



SOLIHULL

About the Preparatory School at Solihull

Solihull School is highly regarded locally, with excellent facilities and resources. The new Preparatory School, formed as a result of the merger between Solihull School and Saint Martin's School, is situated on the Saint Martin's campus and opened in September 2020. The Senior School is based on the nearby Warwick Rd campus and the Preparatory School benefits from shared use of the facilities. 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 September 2020 there are approximately 450 pupils on roll across the 3-11 age range. The Head of the Preparatory School is supported by the Preparatory Management Group, consisting of a Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral), Deputy Head (Academic), Assistant Head (Infants), Assistant Head (Juniors) and the EYFS Lead. Most full-time members of the teaching staff have responsibility as Form Tutors and are also subject leaders, driving the curriculum.

Entry into the Preparatory School is by competitive examinations and assessments from 3+ 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 an assessment morning 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 broadly 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 Maths. 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. Regular use of video conferencing helps to provide expertise beyond the classroom. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and access to a suite of ipads.

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.

Co-Curricular Activities

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 pupils 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 & 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. Last year, for example, our U11 netball team reached the IAPS national finals and our athletics team provided a very high proportion of individual champions in the Borough Athletics and were overall winners.

Solihull has a very strong musical tradition, with its own choirs, orchestra and a number of instrumental groups, including brass, wind and string ensembles. Pupils benefit from the expertise of the music staff, many of whom are very accomplished in their particular field. A number of pupils sing in the school's outstanding Chapel Choir. Preparatory School pupils benefit from use of the SMART centre for dance, drama and musical performances throughout the year, as well as the Bushell Hall on our Warwick Rd campus. This year, two pupils were successful in auditioning and being awarded places in the National Children's Orchestra.

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 on offer in the Preparatory School. In addition, pupils take part in debating, public speaking and dance, as well as many more creative and artistic activities. There is something for every pupil and we pride ourselves on nurturing talent and in helping every child to fulfil their potential.

Our School Council meets fortnightly, 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.

