



St Andrew's

BERKSHIRE



Parents' Questions Answered

Frequently Asked Questions about St Andrew's, Berkshire

We hope you enjoyed your tour of St Andrew's today and had the opportunity to talk to some of our pupils and staff. There's always a lot to take in on your first visit, so we thought the following frequently asked questions and responses might help, but feel free to ask more. Please contact Jane Taylor, Director of Admissions, Marketing and Communications at taylorj@standrewsberkshire.co.uk







WHAT IS OUR SCHOOL'S VISION?

Our vision is to nurture happy, grounded and kind children, who are stretched but not stressed, and who leave the School with a zest for learning and for life.

WHAT ARE OUR SCHOOL'S VALUES?

Be kind, be your best self, and dare to think differently.

HOW MANY YEAR GROUPS ARE THERE AT ST ANDREW'S?

There are currently ten year groups at St Andrew's, ranging from Nursery (ages 2 ³/₄ - 4), through to Year 8 (ages 12 - 13).

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE THERE IN THE SCHOOL?

There are currently 320 children in the School, 100 in the Pre-Prep and 220 in the Prep.

WHAT IS THE BOY/GIRL RATIO?

As an established, co-educational school, we aim for a 50/50 split between boys and girls. There are currently 156 boys and 164 girls.

HOW MANY CLASSES ARE THERE PER YEAR?

Usually there are two classes per year, although when we occasionally have a larger cohort like our current Year 7 and 2, which have three classes.. There are approximately 18 pupils in each Prep class.

IS IT A BOARDING SCHOOL OR A DAY SCHOOL?

We are predominantly a day School with flexi-boarding from Monday – Thursday and currently have space for 24 boarders per night. Boarding costs £45 per night or £140 per week.

IS THERE SATURDAY SCHOOL?

No. We know how much families value spending time with each other over the weekends, so our week finishes on a Friday afternoon, with no Saturday School.

DOES ST ANDREW'S PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SENIOR SCHOOL ENTRY AT 13+?

Yes, most of our pupils leave St Andrew's at the end of Year 8 (13 years old).

As of September 2023, St Andrew's is moving away from Common Entrance and adopting the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (the PSB). This is a new assessment framework, completed across Years 7 and 8, that maintains academic rigour, but places greater emphasis on the whole child's education; it is highly regarded by all the senior schools that we feed.

As well as assessing the academic subjects, the likes of music, drama, ICT, art and sport are graded and a major focus is placed on key skills that are required in later life. The PSB will result in the children not only learning how to pass exams, but also developing the key character traits which enable them to be mentally flexible, resilient and good communicators – all attributes which will help them to thrive academically and socially and, in due course, professionally. If you would like to know more about the PSB, please see the Education section of our website.



DO YOU OFFER A SCHOOL BUS SERVICE?

We currently offer one bus route from Stoke Row Road – Checkendon – Woodcote – Cray's Pond – Goring & Streatley. Other routes within a 30-minute radius of St Andrew's are currently being planned.

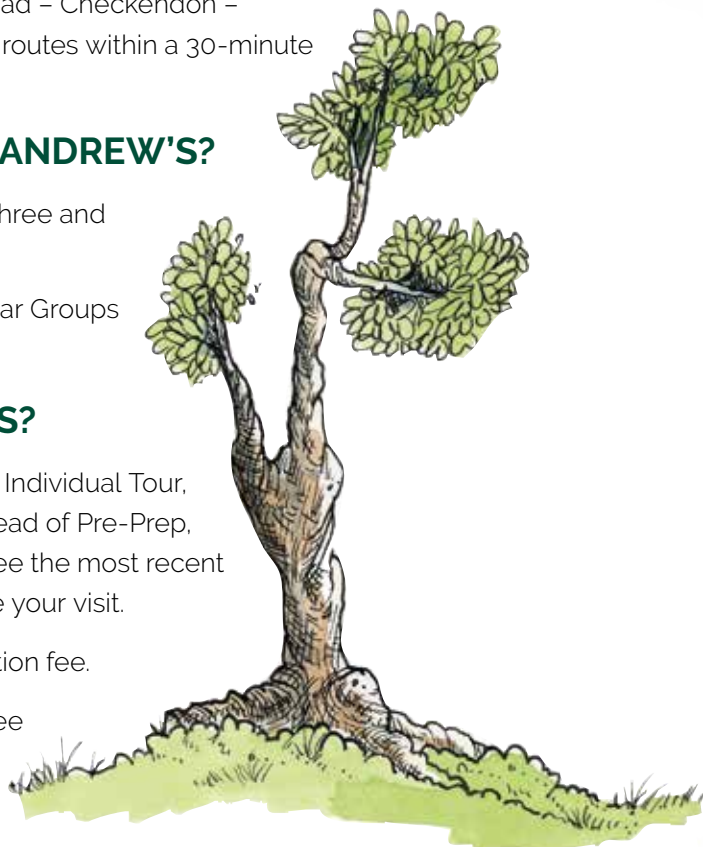
WHEN CAN MY CHILD START AT ST ANDREW'S?

Children can join Nursery in the term that they turn three and Reception in the September after they turn four.

There are then occasional places offered in other Year Groups as and when spaces arise.

WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

- Step 1:** Book a place on an Open Morning or an Individual Tour, when you will meet the Head Master, Head of Pre-Prep, and Director of Admissions. We ask to see the most recent copy of your child's school report before your visit.
- Step 2:** Register online and pay the £85 registration fee.
- Step 3:** Your child is invited for a Taster Day to see how they get along in the classroom, and for us to share our observations. We will contact your child's school with a Report Request Proforma for a reference.
- Step 4:** Parents are then offered a place, depending on availability.
- Step 5:** Parents accept our firm offer by signing and returning our application forms and paying a deposit of £500, refundable upon your child's departure from St Andrew's.
- Step 6:** To help your child settle, s/he is invited to spend a day at School with their class, and to attend a 'meet the teacher' event before term starts.



St Andrew's welcomes all abilities and there are no specific entrance exams, although we do hold informal assessments in English and Maths for setting purposes for children joining in Years 3 – 8.

WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Fees, payable termly and in advance, for the academic year 2023/2024 are:

£4,260* (five full days, Nursery – Year 1)	£6,620 (Years 3 – 4)
£4,640 (Year 2)	£7,310 (Years 5 – 8)

** Please note that the School does not participate in the Early Years Free Education Scheme.*







WHEN DOES THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL DAY START AND END?

Nursery mornings run from 8.30 am - 12.00 pm, or 1.00 pm with lunch. Afternoon sessions run from 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm and all age groups can stay until 6.00 pm.

The Pre-Prep academic day (Reception to Year 2) runs from 8.15 am - 3.30 pm.

The Prep School academic day (Years 3 - 8) runs from 8.15 am - 5.15 pm.

ARE THERE BREAKFAST AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS?

Yes. Our School day is designed to support working families. Breakfast club starts at 7.30 am.

The Pre-Prep offers daily clubs and tea club running until 6.00 pm.

The Prep School offers a range of after-school activities between 5.15 pm - 6.00 pm and then supper between 6.00 pm - 6.30 pm.

WHAT CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE ON OFFER?

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can do a range of clubs including street dance, cycling, swimming, rock-climbing, football, art, cooking, ballet, acrobatics and Lego.

In the Prep School, our co-curricular programme has over 50 activities and includes chess club, fencing, rock climbing, taekwondo, cookery, dance, swimming, cycling, LAMDA, table-tennis, debating, basketball and board games. The timetable changes according to demand and the season.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S APPROACH TO PUPIL WELLBEING?

We believe there is no single more important part of a school's holistic ethos than the pastoral care it provides. We recognise the worth of success in the classroom, on the games field, with art and drama or with music, but there is nothing more important than a happy child returning home each day.

The Form Tutors are the backbone of the pastoral system, offering support, encouragement and a listening ear. There is also an extensive network of additional support provided by the Head of Juniors, Head of Middles and Head of Seniors, PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) lessons, the Matrons, the Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Head of Pre-Prep, and the Operational Team.

St Andrew's welcomes pupils of all faiths and none, and there are also regular services in the Chapel.



HOW IS THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM ORGANISED AT ST ANDREW'S?

The following subjects will form part of your child's education at St Andrew's. The majority of subjects are taught by subject specialists from Year 4.

LESSONS IN THE CURRICULUM	
Maths	ICT
English	Art
Geography	Music
History	French
Science	German (from Year 7)
RS	Latin (from Year 5)
PSHEE	PE
Forest School (Nursery – Year 4)	Swimming

HOW MUCH HOMEWORK DO PUPILS RECEIVE?

Children in the Pre-Prep receive regular reading, whilst Years 3 and 4 also have weekly spellings, and times-tables. More formal written English and Maths homework starts in Year 5, and every subject then sets one half-hour prep, spread throughout the week, from Year 7.

CAN CHILDREN COMPLETE THEIR HOMEWORK IN SCHOOL?

Yes. The School offers a supervised prep session every day from 5.15 pm – 6.00 pm.

WHAT MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CAN MY CHILD LEARN?

Children can have lessons in singing, piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, violin, cello, drum kit, guitar; we also teach bagpipes, harp and double bass. Over 200 music lessons are scheduled each week.



HOW MANY CHOIRS ARE THERE?

There are five choirs; Pre-Prep, Year 3, Song Factory, Junior and Senior.







WHAT SPORTS ARE ON OFFER?

SEASON	BOYS	SEASON	GIRLS
AUTUMN TERM	Rugby Football Swimming Cross-country	AUTUMN TERM	Hockey Football Swimming Cross-country
SPRING TERM	Rugby Hockey Swimming Cross-country	SPRING TERM	Football Netball Swimming Cross-country
SUMMER TERM	Athletics Cricket Tennis Swimming Golf	SUMMER TERM	Athletics Cricket Tennis Swimming Golf

HOW OFTEN DO PUPILS PLAY SPORT?

Pre-Prep children have roughly 2 hours of sport every week coached by specialist teachers, and there is a focus on the development of each child's strength, co-ordination, stamina and fitness.

Prep children play an hour of sport every day and they have matches on Wednesdays and/or Fridays, in a wide variety of sports including athletics, cricket, cross-country, football, golf, hockey, netball, rugby, swimming and tennis.

All children also swim once a week.



HOW MANY DRAMA PRODUCTIONS ARE PUT ON A YEAR?

Productions throughout the year give all children the chance to perform. Children from Year 3 can also prepare for LAMDA exams in School.



WHERE DO ST ANDREW'S PUPILS GO ON TO AT 13+?

13+ LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS		
2022	2021	2020
Abingdon, Bradfield College, Downe House, Exeter School, St Edward's Oxford, Pangbourne College, Radley, The King's School Canterbury.	Abingdon, Bradfield College, Canford, Pangbourne College, Queen Anne's, Sherborne Girls, St Edward's Oxford, St Helen and St Katharine's, The Oratory, and Wellington.	Abingdon, Bradfield College, Canford, Marlborough College, Pangbourne College, Queen Anne's, Radley, Shiplake, St Helen and St Katharine's and St Edward's Oxford.

WHICH SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN WON IN THE PAST THREE YEARS?

In 2023, 11 scholarships were awarded in academics, sport, art and drama to Downe House, Bradfield College, Abingdon, St Edward's Oxford, and The Oratory.

In 2022, eight scholarships were awarded in academics, sport, music and drama to Downe House, Radley, Abingdon, Bradfield, St Edward's Oxford and Pangbourne, including the highest academic scholarship available to Abingdon.

In 2021, 12 Scholarships were awarded in academics, art and sport to Bradfield, Pangbourne, St Edward's Oxford, and The Oratory School.

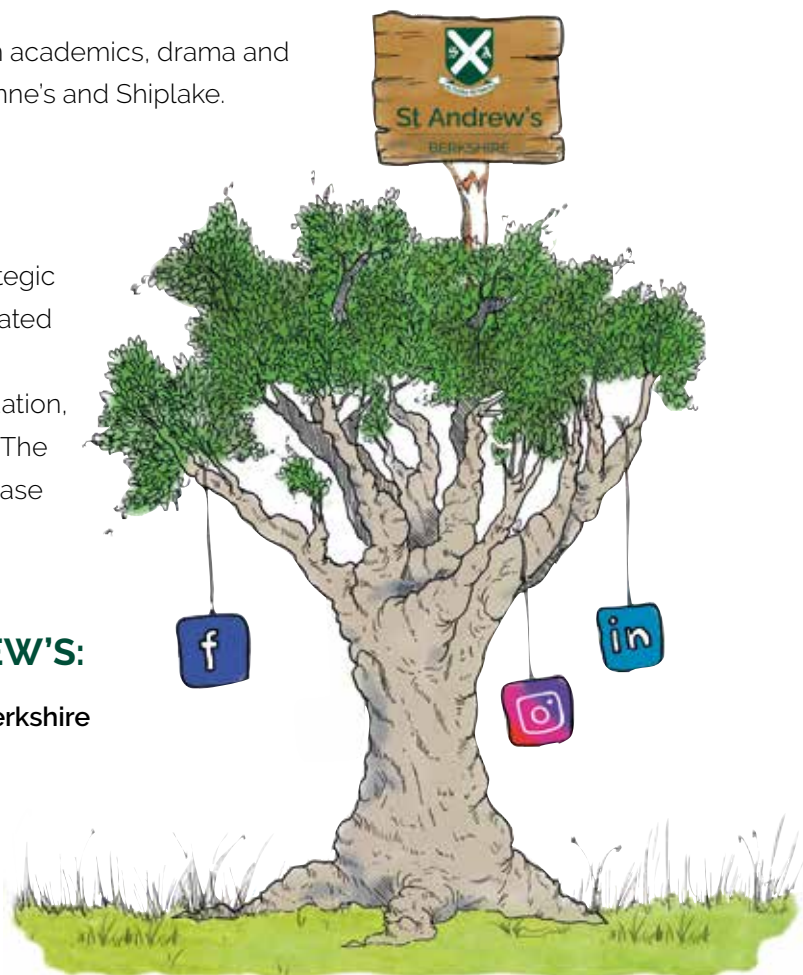
In 2020, five Scholarships were awarded in academics, drama and sport to Bradfield, Marlborough, Queen Anne's and Shiplake.

WHAT PLANS DOES THE SCHOOL HAVE?

Over the next two years, the School's strategic plan includes the development of a dedicated performing arts centre, the continued refurbishment of the boarding accommodation, and a focus on the School's sustainability. The School has submitted its Microsoft Showcase School, reflecting its commitment to the developing use of technology in classes.

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