



SEVENOAKS
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | NURTURE



“It is our children and their families that make us what we are – a very special place where pupils flourish into confident members of society.”

Luke Harrison, Headmaster



WELCOME TO SEVENOAKS PREP

At Sevenoaks Prep we place great value on giving pupils the opportunity to flourish in all areas of school life. They achieve excellent academic results in 11+ and 13+ examinations and scholarships. Underpinning the school's success is our 'Way of Life' – an ethos that encourages pupils to be responsible, kind and empathetic.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Mr Luke Harrison (BA, PGCE, IAPS)
Headmaster





OUR ETHOS

Education here is for life, not just the classroom. Our children leave us confident and well-mannered, with essential life skills such as the ability to interact with people and work as part of a team. These attributes are often noted by the head teachers of our destination schools.





Our academic achievements are high - yet we are much more than a place of preparation for examinations to destination schools. We believe a child's happiness and well-being is crucial to his or her academic success. Sevenoaks Prep provides a nurturing environment in which children can discover and develop their talents.



OUR SCHOOL

Sevenoaks Prep welcomes girls and boys from 2 to 13 years of age. Our small class sizes and family atmosphere enables us to build warm relationships with the children and their parents.

Co-education and the continuity of education, from Nursery to Year 8, means family members can stay together, with girls and boys learning from each others' strengths. Our international families enrich life at The Prep.

The school was founded in 1919 and sits in approximately twenty five acres of beautiful grounds on the edge of Knole Park – a magnificent one thousand acre deer park and Site of Specific Scientific Interest owned by the National Trust.

This location is very important to us as it provides a useful and natural extension to our teaching facilities. Our environment also provides a vast playground, where children are trusted and encouraged to explore safely.

We have been fortunate to attract and retain an outstanding team of experienced, qualified teachers and support staff, committed to listening to you and your child and making your family's time with us as rewarding and fulfilling as possible.



Pupils are responsible, well-mannered, self-aware and tolerant. They work together harmoniously, developing a strong sense of responsibility for others and the wider world, and benefiting well from the supportive and warm environment which the school provides with excellence."

ISI Report 2013



THE PRE-PREP: AGES 2 TO 7

The Pre-Prep is home to our younger pupils from Nursery to Year 2.

This is a crucial time in the life of children as they take their first steps towards independence. Their social and emotional needs are sensitively nurtured in a happy, secure environment. Nursery and Kindergarten are staffed by teachers and assistants who are specialists in Early Years education. There is a high teacher-to-pupil ratio and every child has a key worker.

The education provided is designed to match each child's needs, so that child-initiated play and teacher-directed activities are thoughtfully planned and carefully balanced.

Full-time education starts in the Reception class. Staff provide a rich and stimulating environment where curiosity and enthusiasm to learn are fostered.

With class sizes small, pupils are assured personal attention and are motivated to achieve their best.

Apart from numeracy and literacy, many other subjects are taught in cross-curricular themes, often using topic work.

Our children are encouraged to present and perform to each other regularly in class and to parents in assemblies and concerts, helping to build their confidence and their communication skills. On entering the Prep School when they are seven years old, the vast majority of our children have attained a reading age significantly higher than the national average for their age.



“Children trust and respect their teachers and relate well to each other. They are provided with secure foundations for their future well-being in all aspects of their learning. As a result, they respond to school life with great enthusiasm and enjoyment.”

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THE PREP SCHOOL: AGES 7 TO 13

The Prep School is home to Years 3 to 8.

Class teaching is continued for core subjects, with specialist teaching for drama, French, music, ICT, PE and games. By the age of eleven, our pupils are taught by specialist teachers in all subjects whilst each class continues to have a form teacher who monitors their progress.

The curriculum is tailored to the needs of the pupils and their future aspirations. Whilst due regard is paid to the National Curriculum, our children are taught to the highest standard achievable by the individual. To this end, our teachers ensure that every pupil is motivated, challenged and prepared for examinations and scholarships to independent schools or 11+ or 13+ entry tests to local grammar schools.

As the children continue through the school they are offered opportunities for responsibility and leadership, which enable them to move on in life with confidence and purpose.

“My happiest memory of The Prep was receiving my scholarship for my next school and the following day walking into school to see the smiles on the teachers’ faces.”

Former Pupil









EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM

Our extensive curriculum ensures that each pupil will find areas in which they excel. Alongside more traditional subjects like maths and English, we offer languages, ICT, art and design, drama, music and sport, all of which are integral to the life of the school. All classes participate in a regular programme of visits, workshops and field trips to support their learning.





ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our children feel challenged within a happy, diverse community of learners. They are stretched at a time appropriate to them, producing their individual best without unwarranted or excessive pressure. The academic curriculum is enhanced by additional activities including debating and critical thinking.

Our pupils achieve excellent academic results and are successful in gaining entry into schools of their choice. Furthermore, a number of children are awarded academic, music, drama and sport scholarships to many leading senior independent schools including Tonbridge and Sevenoaks. Each year, our pupils gain places at grammar schools such as Judd, Cranbrook and Tonbridge Grammar.

We are proud to introduce pupils to their new schools, knowing that they have achieved their best and that they will make a significant contribution to life at their future school.

"Outcomes are excellent. Children make rapid progress in meeting all the Early Learning Goals, with many exceeding the targets."

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ART & DESIGN

Creativity and energetic self-expression are encouraged throughout the school. The work of various artists and designers is explored and enjoyment of the subject is as important as new skills.

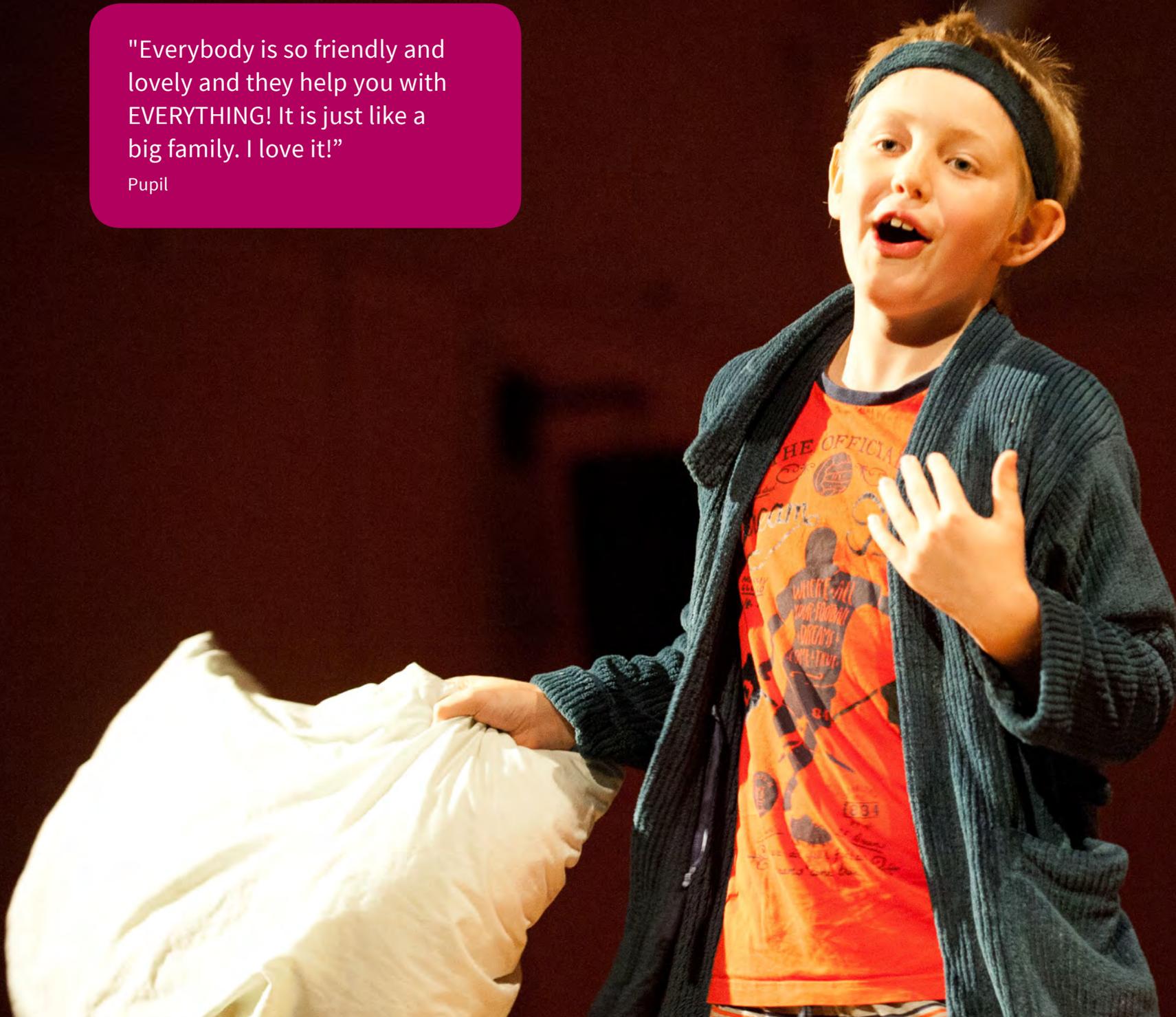






"Everybody is so friendly and lovely and they help you with EVERYTHING! It is just like a big family. I love it!"

Pupil



DRAMA

Drama plays a significant role in the life of Sevenoaks Prep. From Pre-Prep performances through to the Middle and Upper School productions, timetabled drama lessons and house plays, all pupils are encouraged to take part both onstage and behind the scenes.





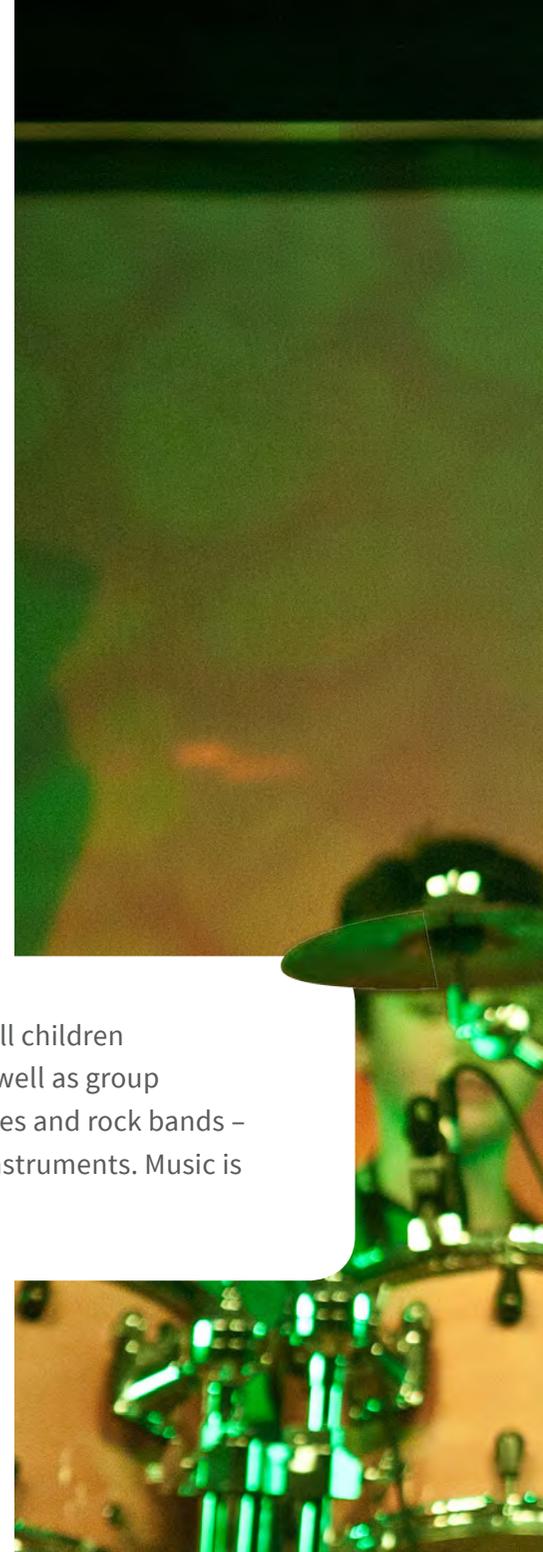
“Many pupils benefit from individual instrumental music lessons whilst all thoroughly enjoy class music lessons.”

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MUSIC

In lessons taught by specialist staff from Nursery to Year 8, all children are encouraged to build a deeper appreciation of music. As well as group performances of various kinds – choirs, orchestras, ensembles and rock bands – individual tuition is offered in voice and in a wide range of instruments. Music is an integral part of school life.









SPORT

At Sevenoaks Prep sport is for all. We enjoy excellent facilities with many pitches, a hard court area and a magnificent hall. There is a comprehensive physical education curriculum, which begins in the Pre-Prep. Teams provide opportunities for all children to represent the school competitively in athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders and rugby.

In addition, we offer an extensive range of clubs and extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school including fencing, judo and tennis.

THE WAY OF LIFE

- 1 I ought to think at all times how my every action will affect others in my life - parents, friends, relations, teachers and everyone younger than myself.
- 2 I ought to treat all others as I would want to be treated myself.
- 3 I ought not to touch anything that is not mine, unless with permission or unless I am being helpful.
- 4 I ought to take a personal interest in how other people feel.
- 5 I ought to be polite to everybody at all times and be positive in my actions.
- 6 I ought to take responsibility for my maturity by ensuring I assist in the smooth running of the school and my home.
- 7 I ought to listen to and consider carefully the guidance given to me by my teachers and parents, and then act in the right spirit.
- 8 I ought to report immediately any damage or unfortunate behaviour to my teachers and/or my parents.
- 9 I ought to remember that in life my aim should be to solve problems not cause them, to build bridges rather than knock them down, to trust others and to be trusted, to put the need of others first and mine last, to improve and make better whatever or whomever I am involved with.
- 10 I ought, at all times, to be totally honest to myself and to others.



OUR WAY OF LIFE & VALUES

Our ethos, 'The Way of Life', is at the very heart of everything we do at Sevenoaks Prep. Our strong pastoral care nurtures each child, supports parents and children and helps to prepare each pupil to take his or her place in a world that never stands still. We understand that children are individuals who mature at different times and in different ways.

We listen to our pupils and know them well. Experienced, dedicated teachers, together with excellent staff-to-pupil ratios, enable us to give our children the most important factor in a child's life at school: time. As we place importance on individual progress, the children know that their teachers will always be available to listen to and discuss what is important to them.

Children are taught that everyone has different talents, ideas and views and that all must be valued and respected. Our links with a wide range of charitable and other organisations in the wider community mean we are never out of touch with life beyond Sevenoaks Prep.



WORKING TOGETHER

Communication is crucial. We believe the education of the child is most successful when teachers and parents work closely together.

Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress with formal meetings and written reports. In addition, staff are always available for parents to contact if they feel any matter needs their attention. This openness leads to plenty of discussion on how individual needs can be met.

Much of what we do is focused on preparing children for moving on. The Headmaster meets the parents of every child to create a personal plan for entry into senior education. Having no tied senior school, we can offer up to date, unbiased advice about the most suitable destination school for your child. The Headmaster is in constant communication with our destination schools to assess their suitability for our pupils.

Alumni and their parents regularly attend school events to continue their association with The Prep. The school grounds are used by past and present families during the weekends and holidays for picnics, cycling, games and other social and physical activities. There is an active alumni association and a development office which engage with past and present pupils, families and staff of the school.

"Her journey at The Prep has been remarkable... on all levels: socially, academically and personally."

Former Parent

"Pupils work well, both independently and with others, being well-behaved and demonstrating a good, positive approach to learning."

ISI Report 2013











SEVENOAKS
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

COME AND VISIT US

We welcome enquiries and encourage you to visit the school to see our children at work and play and to experience the atmosphere that makes Sevenoaks Prep so special.

Please call **01732 762336** or email admissions@theprep.org.uk to make an appointment.

We look forward to meeting you and your family.

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