



Bishopswood School

Prospectus

2019/2020

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Mission Statement

Bishopswood is a unique co-located school that creates a safe, stimulating and fun environment. This is achieved through the commitment, care and expertise of our aspirational staff working in partnership with families, governors and the local community. Our school has an inclusive, therapeutic and creative approach to learning that enables individuals to develop their resilience and character ensuring all pupils achieve their full potential.

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NOTE: The information contained in this prospectus is correct at the time of printing, in relation to 2019/2020. It may be amended before the start of, or during the school year.



Welcome to Bishopswood!

Bishopswood School is an integral part of Oxfordshire County Council education provision in South Oxfordshire. We also work closely with neighbouring authorities, and take pupils regularly from them. **We support a diverse community of pupils with Educational Health and Care Plans identified as having severe and profound learning difficulties, complex needs and Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD).** Bishopswood is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, promoting good relationships between different racial, cultural and religious groups and communities as well as eliminating unlawful discrimination.

WORKING WITH PARTNER SCHOOLS

Socially and academically there are varied opportunities for links with mainstream peers and shared educational experiences are encouraged and arranged as appropriate for each individual pupil. Opportunities for a broad and balanced education are enhanced by our close association with partner schools. **We offer specialist education on the following three mainstream school sites:**

EARLY YEARS PROVISION, VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL, VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL, HENLEY

Morning session 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Afternoon session 12.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

The nursery caters for a wide range of special educational needs, aged 2-5 years, offering outstanding provision within a fully inclusive learning environment. Eight of a total of twenty-six equivalent full time places are allocated on a sessional basis. The department is managed by a highly experienced teacher who works part time and is supported by another part time teacher and a team of three learning support assistants. Bishopswood staff work closely with the Valley Road staff sharing well-resourced classrooms, and an outdoor learning space. Careful assessments are made of each child's progress and these are shared regularly with parents/carers. Preparation for moving to the next phase of education at five, begins when a child is four years old. The department is supported by a speech and language therapist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and clinical nurse specialist. (These services fall under the NHS).

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, AT SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL, SONNING COMMON

Morning session 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Afternoon session 1.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.* (Wednesdays finish 3.00 p.m)

Many pupils move from the nursery to our Primary Department, for pupils aged 5-11 years. We have our own stand-alone purpose built facilities, with access to the mainstream accommodation, including extensive grounds. We have four classes, with class sizes up to 10 pupils. There are the equivalent of four full time teachers and a team of learning support assistants in each class. The main school office is based on this site with accommodation for the headteacher, administrative staff, therapists, and the Out of School Liaison Officer (OSLO). The speech therapists, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and clinical nurse specialist all visit regularly and form part of the team. Regular volunteers help with activities such as swimming and a range of classroom activities.

The light and airy classrooms are well designed and resourced, with touch-screen PCs, Interactive Whiteboards and 'Eye Gaze' Technology. Each classroom has its own group room attached and a shared hygiene area. The grounds are pleasant and safe and include our own purpose built

outdoor play area with climbing equipment and sensory garden. At lunchtime some pupils eat within our own accommodation, while many use Sonning Common's canteen facilities. Key Stage Two pupils also enjoy regular visits to the joint school and community library. Some pupils attend the mainstream assemblies and other events such as visiting storytellers, musicians. A member of our staff will support individuals in mainstream lessons. Sonning Common pupils join us for specific activities throughout the week. Pupils have a choice of school dinners or packed lunch, some pupils eat with their mainstream peers. The pupils are closely supervised to support appropriate behaviours and to ensure that good table manners are established.

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT, AT MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE, SONNING COMMON

Morning session 8.50 a.m. to 12.50 p.m.

Afternoon session 2.00 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

Wednesdays. Early finish 2.50 p.m

Our secondary department is based at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School. We have a suite of rooms adapted to meet the needs of young people with Special Needs and Disabilities, within the Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge main teaching building. We have three classes with four teaching rooms, a hygiene area and toilet facilities to meet the students' personal needs, a hydrotherapy pool, sensory room and quiet room. There is an outdoor Activezone and sensory garden. We have access to Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge's facilities, including the canteen main hall and grounds. Swimming sessions take place at the public pool at Henley Leisure Centre.

Learning programmes in the secondary department help promote social confidence, and independence, and encourage an enthusiasm for learning new life skills that will help prepare them for the next stage in their life. Students follow an adapted national curriculum to develop communication, literacy, numeracy, computing and life skills. Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties or complex needs follow an individualised, multisensory and therapeutic curriculum.

Students from year 9 to year 11 will follow the Countryside Stewardship Curriculum as devised by the Earth Trust which is based at Wittenham. They will take part in a variety of outdoor activities including site maintenance, planting, harvesting, animal welfare, survival, animals, plants, climate and weather. Students all wear protective clothing and footwear and learn the rules and guidance regarding working in and enjoying the countryside. At the end of KS4 most students will have achieved the Countryside Stewardship qualification.

All KS4 students leave Bishopswood School with at least one other nationally recognised, accredited qualification. Students work towards ASDAN Transition Challenge, Workright and Personal Development qualifications. Some, although rarely, may sit GCSEs and Food Hygiene exams.

Students in KS4 also attend a local garden centre every week to carry out work activities, they work alongside the centre's employees and follow all rules and required health and safety procedures. At the end of KS4 they will have completed a portfolio of work that will be assessed for the ASDAN Workright qualification. Students may have additional work experience opportunities outside of the school. Students will make choices as to where they would like to work and be supported by a staff member. These sessions will depend on the needs of the pupil and be tailored to best meet those needs. Students may take part in work experience within the school, supported by a member of staff. These sessions may include site management, cleaning, office work or library skills.

LEAVING BISHOPSWOOD

Bishopswood School may cease to be the most appropriate provision for a particular child. In such cases the LA, working closely with parents, will arrange for alternative provision with an appropriate level of support.

Most young people move through the school to leave Bishopswood in year 11 when they move on to their chosen post 16 provision. Historically Pathways run by the Special Needs Department at Henley College has proven to be the favoured choice, alternative choices have also been Abingdon and Witney College and Reading College. During their final year at school, transition programmes are set up to best prepare each individual for their new school or college. In addition, a post 16 tutor/teacher will often attend the young persons' final two Annual Reviews. Parents are encouraged to visit the school/college before the transition programme begins. A summary record of achievements and experiences at Bishopswood is presented to each student at the Leavers' Assembly.

The following aims and values form the principles upon which we plan and implement the curriculum:

Bishopswood School Aims:

- To develop and enhance the ability of each pupil to have dignity and personal choice, both at school and in their future lives.
- To offer an environment which is safe, stimulating, creative, challenging and fun.
- Through our ability to embrace change, to ensure that we apply approaches to teaching and learning that are proven to be effective.
- To provide pupils with the means of mobility, communication and self expression.
- To encourage pupils to develop independent living skills to equip them with the knowledge and skills they need in the future.

Bishopswood School Values:

- We appreciate the unique contribution made by each pupil to the life of the school.
- We believe the understanding and mutual respect that follows the development of closer links between Bishopswood, our partner schools and the wider community benefits all involved.
- We recognise the positive support that parents and carers provide in helping us to deliver our stated aims for each child.
- We celebrate the achievements, no matter how big or small, made by individual pupils.
- We recognise the importance of teamwork and the different roles and skills contributed by individual staff or groups of staff.

Bishopswood believes strongly in equal opportunities, this is reflected in our curriculum and policies. We are committed to:

- Promoting equality of opportunity (race, gender, disability and access for all);
- Promoting good relations between different racial, cultural and religious groups and communities;
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment.

A copy of our Equal Opportunities Policy is available from the School Office.

We are committed to the welfare and safeguarding of pupils and follows related DfE and Oxfordshire County Council guidelines and policies.

Admissions

Bishopswood is the Oxfordshire County Council special school provision in South Oxfordshire, and in conjunction with the Local Authority (LA), pupils are admitted to the school with an Educational, Health and Care Plan. Parents of pre-school children are invited to read our booklet describing the work of our nursery class in more detail. We aim to make the introduction into school as smooth as we can for you and your child. Parents considering whether to send their child to Bishopswood are welcome to visit with their child, please telephone the school for more details.

CATCHMENT AREA (MAP)

Our catchment area covers much of South Oxfordshire, including Goring, Wallingford, Watlington, Henley, Sonning Common and the surrounding rural area. In addition some pupils live in neighbouring unitary authorities e.g Wokingham, Buckinghamshire, Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents of primary aged pupils are encouraged to purchase a Sonning Common Primary School uniform for their child or if this is difficult pupils can wear blue jumpers / sweatshirts and grey / navy skirts or trousers .

All secondary students are expected to wear school uniform which is as follows:

Grey skirt or trousers, (Jogging bottoms are fine for those who may find trousers too challenging).

White shirt; long or short sleeves.

Navy jumper or cardigan.

Navy blue blazer, (optional but preferred).

Bishopswood clip on school tie.

Please note all long hair must be tied back!

Please can you ensure that items of clothing are clearly labelled, as without clear labels we cannot accept responsibility should they be mislaid.

THE SPECIALIST SERVICES THAT SUPPORT US:

THE SPECIAL SCHOOL NURSES

There is a part-time senior special school nurse together with a one day a week special school nurse, who are allocated to the school. They oversee many aspects of children's medical needs including the monitoring of day time administration of medicines and the training of staff in relation to individual care needs. They also assist with medical examinations and are available to advise parents on routine matters concerning the health of their children at school. They work in close co-operation with local Health Visitors, General Practitioners, children's clinics and the Chilterns Centre.

Consultant Community Paediatrician – Oxfordshire and Consultant Community Paediatrician – West Berkshire hold Bishopswood clinics on a regular basis so that your child may be seen in school. Children under different consultants will continue to attend regular hospital appointments which the nurse may attend if requested.

The school dentist visits the school once a year and necessary treatment can be organised through the Community dental service if necessary.

The orthoptist sees children in school to assess vision. Parents are always informed of the time of these visits.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

The Speech and Language Therapist works in the school for the equivalent of 1 day a week. Pupils in all three departments have access to this service. The therapist works closely with staff teams and parents to assess communication needs; plan programmes; take individual pupils and small groups for language development work; provide in-service training for staff and meetings with parents and make referrals for alternative communication aids.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

The physiotherapist and technical assistant currently work on Thursdays. They have responsibility for supporting the mobility of pupils who are motor impaired by advising staff in the management of pupils; advising and recommending appliances, aids and specialised equipment; advising on and making risk assessments for moving and handling pupils and providing individual motor programmes. They work closely with other professionals in the health service such as the orthopaedic departments of hospitals and visit parents at home, when necessary

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The occupational therapist visits the school for one day a week. Pupils in all three departments have access to the service.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

We have access to an educational psychologist, employed by Oxfordshire LA. A psychologist will assess children, where deemed necessary, under the requirements of the 2001 Code of Practice.

LINKS WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Specialist teachers from the SENSS team will visit pupils with sensory impairment (hearing /visual impairment),if necessary.



TERM DATES 2019 – 2020

(Term dates have changed please see below)

Autumn

Monday 2nd September INSET

Tuesday 3rd September INSET

Wednesday 4th September to Friday 25th October 2019

Half term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2019

Monday 4th November to Thursday 19th December 2019 – **early close last day of term (1.20 pm secondary department, 1.30 pm primary department)**

Nursery finishes on Wednesday 18th December 2019 - normal finishing time

Spring

Monday 6th January INSET

Tuesday 7th January to Friday 14th February 2020

Half term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020

Monday 24th February to Friday 3rd April 2020 – **early close last day of term (1.20 pm secondary department, 1.30 pm primary department)**

Nursery finishes on Thursday 2nd April 2020 - normal finishing time

Summer

Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May 2020

Bank Holiday: Friday 8th May 2020 (National change due to 75th anniversary of VE day)

Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July 2020 **(see inset day below)** – **early close last day of term**

(1.20 pm secondary department, 1.30 pm primary department)

Nursery finishes on Thursday 16th July 2020 – normal finishing time

Friday 3rd July INSET

Monday 20th July INSET

Tuesday 21st July INSET (additional H&S day)

Amended 30.8.19