ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL

ASHFORD SCHOOL

Inspiring Minds

PROSPECTUS

2026 • SINCE 1898

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ASHFORD SCHOOL

Inspiring Minds

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WELCOME

HEAD *of* ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL

PHILIPPA ARCHER, HEAD OF PREP

Here at Ashford Prep School, we enjoy the best of both worlds - the warmth of a country Prep School nestled within a historic village, whilst being in close proximity to a major town centre, and our central Senior School site.

We are extremely fortunate to have so much green space available to us, and can offer our children the freedom to build dens and roll down grassy banks at break time, and regularly take their learning outside.

Our pupils are the heart of everything we do. We believe in the importance of nurturing every child as an individual, helping them to feel valued, supported and inspired.

Just as important as what we do, is how we do it, and that's where our strong sense of community comes in. This spirit of connection and care extends throughout our School, and we are proud of the welcoming, inclusive environment that surrounds our pupils every day.

Many of our children are with us from Nursery right through until Sixth Form, and leave with a strong sense of who they are and what they can achieve. I look forward to sharing how you can begin your own journey with us soon.

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About ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL

ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL, KENT

Ashford Prep School is home to around 270 children, ranging from 3 to 11 years. Ashford Senior School then offers the next educational step from Years 7 to 13 and welcomes both day and boarding pupils.

It is located in the village of Great Chart, in Ashford, Kent, in a rural setting of 40 acres. It is however, a conveniently short distance from the Senior site in the bustling town centre, and the major commuter hub of Ashford International train station.

The Prep School benefits from access to Ashford Senior School's extensive academic and sporting facilities, and grounds. Both Schools are part of the United Learning group, the UK's largest educational charity, providing our families with stability and a wider access to expertise.

With small class sizes and generous staff ratio, pupils are given the individual care and attention they need. We offer wraparound care, with both breakfast and after School clubs, with an extensive holiday club programme of activities and trips.

Our ever-evolving curriculum stretches beyond the classroom and is designed to fully immerse children in their learning through sport, creative arts, music and OAKS (Outdoor Adventure Knowledge Skills). This approach is supported by the use of integrated technology, special subject and cross-curricular days, trips, visits and competitions, in addition to our extensive co-curricular programme.

These opportunities optimise their potential through enhancing learning and ensuring there is greater breadth and depth in their understanding.

The Ashford Prep School motto is Always Be Caring (ABC), an ethos we are proud to champion across all aspects of School life. We celebrate the diversity of our School body, and produce children who are warm, considerate and inspired to be their best, every day.

There are two reward systems; House Points, which are awarded in Celebration Assemblies, and epraise points to earn coloured badges.

To find out more about Ashford Prep School, visit our website at www.ashfordschool.co.uk/prep-school or follow us on Instagram for a view of day to day life, @ashfordschool_prep

PRE-PREP

BECKY CLARIDGE, HEAD OF PRE-PREP

In Pre-Prep at Ashford Prep School, we believe that the very first years of education should be filled with curiosity, confidence and joy. Our nurturing environment is thoughtfully designed to give every child the very best start to their School journey.

Each child is truly known and valued. Our teachers take time to understand individual personalities, interests and learning styles, ensuring that every pupil receives the attention, encouragement and gentle challenge they need to flourish both academically and socially.

Pre-Prep is a vibrant, happy place, where success is celebrated daily. What makes us special is the breadth of opportunity woven into everyday learning. It is a warm, ambitious department where every child finds their voice and discovers their interests, setting the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Pre-Prep DEPARTMENT

Ashford Prep School has a vibrant and lively Pre-Prep section, where our younger learners thrive.

Children in Reception receive specialist teaching in wider curriculum areas such as Modern Foreign Languages, Sport, Dance and Music. From Reception to Year 2, children benefit from small class sizes, overseen by a dedicated teacher and Teaching Assistant.

In Year 1, children step further into storytelling and imagination through events like the Godinton House Fairytales programme and the excitement of Book Week. They also begin specialist Home Economics lessons, where they learn about healthy eating, explore new foods and develop practical life skills. By Year 2, pupils are ready for deeper challenges through our creative curriculum. They journey back in time during their study of Medieval Castles, exploring the atmospheric ruins of Tonbridge Castle and taking part in hands-on workshops; they bring the Great Fire of London to life through drama and role play, and they dive into the world of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, performing playscripts with growing confidence and expression.

Year 2 is also a time of increasing responsibility and independence, supported by musical opportunities such as the recorder and cello programmes, and the excitement of preparing for new additions to the department - including our eagerly awaited Pre-Prep guinea pigs arriving in the Summer Term.

By the end of Year 2, pupils are proud, prepared and ready to don their Prep School blazers - confident learners with strong foundations, ready for the next chapter of their educational journey.

PREP

THE PRE-SENIOR BACCALAUREATE

The PSB (Pre-Senior Baccalaureate) is a framework that develops the values, skills, attitudes and behaviours required for children to succeed and flourish in an ever-changing world.

Ashford School has an ethos of 'Inspiring Minds' at its core. For every child in our care, we recognise the importance of an education with both exceptional depth and breadth.

The PSB framework enables us to place greater emphasis on the achievements of the whole child across all areas of School life, in a way that celebrates how they have performed on a daily basis rather than solely within a formal test environment. As such, the culmination of a child's time at a PSB school is recognised by the PSB Award Diploma.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL: ashfordschool.co.uk /prep-school

Prep DEPARTMENT

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 make up our Lower Prep section, whilst Years 5 and 6 are classified as Upper Prep. In Years 3 and 4, pupils benefit from the best of both worlds, as they retain one teacher for around half of their lessons, with the other half taught as individual subjects.

For Years 5 and 6, pupils are then taught by specialist subject teachers, in a Senior School model, in order to prepare them for their next steps into Year 7.

Streaming comes into effect for Years 5 and 6. Upper Prep children are set in ability groups for English and Maths.

All children moving into Year 6 are invited to apply for positions of responsibility, by writing a letter to the Head outlining their skills for the position. Roles include those of Head Girl / Boy, Deputy Head Girl / Boy and House Captains.

For those in Year 5 and 6, there is the opportunity to sit the Primary Maths Challenge papers. Collaborating with the Senior School, our top 10-12 entrants will join Year 7 and 8 pupils to compete in the Junior Maths Challenge. Year 6 also have workshops with Maths Academy pupils from the Senior School.

"Pupils burst with pride over their work."

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE 2026

SINGAPORE CHILI CRAB

A *love* OF LEARNING

Ashford Prep School offers a broad educational provision that goes well beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum, having joined the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate framework. Learning is supported by an exciting programme of interactive, themed days, guest speakers and workshops.

We have a strong STEM faculty with fully stocked modern laboratories, encouraging enquiry based learning. The School is impressively equipped with its own Home Economics room, new ICT and multi-media suite to support digital learning, and facilities for Art and Design and Technology that include a kiln, 3D printer, vacuum former, 3D pens, injection mould and heat press.

From Reception to Year 6, pupils are encouraged to speak, sing and act in French, Spanish and German. All pupils celebrate Maths Week, and there are opportunities to take part in competitions and challenges.

A love of reading is embedded into the culture of Ashford Prep School. With a library of over 11,000 books, and a dedicated Librarian, pupils are given access to imagination, facts and lifelong enjoyment. Our Accelerated Reading scheme includes STAR reading tests, and badges for becoming Word Millionaires.

Lessons are planned to ensure there is a tailored level of challenge, valuing each child's strengths and areas for development. Units of work are designed to hook the children's interests and active questioning allows them to fully immerse themselves and inspire their learning.

MUSIC

Musical EXCELLENCE

All children are taught Music from Reception through to Year 6, where each lesson is led by a music specialist. Genres covered are wide ranging to give a broad musical education, from the medieval period to present day. The skills of performing, listening, composing and appraisal are embedded. The ability to read music notation is imperative, so this emphasis begins from Year 1.

We encourage our pupils to learn at least one instrument, and offer various schemes to support this. Funded by the School, pupils are able to select an instrument to learn in a small group setting for three terms, in order to begin their musical journey.

There are frequent opportunities to perform for all levels of ability, from the classroom to concerts. Pupils also have the chance to perform at external events and venues, and regularly visit local care homes to provide musical entertainment for the residents. The social aspect of making music is highly valued, and we offer a large number of ensembles, orchestras and groups.

Singing together is a key aspect of life at Ashford Prep School, during music lessons, assemblies and acts of School worship. Many choirs are available, such as Pre-Prep Choir, Lower Prep Singing, Pop Choir, and a selective Chamber Choir for more advanced singers.

Children are supported in the achievement of musical examinations, theory tests and grades.

SPORT

PHYSICAL *Education*

At Ashford Prep School, Sport is for all. In an inclusive approach, every child, no matter their ability, is given the opportunity to represent the School competitively. We aim to develop the full physical potential of each child, build self-esteem and social skills.

Our large site features 2 all-weather tennis courts, swimming pool, astro pitch, football pitch, cricket square, rugby pitch, Sports Hall, and a well equipped pavilion with changing rooms and facilities for refreshments and match teas.

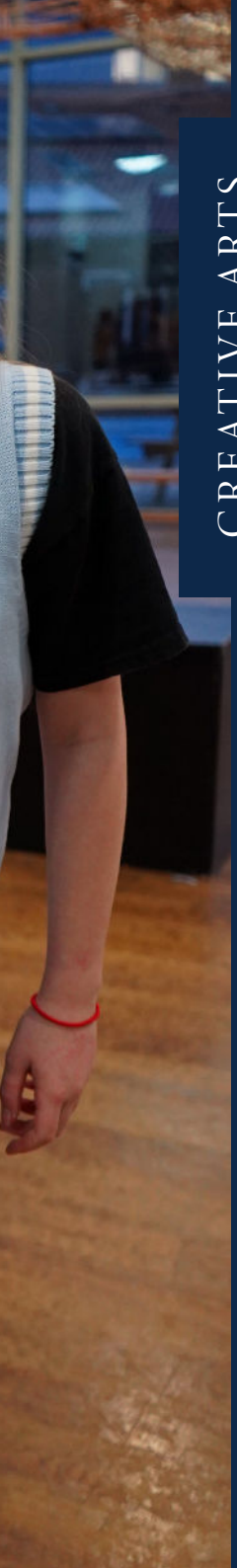
Our extensive facilities allow us to host many sporting tournaments, and our children regularly compete in fixtures against other schools. We also hold spirited inter-House competitions to promote healthy rivalry.

Our curriculum sports include hockey, football, rugby, cricket, athletics, netball and swimming. Sport is taught by expert in-house coaches, enhanced by visits from outside coaches and international sports players to inspire our pupils.

We offer a complete swimming provision, with all year round swimming in our heated pool, with swimming beginning from Reception.

There is a comprehensive enrichment programme of pre-season activities to further sporting development, before School, lunchtime and after School. This includes athletics, ballet, laser run, golf, gymnastics, tennis, and horse riding.

Ashford Prep School also promotes excellence for pupils who are looking to play at County, Regional or National levels.



CREATIVE ARTS

PERFORMING *and* CREATIVE ARTS

There is a deep commitment to performance skills and the creative arts at Ashford Prep School, encompassing Dance, Drama and Art.

These subjects build vital social and interpersonal skills, as well as raising self-esteem and boosting confidence. Children are given the freedom to explore their creativity and to express themselves, both as individuals, and as part of a collective.

Children experience a range of genres and ambitious challenges, from the theatre of protest, to musical theatre, Shakespeare and Harold Pinter. They regularly have the opportunity to take part in impressive productions.

The new dance and drama studio is ideal for rehearsals.

Dance is a popular option at Ashford Prep School, with both boys and girls, and incorporates genres such as hip hop, contemporary dance and street dance, whilst ballet tuition is available as an extra-curricular option. The Regional Dance Group trains for prestigious competitions.

Visiting practitioners support the curriculum, with events such as acting masterclasses and street dance workshops.

Art is at an advanced level at Ashford Prep School, and is celebrated with an annual Art Exhibition.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES *and* CLUBS

Ashford Prep School is known for its impressive and popular co-curricular and enrichment programme, with over 100 clubs, available from Reception. These run across a wide range of topics, including gardening, engineering, inventing, campfire crafts, coding, touch typing, calligraphy, photography, ceramics, cooking, debating, judo, chess, Lego and yoga.

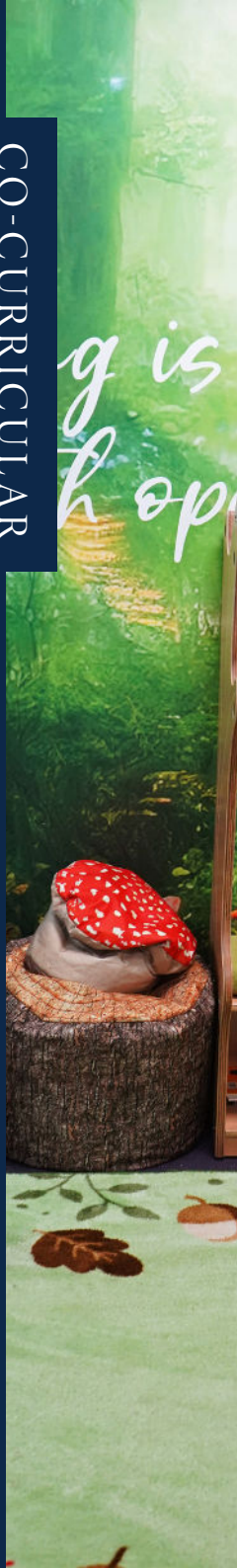
There's lots to do during the School day too, with learning supported by day trips to sites such as castles, rare breed centres, fossil hunting, the Houses of Parliament and World War I trenches.

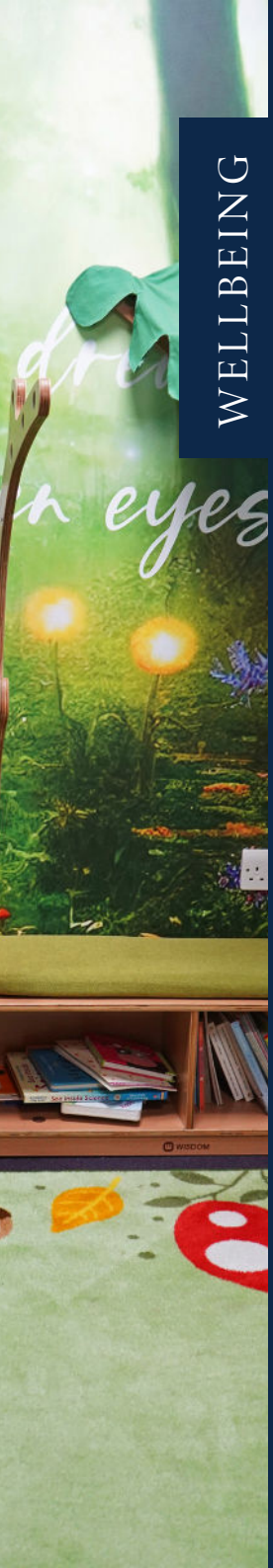
There are also optional trips to go on outside of School, such as the Year 4-6 ski trip, and residential breaks.

Children are also involved in numerous charity initiatives throughout the year.

"Extracurricular packs a punch with engaging lessons for a mixed ability in a buzzing, generous community."

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE 2026





PASTORAL CARE *and* WELLBEING

Our wellbeing provision at the Prep School aims to be proactive, rather than reactive, to ensure that the children are, simply put, as happy as possible. Children who are happy are better learners who make better progress. They are equipped to navigate any obstacles that might crop up whether at home or school and develop into more resilient adults.

As such, we have a Wellbeing Team, within a dedicated Wellbeing Room and Health Centre suite. We offer Time4Me appointments, to talk about anything that they would like to share, 1 to 1 counselling sessions should the need arise, and group sessions focusing on topics such as growth mindset and positive self-esteem.

Each child has time embedded into their week to use their Wellbeing Journal to become their best selves.

Pupils undertake Citizenship lessons, which cover topics such as self-regulation of thoughts and emotions, managing self, family and relationships, economic wellbeing, safety and exploring religion, as well as practical life skills such as First Aid courses.

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) oversees the support of our children's wellbeing and all staff play a key role in keeping the children safe and as mentally healthy as possible. In addition to their Form Tutor, each child has a 'Go To' person, as someone they can talk to about any concerns.

Reverend Bellamy, the School Chaplain, is available to children, staff and parents for non-judgemental and specialised support to all, whether they practise a faith or not.

The GREAT OUTDOORS

At all ages, pupils at Ashford Prep School are encouraged to make the most of our beautiful village setting and countryside grounds, and play and learn outside where possible.

The grounds of both Ashford Prep School and Ashford Senior School are utilised for exploration in Geography lessons, when learning to use a compass and during orienteering.

Our Prep School is home to its own Forest School, known as OAKS (Outdoor, Adventure, Knowledge, Skills.) OAKS sessions are built into the curriculum with regular sessions to foster an interest in and love of the natural world around us.

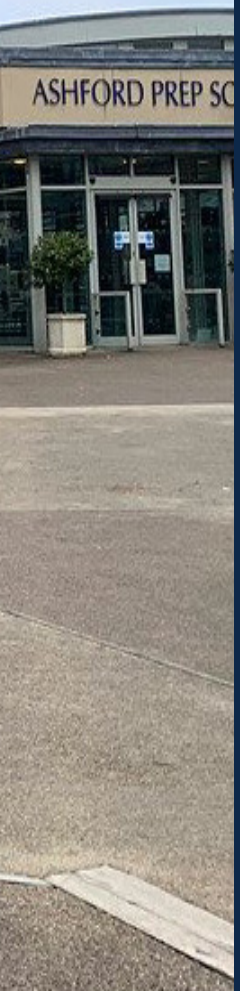
Each class from Years 3 to 6 have a 2-hour session every three weeks, with sessions delivered by specialist Forest School leaders and based around a central theme.

Practical learning encourages exploration, taking supported risks and problem solving. Children develop basic life skills as well as using tools and equipment to help manage the site and woodland. They build and craft items, and learn the art of bushcraft.

Our Nursery and Pre-Prep children enjoy access to adventure play equipment and large playground areas, whilst all children can enjoy our green spaces. In addition, Years 3 to 6 can visit the outdoor reading huts in supervised break times.

WATCH
OUR VIDEO
ON ASHFORD
PREP SCHOOL:
ashfordschool.co.uk
/prep-school

LOCATION



WHERE TO *find* ASHFORD PREP SCHOOL

GETTING HERE

We look forward to welcoming you to Ashford Prep School, in the picturesque village of Great Chart, Kent.

Ashford Prep School operates bus services covering a number of areas in Kent. A shuttle bus also runs between the Prep and Senior Schools.

Great Chart is an ancient village, 2 miles South of Ashford, first mentioned in 762 AD. One of the most notable landmarks in Great Chart is the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, used by Ashford Prep School for School services and acts of worship. This stunning church dates back to the 12th century and features a beautiful Norman doorway, a 14th century tower, and a 15th century chancel.

CONTACT US:

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Please do contact our dedicated Admissions team for a tour of Ashford Prep School.

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