

www.riversdaleschool.org.uk



Riversdale Primary School



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WHO ARE WE?

Riversdale Primary School is a non-denominational community school located on the edge of Southfields, Wandsworth. It opened in 1895 and since then, the school has prepared thousands of children from local families for their secondary education and adult life. It has been maintained by Wandsworth Council since 1900.



Riversdale is housed in a Victorian Grade II listed building. This has been extensively refurbished and extended in recent years. Extra classrooms have been created within the main school, with 4 additional classrooms in the new building. We have a large walled playground, with two purpose-built play areas as well as two enclosed play areas for the Early Years, and a 10m indoor swimming pool. We are close to Southfields Academy whose larger swimming pool and other sports facilities are regularly used by our pupils.

We are a culturally diverse and happy school. Pupils from a wide range of backgrounds mix extremely well forming a highly cohesive community. Inclusion is at the heart of our work and our pupils thrive in an environment in which all are equally valued and supported.

The school has an extremely positive atmosphere which promotes children's self-confidence. As a result, the overwhelming majority of our pupils are

eager to learn and supportive of each other.

We work closely with parents to ensure pupils are well supported at home and personalise the curriculum, as much as we can, in order to give each child the best education possible.

We were awarded the Centre of Excellence award for the Inclusion Quality Mark in 2018. In the same year, we also achieved the Gold Standard for UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award. Both reports are outstanding and we are very proud of their findings. In addition, we are also the first school in London to receive the Diabetes good care award.

Riversdale is an expanding school; having changed from one form entry to two form entry, a process which was completed in September 2017, we also opened an ASD specialist base in September 2018.

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ETHOS

We provide a stimulating learning environment and seek to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge which will help pupils achieve their true potential, through praise, encouragement and high expectations of work and behaviour.

Our aim is to:

Provide a broad and balanced curriculum with a sound grounding in the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy, together with the independence and confidence to apply these skills.

Foster lively, enquiring minds and enthusiasm for learning, by treating children as individuals and building on their successes.

Make children feel valued and respected, so they can be confident and secure; willing to seek help in the understanding that overcoming difficulty is part of the learning process.

Develop, through example and explanation, a sense of responsibility, self discipline and respect for each other, the school and the wider community.

Show the importance of socialising and collaborating with sensitivity, consideration and humour.

Encourage aesthetic and spiritual awareness.

Allow children, staff, parents, governors and the community to share in our achievements and take pride in our school.

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INTAKE

We are now a two form entry school across all year groups. Our children are aged from 3 to 11 with 370 on roll (July 2018) and a long waiting list for our reception classes. Our class size is limited to 30 with 26 full time equivalent places in Nursery.

We are a multi-cultural school with over 40 official languages spoken at Riversdale, with families originating from a wide range of countries.

We are very proud of our diverse intake and celebrate both our similarities and differences, whilst maintaining an ethos of equality.

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TEACHING & LEARNING

We aim to provide a teaching approach and a curriculum tailored to the different needs of pupils, whose abilities, life experiences and knowledge of English vary greatly. Our children are encouraged to become enthusiastic active learners and to support each other.

Throughout the school, mornings begin with either phonics (EYFS & Year 1) or reading lessons to embed early reading skills with a strong emphasis on developing vocabulary and speaking skills.

We ensure children are exposed to a range of experiences, regularly taking them on class trips. The children visit museums and art galleries, as well as the Zoo, a farm, and various other activities. There is a School Journey for Year 6 to Hindleap Warren, where children are encouraged to develop resilience and independence in preparation for secondary education.

Throughout the year we work with different professionals and external agencies in order to give the children the richest experiences in school and to contribute to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We regularly have themed theatre presentations in assemblies and Year 5 participate in the Mosaic programme.

Additionally, staff, parents and carers organise a wide range of activities for our children, both before and after school. Please see Wraparound Care and Enrichment sections for further details.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Our results have been steadily improving each year and in 2018 achieved our highest ever results. We now either meet or exceed national expectations across Key Stages 1 and 2.

In Year 1, 94% of children passed the Phonics Screening test, demonstrating that our daily focus has had a very positive impact on the children's learning.

In Key Stage 1, our results were outstanding, **exceeding** the average results for both the Local Authority and the country.

	Reading	Writing	Grammar	Maths
Expected Standard or Above*	88%	78%	81%	81%
Higher Standard	32%	29%	-	34%
National Average	75%	70%	-	76%

In Key Stage 2, once again the results were exceptional in individual subject areas. Additionally, for the combined score, taking into account the children who passed **all** nationally assessed/examined areas, our children once again **exceeded** these averages, with 73% of children passing.

	Reading	Writing	Grammar	Maths
Expected Standard or Above*	80%	80%	75%	83%
Higher Standard	35%	30%	53%	25%
National Average	75%	78%	78%	76%

Although the figures above represent the nationally assessed/examined year groups, we are proud to say that children in all year groups make good to outstanding progress.*

* Please note, these results reflect the achievement of students at Riversdale Primary School are correct at the time of printing. For the latest school results, including progress data, please visit the School Performance & OFSTED section of the school website.



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THE SCHOOL DAY

Children will begin with a soft start from 8.35am, where they will go directly to their classroom. The formal school day begins with the ringing of the school bell at 8.45am, when class teachers will take the register.

Children will have two 15 minute break times during the day, as well as their lunch time. Children in EYFS and KS1 are provided with a healthy snack at morning break and have a longer lunch break.

Every child can be provided with a hot meal at lunchtime. Children up to and including Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal, whilst children from Year 3 upwards are charged a reasonable fee.

The formal school day will end at 3.15pm, with school-run after school clubs available until 4.30pm each day. Clubs run by the school staff will change termly and spaces are limited, dependent on the activity and staff ratio.

There is the option for an after school provision until 6pm; please see the Wraparound Care section or school website for further details.

Timings will vary for our Gems classes.

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OUR ACCOLADES

At Riversdale, we are proud to have been awarded a number of accolades. These include:

- Rights Respecting Schools Award (Gold)
- Inclusion Quality Mark (Centre of Excellence)
- Healthy Schools Award
- School Games Award (Silver)
- Autism Inclusion Mark

We are currently working towards the Eco-Schools Award in order to show our dedication towards protecting the environment and sustainable global development.

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BEHAVIOUR & SAFEGUARDING

We pride ourselves on the behaviour and safety of our pupils. Through our policies and practices we promote self discipline and awareness. Adults act as positive role models at all times and encourage children to mirror their actions. As well as this, we are a Gold Standard Rights Respecting School. This means that the school actively teaches children about their rights and the associated responsibilities they have as a global citizen. We believe this contributes to having a thoughtful and considerate student body.

Parent questionnaires have consistently returned positive views on behaviour and safeguarding and pupil surveys indicate that pupils feel safe and listened to in school.

We have an excellent success rate in turning challenging behaviour around and we have a full time Learning Mentor who supports children with any behavioural issues.



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SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

As well as a dedicated SENDCo and a SENDCo Support Teacher, we have a team of skilful and approachable staff members who are able to offer a range of interventions, designed to support children with special educational needs, where appropriate.

Our provision includes:

- Staff trained to deliver speech therapy sessions
- Staff trained to deliver occupational therapy sessions
- Bereavement Counselling
- A dedicated learning mentor
- Staff trained in attachment disorders, ASD, ADHD etc.

Additionally, our Early Years staff have also undertaken Makaton training to support the learning of language across the foundation stage.

Where necessary, staff will receive additional training to meet the needs of the SEN children on roll.

All of our children are confident that they can talk to an adult at the school that they feel comfortable with and from whom they can get support, both academically and socially. This may not just be the class teacher.



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GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN

As a school, we care a great deal about all of our children and fostering a love of learning for each individual. Those that show a particular gift or talent in an area are directed towards activities that will support them to develop and nurture these skills/interests, allowing them to achieve their full potential.

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SPECIALIST ASD BASE

We are very proud that Riversdale was chosen as the site for Wandsworth's newest ASD primary resource base which was opened in September 2018. All base pupils have opportunities throughout the day to access mainstream classes, with support where necessary.

Our Gems classrooms use a range of ASD strategies. These include the SPELL framework, the SCERTS model, TEACCH, PECS, attention autism, and Makaton. In addition, our provision includes an individualised approach to encourage independence and the development of life skills; interventions based on individual and group needs; a multi-disciplinary approach, including access to play therapist and a high staff to pupil ratio

Our aim is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum following mainstream but differentiated according to needs, using visuals, small steps and repetition, with a concentration on core subjects, independent learning and social emotional development.

ENRICHMENT

At Riversdale Primary School, we aim to provide the children with a balanced curriculum, supporting them in developing a keen interest in a range of subjects, sports and creative pastimes. Over the course of a child's time at the school, we give them with the opportunity to experience these through after school clubs, trips, workshops and guest speakers.

We are passionate believers that for a child to be successful, they must enjoy their schooling, and it is through our programme of enrichment activities that we foster this love of school and learning.



Each of our clubs help the children not only to learn and develop skills, but also enjoy their time at school, building positive relationships with staff and fellow pupils. We regularly enter local and national competitions, winning medals in a wide range of these. Below is just a small selection of activities that take place...

Chess Club:

Children develop their strategic thinking and problem solving as they learn to play chess both against their peers and a computer.

Gymnastics Club:

The gymnasts apply their discipline and team-working skills both in weekly lessons and at local competitions.

Learning Council:

The student-led council meet fortnightly to discuss matters relating to the school, and share fundraising and campaign ideas for local and global causes.

Drama Club:

A range of students from across the school develop their self confidence, public speaking and performance skills, culminating in a wonderful performance for parents/carers.

Spelling Bee:

Children from across the school brush up on their spellings as they prepare for the Wandsworth Borough Spelling Bee. Our children have performed incredibly well, winning silver medals across the different key stages.

Writing Competition:

Children are given a stimulus and asked to write whatever they want, however they want. The pupils take up their pens and pencils and often produce fabulous stories, poems, research reports etc. The winning entries are published into a book for parents/carers.

Gardening Club:

Children in Key Stage 1 tend to the flowers and vegetables across the school, ensuring a beautiful and calm environment. The school won a Gold Award from the Children's Flower Society for their hard work.

Music Lessons:

Children have weekly music lessons in class, but the school also runs weekly piano lessons for those interested. This culminates in a piano concert at the end of the year, where the children are able to demonstrate how much they have learnt.



School Journey to Hindleap Warren:

Each year, Year 6 students undertake a week-long residential trip to Hindleap Warren, which provides high quality outdoor education and personal development opportunities for children and young people. The trip offers our students the chance to improve their confidence, resilience and positive relationship skills. This is part of our transition programme, designed to prepare children for secondary education.

Theatre Trips:

The school believes that children should experience the theatre at least once, and so, where possible the school runs trips to the theatre. In the past, these have included pantomimes at Christmas and West End productions.

Alternative Sports Week:

At Riversdale we strongly believe that there is a sport for every child. Therefore, we regularly run alternative sports weeks, where children are exposed to less traditional events, with the aim of helping children find a new one that they enjoy.



HOUSES & AWARDS

There are 4 houses in the school and your child will be appointed to one of them when they join the school. The houses are named after key tourist sites in our capital, as an homage to our London roots.

The houses are:

- Buckingham (Red)
- Globe (Yellow)
- Hyde Park (Green)
- Thames (Blue)



Houses are relevant when your child is given House Points for good behaviour or work. Children also undertake a range of activities throughout the school year, particularly Sports Day, where they are able to win additional House Points, with the ultimate goal of being awarded the coveted House Cup during the Prize Day at the end of the academic year.

Other awards your child may receive are the Class Conduct award, given weekly and voted for by their peers or The Star of the Week, usually given for good work or behaviour by the class teacher.

Finally, children are awarded a School Badge for outstanding contributions to school life, or representing the school at external events.

FACILITIES

Riversdale is always adapting to the needs of our children and we strive to give them the best that we can. Each classroom is fully equipped with the necessities for learning, such as interactive whiteboards, a computer, a class library as well as tables and chairs carefully selected to fit the need and age of the children in that room.

However, we are very proud to have a range of other fantastic facilities available on site that support us in our endeavour to provide our children with a broad and balanced curriculum.

Reception Playground:

Following our 2015 Ofsted report, our Reception playground has undergone a wonderful refurbishment. With beautifully crafted wooden equipment, bright soft flooring, a hobbit house and an all weather sheltered space, the playground is fit for a wide range of potential learning opportunities, bringing learning to the outdoors as well as the classroom.

Swimming Pool:

Hidden away on lower floor of the main school building, Riversdale houses a heated children's swimming pool. This is used regularly by our Early Year and Key Stage 1 children to develop their swimming skills. Once the children are old enough, their swimming lesson progress to a larger local swimming pool. This facility is also utilised, on the weekends, by a national swimming class company for the instruction of local babies and toddlers.

Stage:

In 2018, the PTC (Parent Teacher Co-Operative) raised a great deal of money in order to have the school stage refurbished. As a result of their hard work and the support of the local community, our stage now boasts: theatre quality curtains, performance standard sound equipment and high-tech stage lighting, allowing the children to take their already fabulous class assemblies, Christmas productions and the Year 6 Leavers' Show to the next level.

Sensory Room & Soft Play:

As a school, we appreciate the varying needs of our pupils and as such, we have installed two soft play areas and a sensory room in different areas of the main school building.

Our soft play areas include:

- a ball pit
- a trampoline (located in the top floor soft play)
- a small cushioned slide

Our sensory room includes:

- a "Magic Carpet" interactive floor
- a series of multicoloured lighting fixtures
- 2 bubble tubes with accompanying lighting

ICT:

The school have recently invested in a range of laptops and iPads, in order to support the children in the development of their ICT skills. These are not only used in computing lessons, but are used to compliment a range of subject areas as well as extracurricular clubs with great impact.

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WRAPAROUND CARE

At Riversdale, we acknowledge the needs of our parent and carer community, offering an excellent and comprehensive wraparound care service. The various programmes, outlined below, offer parents peace of mind that their child is getting a supportive and enjoyable experience beyond their school day.

Riversdale Breakfast Club:

Our breakfast club service runs each day from 7.45am to 8.55am. Children are provided with either toast or cereal to eat and given the opportunity to play, read or complete homework under the supervision of well-established members of staff. Parents are invited to sign up for this service for a nominal fee, with a discount for sibling places.

After School Clubs:

The school offers a range of sports and creative after school clubs between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. These are run by the Riversdale staff and change on a termly basis.

Let Me Play:

Alongside our extremely popular and over-subscribed after school clubs, we provide on-site extended childcare from the end of the school day until 6pm through the company Let Me Play.

As part of this provision, pupils can enjoy a wide variety of activities, including multi-sports, arts and crafts, performing arts, team games and physical literacy, in a safe and fun environment.

The key features of the service include:

- Highly qualified and experienced staff
- A healthy snack
- Weekly awards and regular updates
- Convenient online booking and payments
- Ofsted registration

For further details please visit the Wraparound Care section of the school website.

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFFING

In addition to the Headteacher and Deputy, we have 2 Assistant Headteachers in the Senior Leadership Team. Our team also consists of:

MAINSTREAM SENCO	1
ADS BASE SENCO	1
CLASS TEACHERS	18
AUTISM SPECIALIST TEACHERS	3
SCAT TEACHERS <small>(SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND TEACHERS)</small>	5
ART TEACHER	1
DRAMA TEACHER	1
MUSIC TEACHER	1
SPANISH TEACHER	1
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR	1
LEARNING MENTOR	1
PLAY THERAPIST	1
SUPPORT STAFF <small>(inc. TAs & LSAs)</small>	28
NURSERY NURSE	1
OFFICE STAFF	4
IT TECHNICIAN	1

We also work with local universities to mentor and train teachers and play therapists on site, increasing the range of interventions available.

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GOVERNING BODY

Our governing body at present consists of:

The Head teacher and 10 Governors who have been elected for their strengths in different areas such as finance, pastoral care and knowledge of the community.

The Governors are committed to supporting the school and visit frequently. They play an active role in meeting prospective parents to show them the school as well as attending whole school events to support the staff and students.

The full Governing Body meets once a term, whilst three main committees reporting to the Governing Body meet twice a term.

Occasionally, places for Parent Governors do become available on the governing body and all parents are welcome to apply.

More information on the Governing Body can be found in the community section of the school website, including governor details and the governor impact statement.

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PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The school believe that it is extremely important that strong partnerships exist between families and the school. We welcome parents into the school for whole school events on a regular basis, including curriculum events where staff and students show their families what they have been working on. As well as this, we hold regular parents evenings and open days, giving families the opportunities to discuss their child's progress and targets.


We work closely with outside agencies and professionals to help parents and carers maximise the potential of every child and where necessary offer tailored support to ensure a healthy and happy pupil.

We have a growing and thriving Parent Teacher Co-operative (PTC) who organise social events and fundraising events to help improve the environment of the school. They have recently developed the "Secret Garden" for the pupils, as well as refurbished the stage for school performances. There are a range of other projects in the pipeline. The PTC encourages parents and local businesses to engage positively with the school and as a result the school profile has risen substantially.

We are regular users of the local library, and are avid supporters of the drive to keep local libraries open as they greatly benefit the local community and local children.

As a Gold Standard Rights Respecting School, we believe strongly in our school community acting as global citizens. As such, our student-led Learning Council plan and implement a range of campaign and fundraising events, with the aim of bettering our local, national and global communities. In the past we participated in the Mary's Meals Backpack Project, donating school supplies for children in Malawi and raised awareness of child homelessness in London. Additionally, as a school we regularly donate food to local food banks, ensuring those in need receive enough food to remain well and healthy.

We also have strong partnerships with other local schools and education institutions such as Roehampton University and Wandsworth SCITT, supporting them in mentoring trainee teachers, and Worldheartbeat Music Academy, who provide piano and woodwind lessons for our pupils as well as music assemblies once a week, to name just a few.



Tours of the school are available on Thursday mornings.
To arrange a tour, please contact the school office.



At Riversdale we aim to achieve,



Developing the strength to self believe,

Our community we interweave.



Creating well rounded individuals,
before we leave.





RIVERSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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