

# Windlesham

## Prep

Independent Boarding and Day School for Boys and Girls | 7 - 13 years









# Freedom to achieve...

Rachel and I feel very proud and privileged to be entrusted with such a vibrant, inspirational and highly successful school. Windlesham is renowned for offering exceptional education provided by very talented staff, who take enormous pride in the progress and welfare of each and every child.



Academic excellence and success is a high priority together with pastoral care. We offer a warm, secure, caring and very happy family atmosphere by building a strong rapport amongst staff and children, which ultimately makes Windlesham a home and gives our pupils the freedom to achieve.

We derive immense pleasure in seeing our children grow and develop into confident and well-rounded individuals. A great deal of emphasis is placed on our core values of friendliness, fairness, kindness, decency and consideration, providing lessons for life. Our children leave Windlesham with a great sense of self, as well as respect and understanding for those around them, enabling them to flourish at senior school and beyond.

Words and pictures alone cannot give you a true reflection of Windlesham's lively and affectionate atmosphere or the wonderful relationships which are cultivated amongst the staff, parents and children.

To see for yourself the friendliness, self-confidence and good manners of the children, please visit us and I will be delighted to show you around personally.

We all look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Windlesham.

**Richard Foster**, Headmaster

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# Freedom to fulfil...

Academic excellence is at the core of everything we do. Every child is encouraged and given the freedom to fulfil their potential, whether for an academic, sporting, art or music scholarship, or to assimilate the curriculum confidently.

Small classes enable our teachers to give each child the nurturing they need in order for them to reach their full potential. The pupils are taught in a mixture of sets and forms, so that they learn with others and have the security and appropriate challenges to develop. The gifted and talented are stimulated through various initiatives including regular scholars' evenings.

Our close relationship with parents enables us to keep them involved throughout. Regular reports are provided during and at the end of each term which reflect our assessment of the progress being made.

Our children follow a broad curriculum with an emphasis on learning through experience. At Windlesham we believe that education is to be enjoyed and we provide a place where every child is able to contribute and feel valued. Our teachers deliver imaginative and inspiring lessons, ensuring that a motivational and pleasurable learning experience is received.

Praise, encouragement and individual attainment underpin our philosophy that respect for each unique personality gives all our children the freedom to develop in their own way.

Whatever the age of entry, our mission is to provide Windlesham pupils with the academic ability and self-belief which will enable them to relish new challenges and attain their individual goals for the future with total confidence.

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# Freedom to learn...

Nestled in 60 glorious acres on the South Downs, the magnificent architecture, the stunning grounds, unparalleled facilities and the dedication of all the staff combine to make Windlesham a truly wonderful educational experience.

Our facilities include three science laboratories, a fully-equipped music department, a well-stocked library, dance studio, theatre, Chapel, sports hall, an indoor swimming pool as well as wonderful playing fields, an astro turf pitch, a nine hole golf course and eight tennis courts. There is an extensive Design Centre and our ICT facilities include four computer rooms.

Children are introduced to Spanish and Latin at early ages, as well as being given the chance to study Food Technology and Textiles. Information Technology is an integral part of all academic subjects and provides the platform for children to explore new ideas and experiences.

Imaginative, inspirational and thorough teaching help our children to develop a strong moral sense. This is backed up by clear, consistent messages which are reinforced through Chapel, Assemblies, House Tutor meetings, Religious Studies lessons, one-to-one sessions with Houseparents and Tutors as well as in the children's daily dealings with each other.

Moral leadership is also a strong theme at Windlesham. There is a relaxed but structured day that enables the children to take responsibility for themselves and others, giving them the freedom to learn.

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# Freedom to perform...

Music is a vital part of life at Windlesham and over 80% of our children play a musical instrument. Our well-equipped Music Department is enhanced by our highly motivated and exceptional staff.

Each child is given the opportunity to enjoy different instruments with the emphasis on exploring, experimenting and succeeding. There is a wide and varied range of instruments available to learn, from bagpipes to bass guitar, saxophone to xylophone. Pupils also have the opportunity to delve into a kaleidoscope of different musical directions with the chance to learn music composition as well as the techniques of recording in our recording studio.

We aim to increase self-confidence and to allow pupils to discover and improve their musical ability, regardless of what they think they are able to do. The thrill of performance helps to develop self-esteem and every child has the opportunity to be involved in at least three productions or concerts every year.

It is our belief that, whatever a child's ability or level of achievement, music is essential for creating a harmonious and fulfilling atmosphere that contributes to individual wellbeing, enjoyment and success.

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# Freedom to express...

Drama is a thriving department at Windlesham where the children articulate through fun, energetic and challenging practical classes. The power of the subject gives the children the freedom to express opinions; also to self-assess, develop memory, experiment and to refine and examine detail. Via important texts and key theatrical genres, the children create original work to demonstrate their understanding of the style in question and are assessed regularly in a fair and non-pressured way.

There are no less than three major productions a year ranging from rock musicals to Shakespeare and every child who auditions for a play is included. Children have the chance to learn stage management skills, lighting and sound operation, as well as costuming. They work across year boundaries against real deadlines to produce hugely ambitious productions.

Each year Windlesham children gain drama scholarships to the most prestigious schools in the country, as well as places at the National Youth Music Theatre and with theatrical agencies.

Numerous dance activities include ballet, tap, modern and street dance. The children are supported in choreographing their own pieces for our annual Dance Competition.

Our beautiful Malden Family Theatre plays host to our various performances and is also used twice-termly for professional productions which are open to the children and their parents.

The theatre was opened in December 1988 by perhaps the school's most illustrious theatrical Old Boy, Sir Michael Hordern, to celebrate the school's 150th Anniversary. Named after the Malden family, who had been Heads of Windlesham since the reign of William IV, the charming building blends successfully with the Queen Anne main school, and was considered by Sir Michael Hordern "a small jewel in the crown of English Theatre."

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# Freedom to create...

Design Technology and Art are central to the curriculum from day one but creativity at Windlesham goes deeper than that. Every child at Windlesham has the freedom to create, using a wide range of materials including ceramics, clay and textiles plus techniques from the traditional through to more modern processes.

All the children are expected to reach a good level of competency in producing designs, which they can confidently realise through an array of different materials. Key life skills, such as sewing on a button or wiring a plug, are also taught through a variety of different projects.

The department plays a major role in the school activity programme, offering the opportunity to develop skills in everything from glass fusing and Raku pottery to felt-making and robotics.

The children are positively encouraged to use the art room in their free time and the workshop is available for personal projects.

Pupils who show exceptional talent and interest in this area can be guided and mentored towards relevant scholarships.

The creativity and enthusiasm which the children bring to the subject forms a unique atmosphere, fostering friendships and working partnerships that take them beyond their normal form and year boundaries.

Windlesham's walls and grounds are a showcase of our children's various efforts and accomplishments with numerous mosaics, sculptures and paintings on display. While many pieces enjoy a permanent place, becoming part of Windlesham's enduring history, we also regularly rotate our displays so that all children can enjoy recognition for the fruits of their endeavours.

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# Freedom to excel...

Surrounded by the stunning vista of the South Downs, with playing pitches lovingly tended for over 70 years and truly inspirational coaching staff, it is hard not to be excited by sport at Windlesham.

Our aim is for every child to discover the joy of sport, to experience involvement, achievement and encouragement in a safe and secure environment. Through sport, pupils are able to develop a healthy, balanced view of life and to understand the value of teamwork, fair play and an altruistic attitude.

Competing to the best of their abilities, appreciating the efforts of others, helping the team to succeed through cooperation, winning modestly and losing graciously all contribute to creating well-rounded individuals. No matter what their level, confidence is further instilled in the children by allowing them to develop their own particular interests and expertise in many individual sports, such as athletics, golf, riding, swimming and tennis.

All pupils are provided with the opportunity to play at the best and most appropriate level for themselves. This may be County and National level or simply inter-school or inter-house contests. Sports tours are a regular feature of our games programme, providing pupils with the chance to experience competition, camaraderie and the freedom to excel.

Our exceptional grounds and ever-improving facilities present endless opportunities for self-development. Top sporting awards to the major public schools are testament to Windlesham's expertise and skill in bringing youngsters on and helping them to reach the pinnacle of their abilities.

Above all, Windlesham's approach to sport enables our children to thrive not just physically but mentally, shaping them for life and allowing them to appreciate the crucial differences between good luck and hard work.

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# Freedom to enjoy...

Boarding life at Windlesham is comfortable, cosy, happy and fun. We provide a strong family atmosphere amongst the children and the Houseparents which creates bonds that can last a lifetime. With busy days so well planned, that many of the normal stresses and strains of life are forgotten, our pupils have the freedom to enjoy life at Windlesham.

A typical day begins with breakfast together with the teachers. Some children may have already practised a musical instrument or played with friends before eating – then it is just a short walk to the classrooms.

At the end of the day a whole variety of activities, from fencing and cookery to tennis and art, keep the children happily engaged – not a games console in sight! 'Prep' is then completed together followed by supper and free time. Bedtime and lights out is always a warm, familiar routine.

Dormitories and bathrooms are bright and cheerful. The children can bring their own possessions, including duvets, toys, photos, books, games and teddies, to create a sense of familiarity and homeliness.

The staff dedicate themselves to providing help and assistance with the day-to-day routines of normal life, from organising a birthday party to booking a dental appointment. This means every single child feels well looked after and cared for.

Parents are always welcome to visit and stay in regular contact with Houseparents and other members of staff. Children can call home and keep in touch by email. Overseas boarders are well catered for and their travel arrangements are carefully co-ordinated.

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A young boy is shown from the side, looking towards the left. He is wearing a black jacket with a white 'W' logo on the sleeve, a green beanie, and red rubber boots. He is standing in a wooded area with many thin, vertical tree trunks in the background.

# Freedom to explore...

Having fun is an essential ingredient of life at Windlesham. Weekends are packed, varied and entertaining. While some children go home for weekends, the majority choose to stay here and enjoy a fabulous selection of things to do and see. This can be as simple as activities within the grounds, a day at the seaside, or a special trip to a major sporting event. Specialist teachers run our Outdoor Adventure Activities, which involve camping, orienteering and climbing. These Outward Bound initiatives can be overnight, for the weekend or in the case of our final year group, a whole week as a memorable end to their time at Windlesham.

From mountain biking and climbing to wind surfing and karate, the options to discover new activities are endless with an enormous choice of different pursuits on offer. If children harness a particular passion, be it sport, music or the arts, we will arrange individual sessions, training, practice or visits to inspire and give them the freedom to explore their talents. Regular overseas trips and expeditions also feature in our programme such as skiing, safaris and sports tours.

Supper on a Saturday evening is sometimes prepared by the children and staff together and themed to highlight the activities or events arranged for that weekend. Cinema, theatre and other off site evening events are regularly organised.

On Sunday mornings, breakfast is followed by Chapel. Pupils wear their Sunday Best and many parents join us for the morning service, which is followed by coffee and biscuits in the Front Hall. A traditional Sunday lunch is followed by more activities or free time. Most children are grateful for an early bed on Sunday night, tired but happy and fulfilled.

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# Freedom to develop...

Windlesham puts a great deal of care and consideration into ensuring all our children are provided with healthy, balanced and nutritional meals. We believe there are no “healthy” or “unhealthy” foods, only healthy and unhealthy diets. We strive to ensure all our children understand the value of “everything in moderation” and enjoy a diverse range of tastes and textures.

Our children benefit from an exceptional standard of quality hot and cold dishes, vegetarian options and snacks which provide them with a tasty, varied and balanced diet. All of our food is prepared daily in our own kitchens by highly experienced chefs. Our menus are changed daily so that children have the freedom to develop their palates; we also cater for individual dietary requirements and specific allergies.

To ensure the children are eating well and developing excellent table manners, the staff sit amongst them during mealtimes. We feel that children should perceive food as a pleasure to be enjoyed and that eating healthily should be fun. Breakfast, lunch, supper, morning break and afternoon tea are all provided.

Our Medical Centre is located on site and is staffed by an expert team of qualified nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days per week during term time. There are four surgery times per day when pupils can take their medication and have their ailments attended to. The nurse on duty is available at other times to attend to accidents or emergencies, and to look after in-patients or those who feel unwell.

Entry medicals and regular check-ups are provided and we can also arrange the administration of medicines, vitamins and vaccinations.

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# Freedom to flourish...

Windlesham was founded in 1837 by Charles Robert Malden and is one of the country's oldest and leading IAPS prep schools. Charles and Elizabeth Ann Malden were the last of five generations of Malden Heads and their joint headship alone lasted nearly 40 years (1957 – 1994).

While Windlesham has a very rich history, we are also a progressive and forward thinking school. In 1963 we were among the first schools to become a Trust and in 1967 the first traditional boys' boarding prep school to take girls. We have our own naming system for the pupils; the children who have one year left at the School are called the Ones, those with two years left are called Twos and so on.

Windlesham's open and inclusive approach fosters friendships which endure. Our family extends far beyond the walls of our buildings, with many children and staff keeping in touch throughout their lives.

Every year, leavers return to meet old friends and remember the good times and challenges they shared together. There are picnics and games in the grounds.

The Windlesham Association, formed in 1910, keeps the community together, as old boys and girls live out their extraordinary lives in all corners of the globe. Newsletters, a website and email keep people in touch. Twice a year, the Association brings them together, sometimes in the UK, sometimes in Hong Kong or elsewhere. Old friends are able to reminisce, to support one another and to remember values learned at Windlesham that have held them in great stead over the subsequent years and given them the freedom to flourish into exceptional, successful and well-rounded individuals.

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# Freedom to succeed...

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*Thank you for letting Isobel move to Windlesham mid-term, thank you for letting her develop the way she has, thank you for being such an outstanding school in each and every respect. Thank you and all of your staff. If we had one regret it was that we didn't place Isobel with you at the earliest opportunity.*

**Parent**

*I have so many happy memories of Windlesham that will stay with me forever; fun in the snow, IAPS netball, the Easter Egg hunts, activity week, Wales and the Leavers' Dinner.*

**Pupil**

*How happy we are with Windlesham. William has been so happy and his exam results are just brilliant... more importantly William has felt secure, safe and content throughout his Windlesham prep school days.*

**Parent**

*Thank you very much for an amazing last year at Windlesham. I thoroughly enjoyed all of it; the friends, teachers and the fun of it all.*

**Pupil**

*We are so pleased with Windlesham and we really couldn't find a more caring, nurturing school for our daughter.*

**Parent**

*I think moving to Windlesham was the best thing that ever happened to me.*

**Pupil**

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