negotiation and problem-solving
- Increases emotional well-being
- Links with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum areas of learning

Admissions Policy

The educational interests of the child are at the heart of our selection process and we will only admit pupils whose educational needs we can adequately meet.

It is a general principle that no part of Culford will admit a child in the belief that they will not qualify for the next stage of their education within the School. It is, however, recognised that, especially at younger ages, making such judgements may be difficult and there may, on occasion, be children who do not qualify for transfer to the next part of the School.

Any decision to refuse such progress will be made:

- With timely, documented and open discussions with the parents
- With regard to the best educational interests of the child concerned

Parents whose children are admitted with such reservations will be informed regularly of the likelihood of progression to the next stage of education. Any parent whose child is deemed unlikely to progress to the next stage at Culford will receive a formal letter outlining concerns at least one calendar year prior to the end of the academic year in which transfer occurs.

Culford reserves the right, in consultation with parents and guardians, not to offer places to those whom it considers would not benefit from the School's education, or whose presence might have a detrimental effect on other pupils.

Responsibility for Admission to Culford

In all cases the Head is responsible for deciding to admit or refuse entry to a pupil. Where such a decision is challenged, the School's normal complaints procedure should be followed.

School Policies

You can find all Culford's policies and handbooks, including the school safeguarding policy, on our website culford.co.uk

After School Activities

We offer a variety of after-school activities, including: art, construction and sports clubs. Parents are advised to sign up for their children's chosen activities at the end of each term. After-school care is also available between 16:00 and 18:00.

Learning Development

Learning Development is available for £38 per 40 minute lesson. Pre-Prep sessions are 30 minutes long, meaning cost is calculated pro-rata.

Music Lessons

Music lessons are priced at £32 per 30 minute session.

Discounts for Siblings

For families with three or more children attending Culford simultaneously, the following discounts will apply:

2nd child: 5%

3rd child: 10%

4th child: 20%

5th child: 35%

Triplets: 10% per child

Quadruplets: 15% per child

Discounts do not apply until the second sibling is in PPR (Reception) or above.

Fees and what they cover

A non-refundable registration fee of £150 per pupil is payable prior to assessments.

An acceptance fee per pupil of £300 is payable with the acceptance form. These sums secure your child's place and are retained to contribute to the School's Bursaries Fund.

Fees include tuition, meals, standard textbooks and teaching resources.

Fees are payable on or before the first day of term. Payment by direct debit is available over a ten-month period August-May. It is also possible to arrange a lump sum advance payment of fees.

The Culford Estate

- 1 Culford Hall**
Head's Office
Finance Office
Admissions Office
Foundation Office
Studio Theatre
Centenary Hall
Music School
- 2 Cricket Pavilion**
- 3 Iron Bridge**
- 4 South Front**
- 5 Head's Lodge**
- 6 St Mary's Church**
- 7 Hastings and Skinner Teaching Blocks**
- 8 William Miller & Bristol Myers Science Building**
- 9 Library and Watson Lecture Theatre**
- 10 Pringle Centre for Art and Design Technology**
- 11 Sports Centre and Paddy & Scott's café**
- 12 Swimming Pool**
- 13 Indoor Tennis Centre**
- 14 Outdoor Tennis Centre**
- 15 Tennis Courts**
- 16 Artificial Turf Pitch (Culford Hockey Centre)**
- 17 All Weather Pitch**
- 18 Athletics Track**
- 19 Pre-Prep & Nursery School**
- 20 Estate Yard**
- 21 Health Centre**
- 22 Ashby Dining Hall**
- 23 Ashby Quad Houses**
- 24 Cadogan House**
- 25 Prep School**
- 26 Prep School Sports Pitches**
- 27 Golf Short Game Area**
- 28 Rugby Pitches**
- 29 Golf Range**
- 30 Culford Nursery**





Culford

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The information within may be subject to change and does not form part of any contractual agreement between parents, pupils or guardians and the School.

culford.co.uk

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