



Riversdale Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions

What is your school's ethos?

The Riversdale Values form the basis of our ethos:

- **R**espect
- **I**ndividuality
- **V**alue
- **E**ntrust
- **R**eflect
- **S**hare
- **D**emocracy
- **A**spire
- **L**ove
- **E**mpathy

Children who demonstrate the Riversdale Values throughout the day are awarded with a house point. These are collected centrally throughout the year and counted. At the end of the year, the house with the most points is celebrated through our end of year celebration and is awarded The House Cup. Our regular school assemblies are also built around these.

When something goes wrong, children are given the opportunity to reflect on their choices and make right their actions. Children are given the opportunity to forgive and to explain how another's actions have impacted upon them. All children are actively encouraged to state to members of staff, including the Senior Leadership Team who have an open-door policy, if someone has made them unhappy and they are given support to rectify this. Similarly, children are encouraged to share successes, both in class and in the playground, with all members of staff.

How many classes are there?

We have 17 classes, which includes 2 ASD Base classes. There are 2 classes in each year group, with the exception of Nursery where there is one class made up of full and part time places.

Each class is supported by a teaching assistant and a learning support assistant. Other specialist teachers will also support the classes in learning drama, art, PE and Spanish.

What does a typical day look like?

The school day begins with a reading focus; Early Years and Year 1 will focus on phonics, whilst the rest of the school develop their reading skills through carefully designed activities.

For the rest of the day, children will explore our broad and balanced curriculum, with a combination of core and foundation subjects. Children have an hour lunch break as well as a morning and afternoon playtime.

How will you challenge my child?

At Riversdale, we believe in meeting the needs of all children, whether this is because they are gifted or that they require additional support to access the curriculum. Our curriculum challenges each child to develop their skills, thought processes and cognitive ability. The school believes in developing a depth of understanding and this is reflected in our curriculum and teaching practices.

How do you support children with Special Needs?

Within the inclusion team, we have a dedicated SENCo, occupational therapists, speech and language support, external speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, art therapists, wellbeing practitioners and a therapy dog. Our ASD base also has a designated Head of Base who is also a SENCo. Through these specialists, we are able to cater to each child's individual needs, allowing them to access the curriculum.

Do I have to choose between school dinner and packed lunch?

Children have the option of bringing a packed lunch or having a school dinner. Families are welcome to choose which of these children will have on a daily basis and there is no expectation of sticking with one. Our school dinners are enjoyed by the children and staff alike.

Are there any after school clubs that my child can attend?

Both internal and external staff run a variety of clubs after the school day has ended. These have included football, basketball, cricket, science, chess, gymnastics, drama, film making, multi sports and tennis.

However, these are only open to KS1 and above. Early Years children are welcome to attend the after-school care provision, but we have found that clubs focusing on a specific skill can be difficult for these children after a long day at school.

Does the school offer breakfast club or after school care?

For details on our wraparound provision, please see the school website: <https://www.riversdaleschool.org.uk/wrap-around-care>.

What does reading look like at your school?

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. Our desire is for every child to be an avid reader and to gain pleasure from reading. Every child takes part in the summer reading challenge and classes make regular visits to the library.

There is a systematic and rigorous approach to teaching phonics utilising a range of strategies designed to meet the needs of the pupils. Children from across the school have dedicated reading lessons, where they develop a deeper understanding of reading as a skill. As well as this they will be given a reading book to take home each week to share with their family.

Will my child learn a musical instrument?

During school hours, children participate in singing lessons with John Fisher (Gospel Choir of the Year winner). Children also have the opportunity to learn the piano and/or woodwind instruments through our flourishing partnership with World Heart Beat.

Does the school offer any trips?

Our curriculum is enhanced by various trips, including local trips, central London and a week-long residential trip for Year 6 to an outward-bound centre. Trips regularly include museums, theatres, historic buildings, art galleries, zoos and animal sanctuaries. In addition, we provide children the opportunity to perform in large venues, such as the o2, for the school choir.

Will my child be given homework?

During the term, children are expected to practice skills at home. This includes daily reading, times table practice such as through Times Table Rockstars (age appropriate) or Mathletics, as well as regular spellings practice through Spelling Shed. During the holidays, pupils are given the opportunity to work on other skills through project-based learning.

Will my child be given the chance to go swimming?

Swimming is an integral part of our curriculum. We are very fortunate that the school houses its own swimming pool which is used by children from Reception to Year 2. Children in Year 3 and above have access to the Aspire swimming pool across the road.

Will my child be able to represent the school in external events?

All children have the opportunity to represent the school, either through being an ambassador, or through a range of competitions such as sports, maths, poetry and debating.

We passionately believe in developing a positive competitive spirit and that there is a sport that suits everyone. To this end, we run a traditional sports day, alongside an alternative sports week, designed to introduce children to new sports such as tri-golf, Ultimate Frisbee, water polo, canoeing and boccia.

Does the school work with the local community?

We are fortunate enough to draw upon the skills from the local community through our governing body. For details on our governing body, please see the school website: <https://www.riversdaleschool.org.uk/governors>. We have also worked in partnership with a range of local organisations including Friends of Coronation Gardens, Southfields Grid Residents Association, The Southfields Business Forum and World Heart Beat, as well as partnerships with other schools, both local and abroad.

Can I have details about the uniform?

For details on our school uniform, please see the school website: <https://www.riversdaleschool.org.uk/uniform>. The majority of uniform can be purchased from supermarkets, whilst the school jumper and cardigans can be purchased directly from the school. These are sold at cost price as we do not believe in making a profit from our parents/carers.

What Secondary Schools do the children at Riversdale move on to?

Our pupils have moved on to a variety of schools in the past. These include:

- St Cecilia's Wandsworth
- Ashcroft Technology Academy
- Southfields Academy
- Ark Putney Academy
- St John Bosco College
- Earnest Bevin
- Graveney School
- Harris Academy
- The Tiffin Girls' School
- Emmanuel School
- Wallington High School
- Sutton Grammar School
- Surbiton High School
- Greenshaw High School

How can I prepare my child for starting at Riversdale in Reception?

All children will have reached different milestones in their development before arriving at school. However, it is helpful to have practiced dressing and undressing, putting on shoes, how to hang a coat up on a peg, using a knife and fork and how to tidy up. It is an expectation that all children are toilet trained. Please ensure that your child can either use the toilet independently or are able to ask for support where needed.