



DURLSTON  
PREP & SENIOR SCHOOL



# Our Aims

*“Pupils develop high levels of self-understanding, growing into confident, resilient young people who are prepared to take risks, and have huge determination to succeed.”*

*Independent Schools Inspectorate*

A happy, confident and successful child thriving in a nurturing environment, ready for any challenge. In order to fulfil this we aim to:

- Deliver outstanding teaching and learning underpinned by the pursuit of excellence and high expectations for each individual child.
- Provide opportunities to fully explore and enjoy a wealth of sporting, creative, technological and co-curricular activities.
- Develop resilient, well-rounded, self-disciplined, well-mannered, caring, confident young people.
- Nurture integrity alongside sound moral values based on Christian traditions; promote an awareness and respect of other beliefs and faiths.
- Foster positive partnerships between pupils, parents and staff – the Durlston Family.



# Welcome

## From our Headmaster

I am incredibly proud to be part of such a happy and successful independent school. Durlston is a place where children are excited about coming to school each day. Arriving to a positive, nurturing atmosphere with so many chances to shine. We have wonderful facilities and grounds, but it is the quality of the relationship between our staff and children that makes Durlston such a very special place to learn and grow. Our small class sizes and 'family feel' ensure that we truly know your children.

Rightly, Durlston has a long standing reputation for all-round educational excellence – combining academic, creative and sporting opportunities with super pastoral support.

If you are looking for an exceptional school and a very warm welcome – look to Durlston.

Richard May



# Pre-Prep

(Kindergarten - Year 2)

Durlston Pre-Prep is a truly magical place to be. From tiny two year olds to inquisitive seven year olds, all our children are carefully nurtured through the start of their educational journey. Their days are filled with rich learning experiences and plenty of smiles!

Our curriculum is enhanced by exciting experiences, trips and special events; there are so many happy memories to be made. Regular visits to Forest School and Physical Education lessons, including Dance, ensure even the very youngest Durlston children have opportunities to develop perseverance, resilience and confidence, with careful guidance from our specialist staff.





*Learning is vibrant,  
interactive and fun –  
laughter is never far away!*



# Middle Prep

(Year 3 - Year 5)

Middle Prep gives children the chance to spread their wings and take steps to independence in a safe and stimulating family environment. The Middle Prep staff team (teachers and support staff) know every child as an individual and are able to provide the perfect balance of nurture, support and challenge to ensure the very best progress. Whenever children join us, at any stage, they soon feel at home, making friends quickly

and finding the confidence to 'have a go' at many wonderful opportunities that life at Durlston brings.

Excellent teaching and learning underpins all that we do. The core range of academic subjects are taught by our highly qualified and skilled Middle Prep team and the weekly timetable incorporates specialist teaching in Music, Art, DT, French and daily Sports.





Children at Durlston make  
the most fabulous progress and  
have an enormous amount  
of fun whilst doing so.

# Upper Prep

(Year 6 - Year 8)

Durlston provides a supportive but challenging learning environment, consolidating skills, knowledge and attitude as pupils take their next steps on their educational journey. You will find that the size of our school means that every pupil is known, allowing children to grow with Durlston confidence as specialist subject teachers inspire and motivate each child on a personal level. In addition to our academic success we are equally proud of our exceptional pastoral care, truly supporting the

'whole child' in achieving their full potential. Children are encouraged to take full advantage of all the wonderful opportunities at Durlston. By exploring our wonderful facilities with encouragement from specialist teaching in academics, arts, music, technology and sports – they are encouraged to find what they love. Self-esteem is further enhanced by providing leadership and prefect opportunities during the Upper Prep years.







“ Durlston has given our son the chance to mature at his own pace in a very safe environment... going through puberty can be challenging, it's been very reassuring for him to grow into a young man within the security of Durlston. ”

*Durlston Parent*

# Senior and GCSE

(Year 9 – Year 11)

As pupils embark on their GCSE pathway we provide a supportive, friendly and well-disciplined environment where every child is truly known, where pupils can truly achieve their academic potential and flourish as confident, rounded individuals. Throughout our curriculum we focus on teaching important skills like critical thinking, problem-solving and logical reasoning. We believe that these skills are not only vital for future education but also for lifelong learning and personal growth. As part of the timetable from Year 9 pupils will take part in the 'Life Experiences at Durlston'

(LEAD) programme, equipping pupils with additional life skills such as money matters, careers advice and allowing them time to spend on their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The overall purpose of these lessons is to give pupils a wider view of the world – experience things that will stand them in good stead for the future but that don't necessarily get recorded by an exam grade.

We are committed to preparing these young adults to be ready to make a difference.







*It is the relationship between  
staff and pupils that makes a  
Durlston education so unique.*







# Look to *Discover*







Look to  
*Create*













Look to  
*Succeed*



# Clubs and Camps

## Clubs and Activities

We have a full programme of exciting clubs and activities which take place after school before school and lunchtimes. From sports to music, arts and technology – there really is something for everyone!

In addition, we offer fully flexible extended care for working families from 7.45am until 5.20pm. For Pre-Prep children a chance to relax and play with friends; for older children a chance to complete homework in a quiet and supervised environment.

## Holiday Camps

When the school holidays arrive we offer a full holiday camp programme of fun activities and specialist workshops as well as the chance for adventures on days out. Children not currently at Durlston are also welcome to join us – a chance to make new friends and sample a bit of the Durlston fun!





# More Information

## Educational and Emotional Support

Our form teachers are supported by a team of classroom support staff and The Durlston Lighthouse is a dedicated department that provides enhanced teaching, learning, and pastoral support. We are committed to help every child navigate their own learning journey and we nurture their social and emotional well-being. The primary goal of the Lighthouse is to ensure that all children, regardless of their abilities or needs, feel integrated into the Durlston Family. We offer guidance, support and a safe haven whenever it is needed, alongside the assistance required to thrive academically and personally. Our qualified Directors of SEND would be more than happy to chat with you during your visit.

## Minibus Service

We run a fleet of minibuses with flexible routes across the forest and surrounding areas. Additionally, we are able to collect children from New Milton train station – enabling older children to join us from Southampton, Bournemouth, Poole and surrounding areas near a train station.

## Catering

All food is freshly prepared each day in our school kitchen accommodating any dietary requirements. A daily lunch special is available in addition to the menu options. We provide a mid-morning snack and an afternoon snack for those staying for clubs.



“

The school has a  
wonderful sense of family,  
with a balanced level of  
expectation and support.

*Durlston Parent*

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# Next Steps

## Our admissions process

### Visit

We would be delighted to invite you for a tour of the school – giving you the chance to see the school in action and speak with staff and children. There is no need to wait for a formal Open Day, we are happy to arrange visit appointments at a time that is convenient for your family. Children are always welcome to join you for a tour too.

### Taster Day

If you would then like to explore further the possibility of joining us we invite your child to attend a 'taster day'. We ask all children looking to join us at Year 7 and above to undertake a short, informal assessment. As a non-selective school, this is simply to see what level your child is working at and is certainly not something to worry about. We will be on hand to help. At this point we would ask you to submit a completed registration form, along with a registration fee.

### Offer and acceptance

The next step would be to accept an offer of a place which requires a deposit.

### Joining

Prior to starting, we will keep in touch with joining information, opportunities to come along to family events and dates for familiarisation sessions for your child. We are on hand every step of the way and always happy to help answer any questions that you or your child might have.

We hope that you will want to find out more about joining Durlston and we look forward to hearing from you again soon.









**DURLSTON**  
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[www.durlstonschool.co.uk](http://www.durlstonschool.co.uk)

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