Nursery | Prep | Senior | Sixth Form

a proud member of
globeducate

For more information

w stonarschool.com
email ridingoffice@stonarschool.com
Call +44 (0)1225 701 740 or Admissions +44 (0) 1225 701 744
Address Stonar, Cottles Park, Atworth, Wiltshire, SN12 8NT
StonarEquestrian | StonarSchool

STONAR

Equestrian Centre

“Stonar is widely known as the best equestrian school in the UK.”

Tatler Schools Guide

STONAR

www.stonarschool.com

> Thank you for the fantastic support that the yard has given to Hana over the past couple of years. I know that Hana chose Stonar specifically for the equestrian facilities, but the way in which her horse-related experiences have helped to shape her confidence and develop her sense of responsibility has been extraordinary.
>
> **Stonar Parent**

Riding at Stonar

Equestrianism has a long history at Stonar and it is believed to be the oldest equestrian school in the UK. The School acquired its first pony, Tufty, in 1923 for the recreational enjoyment of the pupils. Riding lessons began 10 years later when the School recruited its first riding instructor, Miss Hilda Wakeman. Since that time, the School has led the development of educational riding programmes to give it an unequalled position in the UK, priding itself on welcoming riders of all abilities.

The equestrian facilities are at the heart of the School and include a 20m x 40m indoor arena, floodlit Olympic-sized outdoor arena, stabling for 74 horses, a hacking track, turn out paddocks, horse walker and a cross country course with a variety of different fences.

> Stonar Equestrian Centre is a well-run training centre and livery centre with enthusiastic and well-qualified staff. The coaching was of a good quality. Overall, a very efficiently run, friendly centre with a good range of horses and facilities.
>
> **BHS Inspection**

Take a virtual tour

> For horse-lovers, this is a dream come true.
>
> Good Schools Guide

The Equestrian Centre's ethos is based around a holistic approach to equestrianism, where 'hands-on' experience is essential. Developing the skills required to care for horses to a higher standard not only helps to develop the horse and rider bond, but also provides pupils with a deeper understanding of the horse and its psyche. This produces riders who have a connection with their horse and can therefore train and develop the horse independently, and lead by example.

In addition to riding lessons, the School offers daily stable helping, livery and loans for Senior pupils, weekly onsite competitions and the opportunity to work towards British Horse Society exams, as well as the BTEC in Equine Management in the Sixth Form.

The School has a stable of 30 of its own ponies and horses, with a number available to loan for Senior pupils. Alternatively pupils may bring their own horse to school. Full, Exclusive and Working livery is available for pupils from Year 7 and day pupils may also arrange to use their own horse for lessons.

Livery Timetable (For Senior Pupils)

Weekdays	
7.15am	Morning Yards
8.00am	Yard closes for breakfast
9.00-10.55am, 11.20am-1.05pm, 2.15pm-4.15pm	Yard only open for pupils having lessons
10.55-11.15am 1.00pm-2.15pm	Yard open for pupils during break and lunchtime
4.15pm	Yard opens for Evening Yards and free riding
6.00pm	Yard closes for Years 7-10
6.30pm	Yards closes for Years 11-Upper Sixth

Weekends	
8.30am	Yard opens
12.30pm	Yard closes for lunch
1.30pm	Yard opens. Free riding until 4.00pm
4.00pm	Evening Yards
5.00pm	Yard closes

Riding Programmes

The riding programmes at Stonar have been developed and enhanced over the years to suit complete beginners through to advanced competition riders.

STONAR

Expert Coaches Working with the Individual

A coaching system underpinned by strong fundamental techniques provides mentoring for young riders and individual development plans for more advanced riders, enhanced with regular clinics delivered by specialists.

Lessons take place in our indoor or outdoor arenas, on the cross country course or the estate's hacking track.

Prep School Riding Lessons

- Pupils may opt for one or two **group lessons** per week.
- A weekly **Pony Club** is available as part of the Stonar Clubs offering.
- **Private lessons** may be arranged for Saturday mornings.

Senior School Riding Programmes

- **Group Lessons** for four to six pupils of a similar standard and age.
- **Half hour private lessons** on a pupil's own horse or one from the Stonar stable.
- **Performance Package (Year 7 – UVI)** Three private lessons per week for pupils with their own horse.
- **BHS Professional Pathway Course (Sixth Form)**
- **BHS Exam Preparation (Stable management only**) For pupils in Years 7 - 11 who would like to take BHS Pathway exams.

In addition, the Equestrian Centre regularly organises for external specialist coaches to offer clinics and lessons to pupils across a variety of equestrian disciplines.

Competing

Pupils with their own horse, either stabled at home or on livery at Stonar, have numerous opportunities to compete. Competitive riders may be invited to join the Development Squad, led by Coach Louise Holden, or the Stonar Riding Academy, led by Lead Coach Elizabeth Allen.

Weekly Stonar Accumulator

Dressage and show jumping competitions are held every Wednesday evening throughout the School year for all Senior School riders of appropriate ability. It is open to those with their own horse or loaning a suitable School horse, in addition pupils without their own horse may request a School horse, subject to availability. Points are awarded to the top six riders in each event. At the end of the School year, a trophy is awarded to the horse and rider combination with the highest accumulated points in each discipline. The Stonar Accumulator gives a sense of achievement but also introduces riders to the rigours of competition.

Evening Dressage And Show Jumping At West Wiltshire Equestrian Centre

We are fortunate to have the West Wiltshire Equestrian Centre only 15 minutes from Stonar providing regular opportunities to compete in dressage and show jumping, typically on Tuesday evenings. Riders with their own horse on livery, or a suitable Stonar loan horse, can join these trips, based on a competence assessment in both their riding lessons and in the Accumulator competitions.

The Stonar Riding Academy supports our most adept riders with a more dynamic competition experience and access to the highest levels of coaching expertise. Members of the Academy come under the direction of a dedicated Academy Lead Coach, and Development Squad Coach, who provide training sessions throughout the term and support pupils at team competitions.

Teams are selected from our Academy to compete regularly in NSEA (National Schools Equestrian Association), British Show Jumping Just for Schools and British Dressage Team Quest and My Quest competitions.

Membership to the Academy is by invitation from the Academy Lead Coach, Liza Allen, based on the following criteria:

- continuing participation in riding lessons and contributing to the equestrian community at Stonar;
- achievement of 3 top-five placings in any NSEA competitions within the current or preceding year;
- competing in BE 80 classes or above (for riders in Year 8 or below consideration will be given to equivalent level in unaffiliated or Pony Club competition);
- competing in BD Novice classes or above and achieving a percentage of at least 62% (for riders in Year 8 or below BD Intro/Preliminary will be considered);
- competing in BS British Novice classes or above;
- competing in other disciplines may be taken into consideration. Riders who show a large amount of potential without competition results may be considered. Riders must have their own horse on which to compete for the Academy and school teams.

Equine Qualifications

> I just want to say a massive thank you for helping me to become the rider (and person) I am today. You have helped me infinitely with my riding skills and seen me through four different ponies. I'm so grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to train for my BHS exams and compete for the School.
>
> **Stonar Alumni**

Pony Club

Stonar is an official Pony Club Centre and membership is encouraged and offered through the School. Stonar riders who are members of the Pony Club have access to the fantastic benefits of structured learning in a fun and supportive environment, with the opportunity to progress through the Pony Club testing system.

The tests enable pupils to learn progressively about horse and pony care and riding. External examiners will attend on testing days to assess Stonar riders.

British Horse Society (BHS)

The BHS Career Pathway offers pupils the opportunity to progress their career with horses and learn practical, real-world skills within a structured platform.

At Stonar pupils work towards their BHS assessments alongside their academic studies. The Equestrian Centre is an approved training centre and holds assessments throughout the school year.

The exams are very hands-on and practical, and while a large amount of theory must be covered and learned, these qualifications are all about being able to care for the horse efficiently and competently following correct techniques and with a strong awareness of safety of self, the horse and others.

Ride Safe Assessment can be taken from the age of 11 years

Stage 1 from 13 years
Stage 2 from 14 years
Stage 3 from 16 years

Pupils work towards both riding and care sections in Stages 1 to 3.

> The BTEC offers me so much scope for careers and opportunities after Stonar. I've loved its interactive nature and found the practical approach to the theory the most valuable way to learn.
>
> **Upper Sixth Pupil**

BTEC Equine Management

Stonar offers Sixth Form students a Level 3 qualification in Equine Management.

This may be the course for you if:

- you are interested in following a career in providing care and management for horses;
- you are interested in developing specialist experience in managing and riding horses;
- you want the opportunity to develop your riding skills on the flat and over fences;
- you want to gain the academic skills and practical experience needed for a management role.

FAQs

What is the youngest age a pupil can ride?

Pupils from Reception class and older can take part in weekly Group lessons, which help them to learn basic skills with a sense of confidence, including walking and trotting.

How do I book lessons?

A rider registration form must be completed and returned to the Equestrian Centre. When pupils first join Stonar they will receive a riding assessment with one of the coaches, following which they are allocated a suitable riding lesson which fits in both the School timetable and the riding timetable.

What happens if a pupil is unable to attend a riding lesson?

If, for any reason, pupils are not able to attend a riding lesson the Equestrian Centre should be notified in advance. We are only able to make up a missed lesson if pupils are representing the School at a sports or other fixture, or if pupils are on a compulsory School trip or taking an exam.

Do pupils always ride the same horse?

The initial riding assessment will help the coaches to decide on the most suitable horse for a rider's capabilities, age, height and weight. Pupils may ride different horses to build up their skills and experience.

How many lessons should I book a week?

This will depend not only on age, but also on a rider's own goals. The rider registration form and Equestrian Centre fee sheet details the programmes and associated costs. Riders with their own horse on livery will typically arrange two to three lessons a week, in addition to free riding after school or on a Saturday. All Stonar horses will have one day off at the weekend. Pupils with livery can decide when to give their horse a day off.

When can I free ride?

Loaners and liveries have the opportunity to ride in their free time after school (between 5.30pm and 6.00pm) and during yard opening times at weekends. Hacking is permitted around the School site, in groups of two or three (weather conditions and daylight permitting). Jumping is not permitted unless you are riding in a lesson, or taking part in the Stonar Accumulator.

Do you offer turn out?

We believe in the importance of turning horses out and allowing them time to 'be a horse' . However, this can be subject to change and restrictions due to weather, ground conditions, pasture/field management preparation.

How does loaning work?

Pupils may apply for a loan horse and will have a riding assessment during the first week of term, following which pupils are allocated a horse if there is a suitable horse available at the time. Once allocated, pupils are then responsible for the complete care of the horse or pony during term time. Pupils must muck out etc. in the mornings and evening, they can ride regularly, enter the weekly Accumulator competition and join clinics. If the rider and horse are of a suitable standard they can compete at West Wilts when running on Tuesday evenings.

Do you offer livery in the holidays?

We are able to offer full livery during the half term holidays, so horses can stay settled at School during the short holidays. We are not able of offer holiday livery for Christmas, Easter and Summer Holidays.

For further questions, please contact the Equestrian Team at **ridingoffice@stonarschool.com** who will be happy to help.