



AYSGARTH SCHOOL

Q & A of Most Frequently Asked Questions



Is Aysgarth a Big School?

We are first and foremost a family community placing importance on the happiness and well-being of each other. With 150 in the Prep school (ages 8 to 13) and 65 in the Pre-Prep (ages 3 to 7), we believe that we are the right size to ensure individual attention while being able to provide countless opportunities for enrichment activities.

Why Would You Consider Boarding?

Choosing boarding for your child can often be more challenging for parents than it is for the children. For them, boarding life is a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded by friends and engage in a wide array of activities they enjoy. They learn to solve problems independently, grow in confidence, and spend far less time being ferried around in cars! In today's busy world, time is a precious commodity. By eliminating travel and offering a timetable that starts before breakfast and ends at bedtime, we ensure that all aspects of a child's development are given ample attention.

Our schedule allows us to maximise both academic and co-curricular activities, with increased time dedicated to drama, swimming, reasoning, and independent study. At Aysgarth School, we provide 'Time and Opportunity' for every child to thrive.



How Often Do Parents of Full Boarders See Their Children?

Exeats (weekends out) come around about every 3 weeks. The exeat starts at midday on Friday and finishes at 6 pm on Monday. We have an additional optional weekend when full boarders can go home and we do have longer holidays than a state school, which is a fantastic bonus when booking a family holiday!

Parents are encouraged to watch sports fixtures which are twice a week, they are welcome to attend Chapel services on a Sunday and come to every play and concert.



Do You Have Day Pupils?

All children in the Pre-Prep join us every day and we welcome day pupils into the Prep School too. Typically about 15% of our pupils are day pupils and they can join in almost everything including some Sunday activities. Aysgarth School is situated in Newton-le-Willows, Bedale at the gateway of Wensleydale in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Just 10 minutes off from the A1, the School is conveniently accessible daily from places such as Catterick Garrison, Ripon and Northallerton.

We have a morning bus service from Ripon and the Crab & Lobster and an evening bus service to Boroughbridge.

Is Aysgarth Just for Academically Focused Children?

No. Aysgarth is best suited to a child who is prepared to make the most of their talents and opportunities; think of others, and contribute to the school and the wider community. However, we are incredibly proud of the results we achieve; we can attribute them in part to the fact the children are happy, the fantastic teaching staff, the small class sizes and the holistic approach to skills development.



Is There an Entrance Exam?

For British children, we are not academically selective. Our International pupils are required to sit an English and maths assessment and everyone is required to have an interview with the Headmaster.

Our approach to the application process means that we spend considerable time with the family in the lead-up to receiving the application and the vast majority of families visit the school. We encourage families to start the process of applying as soon as possible as there are limited spaces in some years but we pride ourselves on being able to find a place for the right child.



Do You Need to Buy a Laptop?

No, each child is provided with a Chromebook for classwork and homework when required.

Are Children Allowed Phones in School?

All our children have access to several landline phones for keeping in touch. Not really. Phones must be handed in on arrival. Our oldest pupils are sometimes allowed to use them without a SIM card or Wi-fi on school trips. Our children have the advantage of growing up in an environment where there are very limited outside influences; the School dictates the ethos they live in and not the 'outside world' which increasingly comes into schools through mobile devices. We believe that being part of a rather insular and safe community contributes massively to positive well-being and extends the magical years of childhood.



Is Aysgarth just for Sporty Pupils?

We full fixture list giving all the children at Aysgarth the opportunity to have a broad and balanced curriculum with lots of sports and activities on offer to them.

At Aysgarth, we give every child the opportunity to experience a wide range of sporting activities and to represent the school in all major sports. The ultimate aim is to instil a lifelong love of sport and physical activity and we want every child to find a sport that they love. There are 6 x 70 minute games sessions a week on offer for every child at the Prep School. Additionally, there is an extensive evening activity programme so our pupils can play sports or be involved in some form of physical activity for up to 3 hours every day!

For children who do not particularly enjoy the competitive sporting environment, we offer a sports development programme which hosts a wide range of sports: golf, badminton, swimming, climbing, and sailing to name a few.



What Drama and Music Provision Do You Have?

The School takes great pride in their music and performing arts opportunities. We have our own Chapel and have a reputation for our choral singing, something that can be traced back to its foundation in 1877. The Senior Choir comprises auditioned Year 7's and 8's. While the lower-year choirs have their own repertoire and concerts. The pupils have recorded some CDs over the years and have performed both locally and overseas. We have a wide array of instrument tuition and about 75% of our pupils learn an instrument.

At Aysgarth, all pupils get a chance to shine at drama, with additional opportunities for those who display a passion for more. We greatly value the inner confidence and courage that arises from live performance. In Years 4, 5 and 6 all pupils are involved in a year-group production. In Years 7 and 8, they have the opportunity to audition for a variety of roles in the annual Senior Production, on stage and behind the scenes. We also offer LAMDA qualifications. We also offer a range of LAMDA lessons and in the latest June 2024 results, we achieved a 100% pass rate with 46 Distinctions & 5 Merits.

Where Next?

Aysgarth is not a feeder school; the school signposts and supports families in choosing the right school for their children. Our pupils leave for the best senior schools in the UK. Our children are used to working hard and challenging themselves. They have varied experience in sports, arts and music but, possibly most importantly, they are community-minded with manners that make them an asset to their new schools.

In September 2024 our pupils are going to - Uppingham x 2, Shrewsbury x 6, St Peter's x 1, Sedbergh x 4, Rugby x 3, Radley x 1, Harrow x 3, Fettes x 2, Eton x 4, Cundall x 1, Barnard Castle x 1 & Ampleforth x 2.