

Excelsior College



WELCOME

Welcome to Excelsior College. We aim to provide our pupils with a top academic education and offer a wide variety of opportunities for character development.

You can learn much from this prospectus. You will be able to judge the extent of our ambition, for our pupils' academic achievement and expectations. You can see how the school is organised and how we expect parents to get involved.

Your collection of factual information will assist in your choice of a school. But there is more to choosing a school. The purpose, atmosphere of a school and sense of community are vital factors in developing pupils. These you can judge best by visiting the school as a guest at one of its functions. I shall be happy to meet you with your son or daughter. When you visit the school you may wish to speak, to current parents and perhaps meet pupils. Please telephone the school, to arrange a convenient time.

Excelsior College is a co-educational school with a foundation stage department. The school was founded in 1989. It has a uniquely dynamic and friendly environment. Among the main features of the school is our encouragement of tolerance, liberal and independent enquiry embracing mutual respect.

Excelsiorians are bound by academic ambition, a strong desire to progress and to embrace new experiences and independent thinking.

INTRODUCTION FROM DIRECTOR

Your son or daughter's education is of vital importance to you as a parent. It is an investment in the future and you will quite naturally want to find the right school for your child.

If you are seeking an excellent, traditional education with its feet soundly based in the modern world, Excelsior College will be primary in your considerations.

We provide broader opportunities than most other schools of its kind in this country. The opportunities, the sense of community and the vigour of this school cannot be reflected in this prospectus. The school and its ethos are unique.

We seek to develop your son's or daughter's potential wherever that potential may lie. By achieving success in a particular area, confidence, self-esteem, morale is boosted and future prospects are enhanced.

Progressive freedom with responsibility is granted with increasing age within a disciplined structure. We hope that this will build a sense of commitment, determination, responsibility and self-discipline that will take our children successfully through secondary education and later life.

Academic qualifications are of vital importance today and we prepare children for the challenge of achieving the best. Equally important is a strong forward going personality familiar with and expecting success in their chosen niche. We are hopeful that this breadth in education involving you as parent, will put down a formidable foundation to enable your daughter or son to meet the challenges of the future in a demanding and changing world.

The school was founded by its present director. Its establishment was the expression of a childhood dream nurtured in adolescence and brought to reality in adulthood. It could almost be regarded as a life long accomplishment.

The urgency of fulfilling this dream was accelerated by the arrival of the current director's offsprings for whom he felt there could be no compromise in the principles or practice of education and its place in society. This commitment was extended and offered to other parents through Excelsior College.

The school's reputation is built upon an energetic and uncompromising commitment to high standards of self-discipline, self-belief and behavioural etiquette.

Gareth Gilfillian
DIRECTOR

RAISON D'ETRE – OUR REASON FOR BEING

Excelsior College encourages children to pursue intellectual activity for the purpose of challenge and enjoyment.

Children are encouraged to pursue knowledge and its acquisition with tenacity and for the purpose of fostering original thought and creating new ideas.

We aim to develop independence in our children who are vigorously encouraged to establish their own standards and develop a sense of responsibility disposed to forming independent opinions, judgements and action.

Strategies have been developed and are consistently applied, whose purpose it is to assist our children in their development of self-awareness, to be mindful of their own strengths and weaknesses and to become self disciplined.

Our purpose also includes the development of a formidable sense of determination and commitment.

In our view, an unflappable persona is essential to success in the face of the inevitable adversities that life will sometimes pose. The Excelsior College child is therefore encouraged to be polite, patient, dignified, vivacious and relentless in pursuance of their goals.

Our practices foster an environment in which the virtues of service, loyalty to family, community and nation are nurtured in our children.

Children are gently inclined towards understanding that there are cultural, religious and gender differences. Through out tutelage, we expect our children to be proud of these differences whilst developing a greater pride and value of the overriding strengths of their similarities and interest.

In recognition of the role played by parents, family and friends, our objective is to involve all, especially parents in their children's education.

Our endeavour is to provide an emotionally stable, disciplined, ordered and clean environment in which each child's individuality is highly respected and provided with the progressive freedom to flourish.

We are subject to OFSTED inspectors and aim to maintain high standards. Our outcomes are realistic and measurable.

We expect our children to be moving towards reading fluently by 6years old. Before that we expect them to be reading using specific reading strategies. Their listening, speaking and reasoning skills are given substantial attention, through comprehensive programmes of formal and informal verbal interaction.

Our children are opinionated, self-assured, proud and goal-orientated. We aim to develop the qualities which we believe are important in taking them through their lives successfully.

We seek to develop our children's potential and their awareness and value thereof.

We hope that this perspective on education, which involves you as parents, will lay a strong foundation for your son or daughter. This will contribute to preparing them to meet the challenges of the future in a world that is constantly changing.

WHERE HAVE OUR CHILDREN GONE

Former pupils have gone on to achieve above average grades in their GCSE results. Many have achieved exceptional grades. Amongst these are substantial grades at A stars and A. Those who have gone onto advanced levels have achieved grades A to C. The areas of interest, varies from graphic arts, languages to medicine.

Some children attended independent school, grant-maintained and comprehensive establishments. They have become well rounded, young people with interest in classical piano, jazz piano, cello, saxophone and vocals. Some have performed publicly at renowned music venues others have had minor roles on television programmes.

CURRICULUM

The school has pays close attention to the national curriculum and ensures that its contents are taught. Our course of study also reaches beyond the national curriculum in providing a much broader base and range of subjects necessary to provide our children with a greater breadth of knowledge and quality of early educational experience – a prerequisite for living, working and hoping to shape a rapidly changing world.

The present curriculum includes English, Mathematics and Science which are core subjects. Geography, history, French, art, technology, ICT, music, PHSE, physical education are also taught.

CROSS CURRICULA SKILLS

The school recognises that many skills and areas of knowledge, such as communication, numeracy and science are inter-related. Therefore, in addition to the usual subjects, pupils are exposed to project work reflecting the integrated nature of knowledge and which also meaningfully develops cross curricula themes and skills in practical ways.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Although the school is non-denominational, it nevertheless pays close attention to the children's spiritual understanding and principles of a spiritual life. This includes respect for all living things, one's own religious beliefs as well as the religious and cultural beliefs and practices of others.

AIMS

- To encourage independence of thought and high standards in all activities.
- To incline children to the pursuit of excellence through the development of commitment and determination.
- To encourage children to set personal goals.
- To provide an environment in which children's self esteem, confidence and respect for others can be grow
- To provide an integrated approach to academic studies such that each child can find their area of interest.
- To encourage an inclination for the search of knowledge and originality in its application.
- To provide a caring environment responsive to each child's needs, whilst also developing their sense of community.
- To develop a sense of their role in the school community, their family, heritage and international community.
- To maintain a structured, disciplined and ordered environment where individuality can flourish.
- To develop self discipline and high standards of behavioural etiquette in each pupil

PREPARATION FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Attention is paid to your child's continued education when they move on to primary or secondary education. This is of special importance to you as parents who wish to secure the next stage in your child's education. We work towards assuring the best result for your son or daughter so that your choice of school is met. As a matter of course, children's review exercises often resemble test questions found in examination papers for entry to secondary independent schools. Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) are also used in conjunction with other nationally recognised test papers; all of which will have direct

relevance to their examination prospects and approach towards similar challenges in the future. We also keep abreast of educational reforms and developments that will improve our outcomes.

Children from Excelsior College now attend a range of state grant maintained and independent schools.

Many of our former students have become successful GCSE and 'A' level pupils who are now pursuing courses in higher education.

SCHOOL RULES

Rules are kept to a minimum, necessary to ensure the good order, safety of children and smooth running of the community. All parents receive a copy when their children enter the school.

Children must be collected by 4.00pm. There is an additional charge of £20 within each half an hour after 4.00pm. This charge will be placed on the parent's account. Information regarding the record of lateness will be obtainable upon submission of written request. Parents must also pay close attention to punctuality for morning reception. Arrivals after 9.00 am is regarded as a breach of conduct and school rules.

Parents must give the school written notification and cause of children's absence which preferably should be scheduled to avoid interference with school's activities, plays, concerts, sports day or outings.

Children must be dressed in correct and full uniform whilst at school.

Boys may not wear earrings and should have modest, unsculptured haircuts.

Girls with pierced ears must wear modest hoops, so that if tugged, they will easily fall out.

Hair bands or ribbons must be of a modest design and size and must be black or blue.

Written notification must be given if a child is to be collected by another person but their legal guardian or parents. Please also inform your children if there is to be any change in the person collecting them.

Children who have contracted a contagious medical condition, must remain absent from school for the full duration of the isolation period after which a doctor's note must be submitted in confirmation and before their return.

HEALTH AND PASTORAL CARE

The school is guided by the regulations of the Children Act 1989.

In addition there is strong and real concern for the emotional and physical health and comfort of our children.

Much time is spent with each child individually who is listened to attentively. Children are given opportunities for informal open-ended discussions in which they are encouraged to express their views, fears and concerns candidly. These conversations are held privately. However, any relevant concerns that arise are then shared with their school director who will then have discussion with parents around the same issue and its wider implications.

A holistic approach is taken to pastoral care; there is deep desire for continuity which feeds into a strong encouragement toward parent/teacher co-operation.

The school is divided into sections according to age sets. Each set has permanently attached staff with whom children are encouraged to develop a caring relationship.

Children are nevertheless encouraged to form relationship with members of staff with whom they have developed an affinity.

Excelsior College's pastoral care is expressed in a multitude of relationships between teachers and pupils in the classroom, in the playing field, at the dinner table and not least and often very effectively, by senior *children* who carry considerable personal responsibilities. The school is a very caring and friendly community.

Members of staff provide help and encouragement to children. They provide an environment in which imagination can flourish and mistakes are caringly dealt with as a means of positive development.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (DDA) PLAN

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. We will always pay close attention the DDA acknowledge that there will be need for ongoing awareness raising and training for all staff in the matter of disability discrimination and the potential need to inform attitudes on this matter. Where resources permit we will:

- Increase access to the curriculum and where a child has special educational needs we discuss with parents how we can best meet their needs.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.

This is to include the provision of large print prospectus or other school documents when requested:

The provision of CD for the visually impaired. Provision of braille translation. Translation provisions where appropriate. Should we be approached by a visitor, parent/carer with a physical disability we will make all efforts to adapt accordingly.

INVOLVING PARENTS

Parents receive annual reports and are expected and encouraged to meet and talk with the director and other teachers formally and informally about ways in which the school and parents can work together to assist pupils in developing to their maximum potential.

During the course of the year, a number of school events are organised. Parents are central to these events and are vigorously encouraged to participate. These events, such as the school sport's day and the Christmas performance form part of the school's fabric, extolling its virtues and reinforcing its ethos and sense of community.

PUPIL INVOLVEMENT

Pupils take on leadership position and responsibilities on a daily rotation. The captains for the day organise any movement of furniture and tidiness of the environment.

Outside of their normal activity, pupils are encouraged to share, co-operate and be considerate of each other. Often team competitions are held. This encourages team spirit and co-operative effort whilst still enthusiastically supporting individual performance.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

All pupils are assessed continuously to determine their performance and level of understanding and identify any gaps or misunderstanding in their respective subjects.

Children are regularly assessed. This gives parents and pupils an opportunity to chart progress. Data from these assessments are used diagnostically to improve children's performance and map progress across key stages. Assessment in core subjects, are carried out termly.

At the end of each academic year, a full assessment of each pupil's performance and behaviour throughout the year is given. Following the receipt of these reports, parents may then have a full discussion with the school about their child's academic progress, conduct and attitude towards learning.

Frequently on these occasions, targets are set for the pupil whom both parents and school will assist them to achieve.

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE FEES

REGISTRATION (non-returnable)	£30.00
TUITION FEES	£4440 per annum (£1, 480 per term)

Fee for additional activities:

During the year, additional activities such as trips are held. These will be charged to parents' accounts accordingly. Alternatively, payment in advance of the activity will be made.

GENERAL

A registration fee must accompany the completed application form for admission.

Tuition fees are payable in advance. **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE TERM FOR WHICH THEY ARE DUE.** Interest at a rate above the current bank rate will be charged on any school account which becomes overdue. The school may require the withdrawal of a child whose fees are persistently paid late.

Remission of tuition fees or fee for other activities cannot be granted for absence through illness or other causes whether for part or whole of the term.

One term's notice must be given in writing to the school before the withdrawal of a child otherwise a term's fee will be payable.

A sibling allowance of 10% is given on fees of siblings.

Fees are reviewed annually to keep pace with inflation and the school's standards and service. However, the school reserves the right to increase fees during the year with a term's notice.

All payments for fees should be made payable to Excelsior College by cheque or money order. Direct Debit forms are available for monthly direct payments.

ENTRY DATE

Admissions are made at regular intervals throughout the year and at the discretion of the school's director. Children are admitted at 3 years and will leave upon entry to secondary school.

Children are admitted at the discretion of the director following the results of tests and consideration of references from previous schools, if applicable.

FOR GUIDANCE

If you would like to register your child for admission, please complete the enclosed application form and return to the school with the registration fee of £30. Should you wish to visit the school before applying, please contact us for an appointment.

Once your child has been registered for admission, you will be contacted with details of interview or test exercise dates.

OFFERS

Firm offers are made on the basis of entry interviews and test results.

The school reserves the right to refuse admission and withdraw any pupil whose attendance at the school is not a positive benefit to that child.

SCHOOL HOURS

Children are received at 9.00am, after which registration takes place. Punctuality is essential to avoid disruption and to comply with the school's code of conduct.

Formal school day ends at 3.30pm, thereafter children may be collected up to 4.00pm at which time the school will close.

Changes are being considered to the school day that will be more amenable to working parents.

MEALS

Children have three meal breaks, starting with the first at 11 o'clock, lunch at 1.00pm and a snack at 3.30pm.

Lunch is a main meal and is expected to be full and nutritious. Food must be prepared by parents and placed in containers, which will be reheated if necessary.

School lunches can be arranged by parents with an on site independent canteen.

Refrigeration and heating facilities are available and used as appropriate.

Carbonated drinks, sweets, chocolate biscuits are not permissible in children's lunch box.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

BOYS

School Cap
School blazer/school coat
Red cardigan/jumper
White shirt
Red tie
Navy/black trousers
Red/black socks
Black shoes (not patent)

GIRLS

School hat/summer hat
School blazer/school coat
Red cardigan/jumper
White blouse
Red tie
Navy/black pinafore/summer dress
Red socks/tights
Black T bar shoes

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