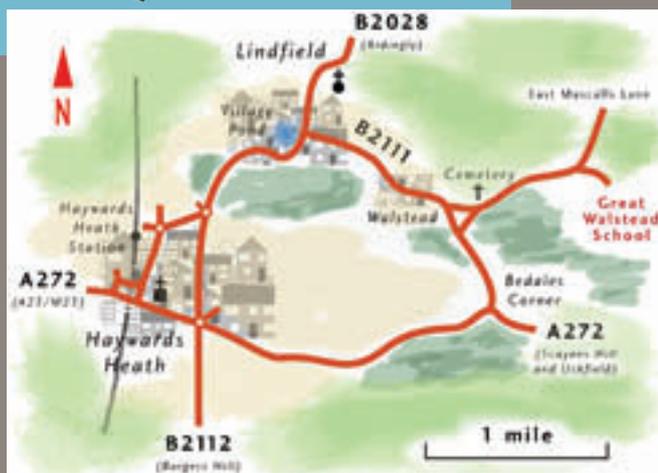




The Great in Great Walstead is: Friends; Sport; Teachers; Q Day; Leavers' trip Year 8 pupil



How to find us...

Great Walstead School is two miles east of Haywards Heath – midway between Gatwick Airport and Brighton and approximately three miles from Haywards Heath mainline station. By car from west, east or south take the A272 as far as Bedales Corner (between Scaynes Hill and Haywards Heath) and take the B2111 in the direction of Lindfield. In about half a mile turn right into East Mascalls Lane and you will find the school on your right a short way down this road.

If you are approaching from the north through Lindfield, take the left turn immediately before the pond (B2111) and follow signs to the school when you enter the hamlet of Walstead – about one mile out of Lindfield.



The Independent Association of Prep Schools



Great Walstead School

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A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms (white shirts and blue and red striped ties) and safety goggles. They are in a laboratory setting, focused on a task. One boy is holding a test tube, and the other is looking on. The background shows shelves with various laboratory equipment and supplies.

Educating children to
believe in themselves



**Great Walstead
School**

LINDFIELD, SUSSEX RH16 2QL



Our Vision:

Our Vision at Great Walstead School is to inspire all our pupils to achieve their potential in all areas, through the support and dedication of our staff in a caring Christian environment.

Our Values:

- **Christian faith**

A compassionate Christian ethos at the heart of Great Walstead School, nurturing all our pupils spiritually and morally.

- **Dedication**

We are a professional and dedicated staff united in our vision to provide a positive and rewarding educational experience for all.

- **Success**

We have a school that inspires and enables each pupil to fulfil their individual potential; values each child's achievement, celebrating academic and non-academic successes; fostering confident, independent and well-rounded pupils who work well together.

- **Environment**

We have an appreciation of our glorious woodlands and outdoor spaces; we encourage the whole school community to enjoy and respect such stunning surroundings; and we explore creative ways of learning, through outdoor activities and engagement with the natural world.

- **Communication**

We have a strong and professional partnership founded on trust, mutual respect and integrity, between pupils, staff, parents and governors, working together towards our shared vision.



An Invitation

I would like to offer you a warm welcome to Great Walstead School.

A former parent once described Great Walstead as a place of 'mud and love', which I think goes quite a long way in characterizing the spirit of our school. We have a wonderful location in the heart of the Sussex countryside and our children thrive in the opportunities offered by our 260 plus acres. We are a Christian school that seeks to value and to nurture each child. We want our children to be happy and to enjoy their time with us.

I hope that in this prospectus you will also gain an impression of a school that gives children a tremendous start in life. We have experienced and inspiring staff who always go the extra mile to discover children's gifts and talents and to develop them. Our facilities are superb and our results are impressive.

In the next few pages I am going to take you on a brief tour of the school. But the only way to experience the unique ethos of Great Walstead is to come and see for yourself. Please contact us to arrange a visit and discover what makes Great Walstead such a special place.

Colin Baty NPQH, BEd, Dip Teaching (Waikato, NZ), CPP Boarding (Hons)

Tour of the School

We start in the Victorian country house at the heart of the school buildings. This is where, in 1927, our founder, Mr Mowll, brought his small clutch of 15 boys. From these small beginnings has grown a thriving co-educational school. With all this change, however, we have stuck fast to Mr Mowll's original vision for a Christian school in the country where children would grow up with space, enjoying the beauty of their surroundings.

Nursery (2½–4 years) This is where the youngest of our children play and learn in a happy and stimulating environment. Our aim is to provide a full, rich and varied Nursery education. We have three large and attractive linked rooms, which are purpose designed to give ample space for a wide range of activities. Our Nursery children are an integral part of the Great Walstead family and, in particular, develop close relationships with the Pre-Prep, helping them to make an easy transition to school life.

Pre-Prep (4–7 years) During their three years in the Pre-Prep, our children will be given a thorough grounding in the foundation skills of reading, writing and maths. They will also develop as individuals in this secure and happy setting. We follow the National Curriculum but, in addition, give an educational breadth through specialist teaching in, for example, French, music, PE and games.

The Pre-Prep has its own separate library, ICT suite, cookery room, music and movement and play areas, yet it is linked physically to the rest of the school – the children use the facilities of the whole school where appropriate and get to know their way around. The move to Year 3 is, therefore, a natural and easy progression.

Years 3–8 (7–13 years) As we move to the Atrium, at the centre of the school buildings, we find the classrooms and subject teaching rooms for the older children. They also have their own well-stocked library, science lab and use the performing arts centre as well as the studios for art, design technology, pottery and home economics. This part of the school has Junior (7–9 years) Middle (9–11) and Senior (11–13) sections, each with their own Head. This gives focus and leadership to each age group and facilitates small rites of passage for the children as they progress up the school.

In the Junior School, the children have class teachers who take them for the vast majority of the timetable. Once or twice a week they may work in ability groupings across the year group. They will have specialist teachers for French, ICT, PE and games, as well as for the performing and visual arts. Through this the children gradually learn increased independence.

In the Middle School, class teachers will teach at least one core curriculum subject (such as maths or English) and maintain pastoral and academic oversight of the children. But an increasing proportion of the timetable is taught by graduate specialists and children will be set for some subjects.

In their last two years at the school – in the Senior School – the children join smaller tutor groups. Tutors oversee the pupils' academic and pastoral well-being as they are prepared for Common Entrance (at 13) and scholarships to senior schools, where our record of achievement is enviable. The children learn to take on responsibility for others within the school, for example, by doing regular duties or as Prefects, Peer Mentors and Heads of School. They leave Great Walstead as mature, confident individuals ready to take on the challenges of Senior School.



Information and Communications Technology

Great Walstead leads the field in its provision of ICT for Prep School age children. ICT is part of the curriculum for children from Nursery upwards. All our classrooms are equipped with PCs and we have three modern computer rooms with 21 networked PCs in each and a smaller room for the Pre-Prep. This allows the rooms to be used not only for teaching ICT skills but other subjects where individual access to a computer is important. We also have interactive whiteboards in all classrooms.

Learning Development

In a suite of rooms that is very much part of the school, we have specialist staff who can give support to children who need additional help to achieve the academic success to match their ability.

The Chapel

This is the spiritual centre of the school, where daily assemblies are held. It is also where music, concerts and plays take place. These performances are a regular feature of Great Walstead life.

But, above all, the Chapel is where we try to bring to life the truths of the Christian faith and focus on the reality that there is more to life than this material world. It is a place to meet with God.



The great thing about Great Walstead is the way we all contribute to everything which lets us find our talents Year 8 pupil

Performing Arts

The school has an exciting performing arts programme which centres on the modern Performing Arts Centre with its large studio for dance and drama, and its music teaching rooms.

Music is at the very heart of life at Great Walstead for every child. Music is sung and played in class and chapel and there are ensemble and solo rehearsals every day of the school year. Many children elect to learn singing or a musical instrument from our peripatetic music teachers and some will go on to achieve music scholarships to senior schools. There is a full programme of concerts and showcase recitals.

Drama too is taught as part of the curriculum for everyone in the school. Different sections of the school work towards productions in which everyone is encouraged to participate. In addition, there is a highly professional school play – often a musical – which is produced in the Autumn term, with the cast chosen from amongst the older children. We prepare our talented actors to take drama scholarships to senior schools.

Dance for both boys and girls comes under the umbrella of the Physical Education programme and features in our showcase concerts. Modern dance and ballet are available as after-school activities and dance workshops are arranged during the course of the year. Many children take individual ballet and dance exams and achieve high standards.



Activities

We have a wide range of activities offered to our children, from the Nursery right through to Year 8 they can try a wide range of activities. These are held after the School day and include football, swimming, craft club, fencing, ballet, modern dance, bridge, chess club, judo and gardening club...



The great thing about Great Walstead is Q-Day, because we get to spend a night in the woods and have fun with our friends and also the leavers' programme. I can't wait Year 8 pupil



Sport

As we move out of the main block of buildings the wonderful sports facilities at the school become obvious. First there is the superbly equipped, large, Sports Hall; then the many acres of playing fields and our own covered, heated swimming pool. It is not surprising that, with these facilities, Great Walstead has a strong sporting reputation, not only in the main team sports, but also in more individual sports. Specialist staff encourage children to develop skills in many areas as part of the curriculum. There are regular fixtures against other schools and, additionally, a full range of out of school clubs and competitions organised at the school. We regularly send children on from Great Walstead with sports scholarships to senior schools.

Woods and Outdoor Pursuits

A large proportion of the school's 260 plus acres is woodland (and some farmland) which make many outdoor activities possible. The youngest children in the Nursery and Pre-Prep enjoy weekly walks in the woods whilst the older children build camps in the Summer term and even camp out.

Our Challenge Course, which is near the front lawn, has ropes, logs, swings and balances, giving enormous pleasure to all ages throughout the year.

Of course, there are also opportunities to go on expeditions and outings. Our leavers' trip each Summer term is something that all former pupils remember.



Art and Design Technology

Situated a little way from the main part of the school are old farm buildings, which have been converted to make the workshops and studios of this department. We have an Art Studio, a Design Technology Workshop, a Pottery (with its own kiln) and Home Economics room.

We believe that creative development is an important part of children's education. All our children take part in each of these activities during the year and can also choose to do more within the school day or in organised activities after school. We prepare our talented artists for scholarships to senior schools.





Our vision at Great Walstead School is to inspire all our pupils to achieve their potential in all areas, through the support and dedication of our staff, in a caring Christian environment.

Boarding and Out of School Care

The school day is from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 3.30pm (Nursery/Pre-Prep) or 4.30pm (Years 3–8). But, in fact, we hardly ever close. We recognise that family life is increasingly busy and complicated. In our boarding and out of school provision, we aim to be as flexible as possible to help to meet families’ needs, not only during the school day, but outside those hours and in the holidays too.

We offer occasional and weekly boarding (Monday to Thursday nights) for Years 3–8. The boarders have rooms in the original country house and are looked after by House Parents and other resident staff. Our School Nurse, a qualified practitioner, looks after the health of all the children in the school and her surgery is close to the boarder accommodation.

Many children like to board at the school, keen not to miss out on the fun of hobbies and activities shared with others. We run themed Friday night sleepovers twice a term to enable all children who wish to do so to have a taste of boarding life. Our boarders have an important place at the heart of the school community.

For our day children, the day can start with breakfast at 8.00am and go on to 6.00pm for Nursery children upwards or even later for those older children wanting to stay on to do homework or attend clubs.

Our out of school care for the younger children centres around the Keep, a specially designed suite of rooms where children can relax and enjoy supervised play in an extended family atmosphere. We make sure that the children get to and from any clubs in which they are involved and then return to the Keep for cooked supper. Keep care continues through the holidays. Alongside this we also run regular holiday activities for different ages.



Great Walstead is great because it has triple fantastic lunches Pre-Prep pupil