

General Information 2009/10

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 2006

'A distinctive feature of the school is its warm, friendly atmosphere.'

The positive and caring ethos of the school provides numerous opportunities for pupils to develop academically, personally and socially. Preparation for adult life is enhanced greatly by the interaction of all members of the Unicorn community.'

'The pupils' social development is outstanding....Pupils show a particularly well-developed, caring, responsible and considerate social awareness of others.'

'The results of entrance tests to senior schools are consistently good, with the most able pupils achieving scholarships.'

Results in national tests over the last three years have been high for the pupils' abilities, being far above the national average.'

'The quality of links with parents is outstanding.'

All of the pupils spoken to by inspectors stated that they enjoyed their work, and as one seven-year old said, "learning is fun at Unicorn".'

Ofsted Foundation Stage March 2008

This report covers our nursery and reception classes. Each area was classified as good/strong.

'[teachers] work together well as a team to provide children in the reception and nursery classes with a happy beginning to their school life.'

'They are very confident children who are responsive to the staff and polite to visitors.'

'Children's behaviour is exemplary.'

'They show a love of story books.'

'Standards of teaching are particularly effective in helping children to make progress in early mathematics.'

'Children's creative work is a key strength.'

'Staff successfully promote the school's stated aims.'

'The school is particularly successful in developing children's self-confidence and in fostering good manners and positive relationships with others.'

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 20 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
Dean Close
Dunhurst
Emanuel
Francis Holland
Godolphin & Latymer
Halliford
Hampton
Ibstock Place
King's College Junior
King's House
Kingston Grammar
Latymer Upper
Licensed Victuallers'
London Oratory
Notting Hill & Ealing
Putney High
Queen's Gate
St Benedict's
St Catherine's

St David's
St Paul's Girls'
Surbiton High
The Harrodian
The Lady Eleanor Holles
Tiffin Boys'
Tiffin Girls'
Westminster
Wimbledon High

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 2009/2010

The Governors have decided, in light of the current economic situation, to maintain fees at last year's level.

Red Class (mornings only)	£1710
Orange Class	£2805
Yellow and Green Class.....	£2970
Blue to Ultra Violet Classes	£3135

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, and yoga. 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 15 people, made up of parents and a few non-parental experts, including a Headmaster. 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.