



# WOODSIDE ACADEMY



## Information for new Parents

## ***Welcome to Woodside Academy***

We have prepared a summary of key information about Woodside to help you as a parent when choosing your child's school. We have concentrated here on the areas where Woodside may be different to other schools. More information can be found on our website and in our online prospectus.

## ***Organization***

Woodside is a state-funded **independent** academy. We are not part of a larger group of schools and we are not run by the council.

## ***Admissions***

We have no catchment area but allocate places by distance with preference for siblings, SEND, looked after children and children of staff.

## ***Twins***

We have a policy of placing twins and triplets in different classes. We no longer have a special admission dispensation for multiple births.

## ***Nursery***

We have a nursery class for 3-4 year olds with 30 children at any one time; attending mornings, afternoons but mostly full-time ( 8.45 am to 3.00 pm). Attending the nursery does not guarantee a reception place.

## ***Clubs***

We run an extensive range of activity clubs; at lunchtime and before and after school. Typically 36 clubs a week, many of which are free.

## ***Phonics***

All schools now teach reading using phonics. We use the *Monster Phonics* scheme, and set across year groups in reception and year 1 to do this.

## ***Mathematics***

We use the White Rose Maths scheme based on Singapore Maths to teach mathematics, setting across year groups in Key Stage 2.

## ***Sport***

We are committed to giving a children a range of activities and ensuring they are all active and healthy.

## ***Houses***

Children are put in houses when they start school and wear Red, Blue, Green or Yellow Tee Shirts for PE depending on the house they are in.

### ***ECO School***

We are a Green Flag Eco School and strongly promote actions to fight the climate emergency so that our children have a future to look forward to.

### ***Wrap Around Care***

Using our own staff, our breakfast and after school clubs provide out of hours care in the mornings from 7.15 am to 8.45 am and after school from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm charged at £2.50 per every half an hour. (Meals included)

### ***Parking***

We have no parent parking and there is limited space in the road. If your only option would be driving you may wish to consider another school.

### ***SEND***

We welcome children with Special Educational Needs & Disability but we have no more facilities or expertise for this than any other school.

### ***Religion***

We are not a church school but, as required by law, we follow the local RE syllabus and have a daily assembly, including hymns and prayers.

### ***Creche***

We run a creche for parent assemblies, concerts and meetings as we do not admit toddlers and babies to these events.

### ***Food for Life***

We serve and strongly promote our healthy meals, encourage healthy eating, grow vegetables, have a fruit only rule for break time snacks.

### ***Water***

We encourage children to drink water with a water filter and chiller to fill their bottles plus the usual fountains. Juice/squash with packed lunch only.

### ***Curriculum***

We have developed our own, locally based curriculum.

### ***Visits***

We regularly take children on visits including residential visits in Y4 and Y6.

### ***Training School***

We are the leading school in a training hub with Essex Initial Teacher Training and many of our teachers were trained here.

***Induction***

If you are offered a place we will invite your children to our induction week. Children need to have our school meals, we provide these free.

***Teaching Days***

We teach children for the full 190 days a year (plus any additional holiday workshops for year 6).

***Supply Teachers***

We rarely need supply teachers because we use our staff and our trainees.

***Holidays***

We follow Thurrock Council term dates but in 2021 a 2 week summer half term was agreed. We are *not* considering a longer autumn half term.

***Languages***

We teach Spanish throughout the school by our Language Assistant from Chile.

***Classes***

We have up to 669 children arranged in 3 mixed ability classes of 30 in each year, as well as our nursery class.

***Cycling***

We encourage children to cycle to school and often go on visits on 2 wheels.

***Music***

We have a strong musical tradition and currently teach Steel Pan to all Y3 and other instruments to all years by our Music Teacher.

***[www.woodsideacademy.org](http://www.woodsideacademy.org)***