



SOLIHULL

About the Preparatory School at Solihull

Solihull School is highly regarded locally, with excellent facilities and resources. The Preparatory School is situated on the Saint Martin's campus with the Senior School based on the nearby Warwick Road campus; the Preparatory School benefits from use of the outstanding facilities across both sites. The ISI Report on the school's most recent full inspection in November 2019 rated Solihull School as "excellent" for both pupils' personal development and academic achievement.

The Preparatory School is characterised by a strong sense of community, providing quality pastoral care and high academic standards for pupils. In January 2023 there are approximately 440 pupils on roll across the 3-11 age range. The Head of the Preparatory School is currently supported by the Preparatory Management Group, consisting of a Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral & Staff), Deputy Head (Academic) and three Assistant Heads. Most full-time members of the teaching staff have responsibility as Form Tutors and many are also subject leaders, ensuring continuity and progression within our curriculum.





About the Preparatory School at Solihull

Entry into the Preparatory School is by competitive examinations and assessments from Nursery to 10+, which are held in January. The assessments from 6+ to 10+ test for potential in English and Mathematics. Younger pupils for entry to Nursery, Reception and Infant 1 age groups attend assessment sessions and complete a range of activities based around the Early Learning Goals, supported by members of staff. An overwhelming majority of pupils transfer to the Senior School at 11+, with many gaining scholarships.

Although the Preparatory School pupils do not sit Key Stage 2 SATs, the curriculum largely follows the National Curriculum, where deemed appropriate, and in many cases extends beyond it. The curriculum is broad, but emphasises the need for the highest standards in English and Mathematics. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable Preparatory School staff provide the majority of teaching, with additional input from specialist teachers in subjects such as Spanish, Swimming, Music and PE. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive touchscreen and pupils have access to banks of iPads. We have three computer suites on campus, and a class set of portable laptops.

It is expected that pupils will do some homework each night and liaison between the school and parents is initially through the Form Tutor. There are various Open Days and Parents' Evenings throughout the year that teachers must attend. It is also expected that all staff make a positive contribution to the co-curricular life of the Preparatory School, which is busy, rich and varied.





SOLIHULL



About the Preparatory School at Solihull

Whilst academic achievement is very important, all pupils are also encouraged to discover and realise their potential in sport, music and the arts, and many enjoy county and regional representation in a variety of pursuits. Facilities are arguably some of the best in the region and pupils benefit from the link with the Senior School, having regular access to highly qualified and ex-professional players who have become specialist coaches. In recent years, pupils have competed successfully at the highest level, outperforming local state and independent schools in many sports.

Solihull has a very strong musical tradition, with its own choirs, orchestra and a number of instrumental groups, including brass, wind and string ensembles. A number of pupils sing in the school's outstanding Chapel Choir. Many of the Preparatory School music staff are very accomplished in their particular field. Preparatory School pupils benefit from use of our Main Hall and SMArt centre for dance, drama and musical performances throughout the year, as well as the Bushell Hall on our Warwick Road campus. In the last two years, several pupils have successfully auditioned and been awarded places in the National Children's Orchestra.



SOLIHULL



About the Preparatory School at Solihull

There is a wealth of activities on offer before school, at lunchtime, after school, and occasionally at weekends, and these are an important part of the broad curriculum in the Preparatory School. In addition, pupils take part in a wide range of other co-curricular clubs including debating, construction, gardening and baking, as well as many more creative and artistic activities. There is a wide range of opportunities for every pupil and we pride ourselves on nurturing talent. In addition, our Wraparound provision caters for pupils between 7:30 and 6pm offering an opportunity for them to complete homework, socialise and participate in a variety of activities. All pupils and staff are assigned to a House and compete in a variety of sporting, musical and academic events. Our School and Eco Councils meet regularly, providing opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills, raise and discuss exciting initiatives and contribute ideas to how they engage with the school. Furthermore, all pupils take a full part in annual charity fundraising, devising many ingenious and fun ways of raising considerable sums of money for several worthwhile causes. All this, combined with excellent pastoral care, helps us to achieve our main aims of doing all we can to make sure that our pupils are happy, fulfil their potential and develop skills and behaviours that benefit others.

