



AKELEY WOOD SCHOOL

NURSERY | JUNIOR | SENIOR | SIXTH FORM

An independent school for boys and girls aged 12 months - 18 years



Nursery and Junior School

for ages 12 months - 11 years





Growing

from strength to strength

Welcome to Akeley Wood

Akeley Wood is a unique school for children from Nursery through to Sixth Form, where we aim to help your child meet and exceed their goals. From day one and extending throughout their time with us, we aim to unlock your child's true potential by providing the perfect balance between an excellent education, uncompromising pastoral care and the nurtured development of your child's individual qualities.

Our pupils achieve exceptional academic results – but in equal measure have the greatest opportunity to develop their creative talents, sporting abilities, positive personal qualities and self-esteem. In this way, they are given a tremendous springboard for the exciting challenge of life beyond school.

When your child comes to us, we make it our first priority to discover and foster each child's strengths, attributes and aspirations. The school is situated in the midst of beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside, where we aim to provide a very happy and secure learning environment. Children at Akeley Wood want to achieve their best, and we help them to do just that. We encourage and reward healthy competition, but not to the detriment of any individual's sense of achievement and self-worth.

We are happy to accept new pupils at any stage of their school life. From whichever year they join, your child will

benefit from our unique ethos and continuity throughout their time with us, perfectly equipped to take their place in society.

Akeley Wood Nursery and Junior School

Akeley Wood Junior School is an independent day school for children from 12 months to 11 years: Nursery through to Year 6.

Our curriculum and structure enable us to lead our pupils naturally and progressively from Early Years through to preparation for Senior School at their own pace, identifying and leveraging their individual qualities and strengths to enable us to provide the best education for each child. Of course, children may join us at any stage, and all quickly benefit from our unique ethos.

Small class sizes, attentive teaching and excellent pastoral care enable us to realise the full potential of our pupils and ensure their time with us is happy and fulfilling. Our early emphasis on laying a solid foundation of knowledge enables the understanding for every child to progress through the school and on to Seniors. Akeley Wood's House system also extends through to our Senior School and Sixth Form, another way that continuity is provided for the majority of our pupils who choose to stay on with us.



*Education is not filling a bucket,
but lighting a fire.*

William Butler Yeats



Ensuring

happiness and confidence

Akeley Wood Nursery

At Akeley Wood Nursery, we recognise the fact that you – as a parent – are a fundamental influence in your child's development. This is why we work in partnership with you from the outset by exchanging knowledge about your child's needs, activities, interests and progress. In this way, we start to establish the process of building a solid foundation for a lifetime's structured learning.

Akeley Wood Nursery provides a welcoming, safe, inspirational environment in a picturesque, listed building nestling in the rural grounds of Akeley Wood Junior School.

Here, having observed your child's existing skills, we will introduce them to a wondrous new world of knowledge and share with them the joy of new achievements. Free and structured play combine with Music and Drama, Games and Physical Education, as well as the first stages of Literacy and Numeracy for a well-rounded start to school life.

Your child can join us at any time from the age of 12 months to four years. We make the transition from home a happy and easy one by providing safety, stimulation, security and the best possible care. Parents sometimes need reassurance that their children are enjoying their first experience of school. You need only see the

smiling faces of the children in the classroom and the playground to know that this is the case in our 'home from home' environment.

Mealtimes are eagerly awaited too. They are a social occasion when children and adults eat together. We serve hot, nutritious meals every day, cooked here at the school. Naturally, we respect and cater for individual dietary requirements.

Our Nursery is open 51 weeks of the year. We offer our parents a number of different session times, children under 3 attend a minimum of 3 sessions a week and children who are 3 and 4 years old attend for a minimum of 5 sessions a week. Children are grouped into three classes: Ladybirds (12-18 months), Caterpillars (18 months to 3 years) and Butterflies (3+ years).

Busy parents will appreciate the availability of wraparound care which extends from 8.00am to 6.00pm, all with the same levels of supervision.

We are registered to receive Nursery Grant Funding for all children aged 3 and 4 years. We are also happy to accept all childcare voucher schemes for working parents with children under 5, as well as vouchers for out of hours care and holiday clubs.

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There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings.

Hodding Carter

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Charting

a path of discovery

Children who attend Akeley Wood Nursery and progress through the school enjoy unique educational, emotional and social benefits.

Children are encouraged by our qualified and experienced staff to grow and develop according to their individual abilities and aspirations, in order to reach their own true potential. On joining us, each child is given a learning journey. This includes activities and subjects, anticipated milestones and how we will work together to make the most of their time with us. Our focus is on pupils' individual needs and wellbeing, which enables parents and staff to chart your child's achievements and celebrate each success.

We believe that care and education are equally important. The routines and activities that make up each session are designed to help each child feel that he or she is a valued member of the Nursery and gain from the social experience of being part of a group. They also quickly grow to value the importance of learning. Days are structured so that children can take part in a wide variety of activities, both indoors and in the fresh air, benefiting from our very special surroundings.

Activities, planned according to the Early Years Foundation Stage, are both fun and educational. Much learning is through structured play including the use of a wide variety of toys as well as 'messy' activities such as play-dough, water, sand, paint, shaving foam, bubbles, and sensory play. Naturally, aprons are provided! In this way, awareness of the characteristics of different materials is heightened and mental, tactile and social skills developed.

Literacy becomes more structured as children progress through the Nursery, using Synthetic Phonics which fosters greater reading and comprehension skills. French is introduced at Reception to pave the way for the wonder of modern languages.

Your child will benefit from this firm foundation of learning on their journey through Junior and Senior Schools ... and beyond. Together with our ethos of nurturing the whole child according to their abilities and needs, we are able to ensure a smooth transition through the school as well as encouraging continuing close friendships with peers.

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You know children are growing up when they start asking questions that have answers.

John J. Plomp

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Learning

to read between the lines

Classroom life

Our curriculum is wider than that of most Junior Schools. Our main objective is to provide our pupils with a rounded, balanced grounding for Senior School, in an environment conducive to learning and happiness without undue pressure. It is about learning not only how, but why.

For example, Year 1 sees the beginning of IT as an aid to learning, including touch-typing at the beginning of each lesson. Information & Communications Technology is also introduced as a subject, with children learning data handling, spreadsheets, and word processing, and even the basics of animation. We have recently invested in an impressive new ICT suite which houses twenty PCs, interactive white board, central tables for whole group-focussed work, remote control Lego and turtles, and an area for background superimposition.

Year 1 also sees the introduction of History and Geography, combined until Year 4. In Year 4, Maths is 'set' according to ability to give each pupil the opportunity to thrive.

Food Technology is taught from Nursery onward, and in Design and Technology, pupils make items of their own design, even working to set production budgets.

Latin is taught to the top third of pupils in Years 5 and 6, providing an invaluable grounding for many other subjects, not least Modern Languages and the Sciences.

If desired, pupils can prepare for the Buckinghamshire 11 Plus selection in Year 6. That said, it is not only academic ability that is fostered here, but the traditional values of respect, courtesy and good manners as well as self-confidence and the other skills children need to take them successfully through life.

An aspect of the school of which we are particularly proud is parent-school communication, extending from Nursery through to Year 6. Parents have staff email addresses, and an 'open door' policy means that appointments to discuss pupils' academic progress and well being can be made at short notice.

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The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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Painting

a brighter future

Creative Arts

At Akeley Wood we place just as much emphasis on the creative arts as we do on other subjects in the curriculum. Art, Music and Drama are introduced to all children whilst still at Nursery, since they are key to building confidence and self-expression as well as being great fun! These subjects receive equal emphasis at our Senior School, so creative arts form an important part of the transition process.

Art

As soon as you walk into the school, the importance placed on art is evident at Akeley Wood. From an early age, children are actively encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media and techniques. We are justifiably proud of the work on display on the entrance hall walls, where you will find painting, pencil drawing, printing, textiles and other work that belies the age of the artists.

Music

We have a strong musical tradition. Whatever their ability, all pupils are encouraged to express themselves musically from Nursery onwards, with Music being a core curriculum subject which includes singing, learning specific instruments, basic music theory and composition. Pupils are also encouraged to take additional music lessons, either within or outside school hours.

We are very proud of our Choir, and you have only to join one of our regular School Assemblies to hear the standard of the children's singing and share their enjoyment. The Choir regularly enters local music festivals with considerable success. We also boast brass, woodwind, recorder and string groups and a School Orchestra which practises and performs to a very high standard.

Drama

All pupils at the school enjoy Drama. To us, drama is a key channel through which children can express themselves and gain valuable confidence and self esteem. Led by our specialist Drama teachers, all children work toward and participate in our major annual year group productions. Some may display 'star quality', but everyone is equally important in making it an event to remember, collaborating under the lights, in sound, lighting, costumes, make-up, scenery construction or stage management.



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Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun.

Mary Lou Cook

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Helping you reach your goals

Sport at Akeley Wood

At Akeley Wood we believe that taking part in sport and physical education is as important for all children as their class-based subjects and activities. Whatever their ability, our pupils gain an enhanced sense of self-esteem and competitive spirit from participating in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. This also fosters the importance of teamwork. The significance we place on sport is indicated by the fact that unlike many Junior Schools, we have a dedicated Head of Sport.

The main sports enjoyed by boys are rugby, football and cricket; and by girls hockey, netball and rounders. Everybody benefits from swimming lessons (at nearby Stony Stratford), with frequent entry into competitions. Gymnastics is also enjoyed by all.

We take part in many inter-school fixtures with both local and other Cognita schools, and also host and attend a number of festivals each year.

Sports Days are eagerly anticipated by pupils, parents and staff alike – an excellent mix of enjoyment, sporting achievement and an opportunity to catch up with fellow parents. Our attitude of doing one's best – but not at all costs – extends from the quintessentially English egg and spoon and sack races for the Nursery to Year 6 hurdles. Pupils earn individual points for being placed, and House points for taking part.

Many sports are also enjoyed on an extra-curricular basis with clubs regularly attended by both team and non-team players. Examples of sports clubs are Karate and our celebrated Equestrian Team.



Sports is a metaphor for overcoming obstacles and achieving against great odds. Athletes, in times of difficulty, can be important role models.

Bill Bradley



Beyond

your expectations

Extra-curricular

Learning is not confined to the classroom, and our pupils benefit from a substantial choice of extra-curricular activities, clubs and visits.

A number of clubs are held both at lunch hour and after school – encouraging both furtherance of leisure interests and reinforcement of curriculum subjects. They are all well subscribed, and children are invariably excited to be taking part. Clubs include ballet, modern theatre, board games, chess, mah-jong, Warhammer, library, cooking, sewing, music, arts and crafts, and design and technology, as well as a wide variety of sports. We also encourage children to participate in a penpal club and regular exchange visits to further their French language skills.

Wraparound care – breakfast and after school clubs

For parents for whom before and/or after-school childcare is a welcome provision, we offer a breakfast club starting at 7.45am, and an after-school club from 4:00pm to 6:00pm – both operated five days a week. The after-school club provides playtime and a light tea, with homework for older children. At both, children are fully occupied and cared for.

Entry

Entry to the Junior School is at any stage after a child reaches 12 months. Many pupils also join us for Years 3 through to 6.

Prospective Junior School pupils are invited to spend a day with the appropriate year group (half a day in the Nursery) to join in a normal school day. Reading, Literacy and Numeracy skills are observed informally and we note how comfortably the child settles into the group. We request a shared agreement before a place is offered between the parents and the school, that the child would be happy and able to work within our educational programme. After joining the school, a continuous assessment process of individual skills and aptitude takes place to ensure each child's educational needs are fully met. Transfer from the Junior School to the Senior School is normally automatic.

To make an appointment to visit the school, please telephone the Registrar on 01908 571231 or email enquiries@akeleywoodschool.co.uk.

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*Learning is pleasurable but doing
is the height of enjoyment.*

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Contact

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