

General Information 2010/11

For up-to-date details and further information, such as the school day, uniform and staff, please visit www.unicornschoo.org.uk.

Unicorn School has a general duty to safeguard children and will share any concerns with parents as necessary.

Results

Unicorn aims to achieve high academic standards without a pressurised approach. Children work at their own pace in a non-competitive environment. Here are some extracts from our outstanding inspection reports:

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report, March 2010

- .. excellent programme of extra-curricular activities provides an educational experience of high quality.
- They demonstrate an outstanding sense of responsibility and awareness of the needs of others.
- .. personal development is outstanding ..
- Pupils' moral awareness is excellent.
- The social development of pupils is outstanding.
- Pupils show an outstanding awareness of their own and other cultures.
- .. pastoral care of pupils is excellent ..
- Staff provide excellent support and guidance for pupils.
- The quality of all levels of leadership and management throughout the school including the EYFS is excellent and enables the school to fulfil its aims.
- The quality of links with parents in the EYFS and throughout the school is outstanding and is a strength of the school.
- The quality of the provision is excellent. Children are treated as individuals with different interests and needs.
- Children's achievements are outstanding.
- They participate enthusiastically, taking pleasure in all aspects of their education. Staff have a clear knowledge of the children's abilities and all make excellent progress.
- Whilst the school no longer enters pupils for national tests at the age of eleven, results for 2006 and 2007 were excellent. Pupils make good and sometimes exceptional progress over time in relation to their ability. Pupils' behaviour is excellent.
- The use of teaching assistants to promote pupils' learning is excellent

SATS

We are experimenting with our curriculum this year and, therefore, omitting the Government's SATs tests. In 2007 when we last sat the SATs examinations, Key Stage 2 results (10 to 11 year-olds) were outstanding: 96% of children reached an overall Level 5 which is indicative of an eleven year-old performing significantly in advance of their chronological age. These figures placed Unicorn School in the top 30 prep schools in the country, which is exceptional considering we are a small, non-selective school.

Senior Schools

The majority of our pupils go on to the London day schools. Approximately 5% choose boarding schools. This year, the 19 children in Ultra Violet (Year 6) were offered places at 28 different schools and were awarded three scholarships.

Day Schools

Colet Court, St Paul's	King's House	St Paul's Girls'
Dean Close	Kingston Grammar	Surbiton High
Dunhurst	Latymer Upper	The Harrodian
Emanuel	Licensed Victuallers'	The Lady Eleanor Holles
Francis Holland	London Oratory	Tiffin Boys'
Godolphin & Latymer	Notting Hill & Ealing	Tiffin Girls'
Halliford	Putney High	Westminster
Hampton	Queen's Gate	Wimbledon High
Ibstock Place	St Benedict's	
King's College Junior	St Catherine's	

Boarding Schools

Bedales
Bruern Abbey
Cheltenham College
Downe House
Headington
Marymount
Port Regis (prep)
St Mary's Ascot
Summer Fields (prep)
Tudor Hall
Windlesham (prep)
Woldingham

At 13 years

(following prep)
Bryanston
Charterhouse
Eton
Marlborough
St Edward's, Oxford

Management

Unicorn School is incorporated as a limited liability company whose share capital is guaranteed by the members. One parent from each family is a member of the company whose guarantee is limited to £1.00. The school is registered as an Educational Charity, number 312578.

The school is a non-profit-making company. Fees charged go towards the costs of educating the children, together with maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds.

The Board of Governors is elected by the parents and consists of parents and educational specialists. One third have to stand for re-election each year at the AGM.

Fees

Fees may be paid by the start of term or monthly by arrangement. In the case of withdrawal of a child, one full term's notice in writing must be given, by the last day of the previous term, or one term's fees paid in lieu of notice.

We offer a fees' refund scheme, in case a pupil is unable to attend due to illness or accident, and a personal accident insurance scheme for pupils.

Termly fees for 2010/2011

Red Class (mornings only)	£1800
Orange Class	£2945
Yellow and Green Class	£3120
Blue to Ultra Violet Classes	£3290

Only individual music lessons, certain clubs, outings and field study trips are charged as extras.

School Hours

Red Class	08:30 - 12 noon
Orange Class	08:30 - 15:20 (half day on Fridays)
Infants	08:30 - 15:30
Juniors	08:30 - 15:30

Children will be ready for collection 5 minutes after their finishing times.

Thursday Clubs

Each term, Juniors choose an extra-curricular club to attend on Thursday afternoons, many of which are included in the fees.

This year's Thursdays clubs include; arts & crafts, badminton, calligraphy, cookery, cricket, fabric design, gardening, golf, hockey, ice skating, ICT film, jazz, lego robotics, mosaic, papier - mâché, pottery, riding, sailing, self defence, squash, table tennis and tennis.

Extra Curricular Activities

Activities, during and after school, for children include: guitar, recorder, gym, chess, string orchestra, ICT, quartet, choir, karate, guitar group, wind band, singing, swimming, football/cricket/netball/rounders/tennis coaching.

Study club is available until 5pm every day from Yellow Class upwards.

Sport

In sport, all children have gym and swimming lessons and older children play football, rugby, hockey and netball (winter/spring terms) and cricket, rounders and athletics (summer term).

Further sports are available through the Thursday clubs.

Music

All children have singing and music lessons and can take private lessons in many different instruments, including 'cello, piano, clarinet, guitar, recorder, singing, violin, viola, flute, saxophone and brass instruments.

Parental Involvement

As a parent-owned school Unicorn is unique and a distinctive aspect is the close parental involvement. For example, the Governing Body consists of 14 people, made up of parents and a few non-parental experts, including two Headmasters. They are appointed by parents and have close responsibility for administering the school and handling management, ICT, finance and building issues.

There is also a school committee with, usually, three representatives from each class (virtually everyone will become a class representative at some time during their child's eight years at Unicorn). Representatives look after regular social activities and fund-raising events and are always keen to obtain support and participation!

Parents are encouraged to help as much as they can and become part of the Unicorn community. In Infants, parents (or their nannies/au pairs) help on a rota basis with swimming, cookery classes and reading. In Juniors, parents help run Thursday clubs or provide lifts to the various off-site clubs. All classes go on school trips so volunteers are always needed to accompany the children.

We appreciate that giving time like this can be difficult for parents who work, but we do hope you will be able to help in some way. It is very rewarding and greatly adds to a child's experience at Unicorn.