



Oaklands School

Loughton's Leading Independent Prep School
Girls & Boys aged 2 ½ to 11

HISTORY

Oaklands is one of the longest established preparatory schools in the Epping Forest area. It was founded on the corner of Traps Hill in Loughton in 1937 by Miss Elizabeth Lord, and moved to its present site in Albion Hill in September 1944.

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

The main building, then called Firbank, was built in 1837 and the iron railings around the main field go back to the 1870s. The Howards of Howard's Aspirins lived at Firbank from about 1915 until around 1930, and during the war it was home to a number of Belgian refugees.

The assembly hall was enlarged and further classrooms were added in the 1940s. Miss Lord retired in 1982 and handed over to the Hagger Family.

21ST CENTURY

From 2006 onwards there has been a programme of renovation and modernisation on the school site that includes a purpose-built Art/Music Studio, use and development of Oak House for our Lower Kindergarten and ICT Suite, a large astroturf pitch and remodelled interior rooms and classrooms in the main building.

LOCATION

Oaklands is situated in a prominent location at the entrance to Loughton, close to several bus routes and only a 5-10 minute walk from the centre of the town. This makes it the ideal 'local' school for Loughton families, although children also come from areas such as Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill and Woodford. Set in many acres, the school benefits from a wide range of facilities, playing fields and specialist teaching areas. The large oak tree of the school badge stands proudly in the main field and goes back several hundred years.

THE OAK-TREE GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Oaklands School belongs to the Oak-Tree Group of Schools, which includes Coopersale Hall School in Epping and Normanhurst School in North Chingford. A successful group of local independent schools, all three are operated with the same aims of excellence and care, being owned and run by qualified educationalists who have much experience in the specialist world of teaching and learning.



Oaklands School

LOUGHTON'S LEADING INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



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WELCOME TO OAKLANDS SCHOOL

When you arrive at Oaklands School you will experience a warm welcome from us that invites you and your child to be part of a very special community.

As the School is so well-established in the area and has been educating local children for around 80 years, we are seeing more and more children joining whose grandparents were at Oaklands themselves.

We value the close partnerships with our parents and the contributions you make to the education of your children. We attach a great deal of importance to keeping parents involved in their child's academic progress.

Our teaching methods combine the traditional and the modern to provide a stimulating and creative learning environment where children have access to highly qualified professionals who teach with flair and sensitivity.

Academically, we encourage our children to aim high and to have the confidence to learn new skills and interests. The broad range of activities both inside and outside the classroom provides a rich environment where all our children can discover hidden aptitudes and talents.

We emphasise the acquisition of social skills and encourage respect and consideration for others at all times. This helps children to understand the needs of others. Good manners, respect for others and self discipline are fundamental aspects of the core values we teach.

We pride ourselves on how well we know every child and how each one is treated as an individual. Children enjoy their time with us and develop into confident young people with a wide range of interests, a love of learning and a solid foundation on which to build their future at senior school and beyond.

You will have many questions when your children begin and continue their education at Oaklands. Our 'open door' policy enables parents to be quickly reassured by a class teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or myself. We are happy to discuss any aspect of the education we provide.

There is more up-to-date information on our website, including the latest newsletters, articles and examples of extra-curricular activities. However, there is no substitute for a visit in person. Do come along to one of our Open Mornings to see the School in action or arrange an appointment via the Office to tour Oaklands with me. I would like to personally welcome you to our School and let you judge for yourself why Oaklands is a very special place.

Sue Belej

Sue Belej B.A.(Jnt Hons), Cert.Ed.
Headmistress





OAKLANDS SCHOOL – AN EXCELLENT CHOICE

Friendly, Family Atmosphere

As a relatively small school, we get to know every child well and this familiarity helps us to encourage and support the learning journey. Parents and inspectors have consistently praised the outstanding relationships between staff and pupils. We have an open door policy so you can talk to your child's keyworker, class teacher or the Headmistress on a daily basis.

A Personalised Education

We have a healthy balance between established and newer members of staff and they all support the School's ethos of providing traditional values and respect for others. This is evident inside and outside the classroom. Our teaching groups are deliberately small to give pupils a more personalised experience so they can reach their individual potential and make the maximum progress possible.

Excellent Preparation for Senior Schools

Preparation for senior school entry at 11+ begins as early as Year 3. With more specialist teachers and a broader range of subjects, the pupils gradually increase their workload. By the time they leave Oaklands aged 11, pupils are more confident, respectful, polite and well-educated – ready for the next challenge.

Healthy Eating

Our chef prepares the daily lunches with his team using fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fish sourced from local farmers, butchers and suppliers. Healthy eating is important for the children's development and they learn to make nutritional choices when dining.

Clubs and Activities

A wide range of clubs and activities are available for the children, which encourage them to experiment and take part in new experiences. The list changes from term to term so check our website for the latest information. Our Breakfast and Teatime Clubs can extend the school day, Breakfast Club is available from 7.30am and Teatime Club runs until 6pm.

Holiday clubs run throughout Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

Partnership with Parents

Parents are encouraged to become involved as fully as possible in the life of the school. You may be able to help with the Parents' Association or volunteer in classrooms listening to children read. Some parents accompany school trips or help out at school events and everybody is welcomed to special assemblies, plays, musical events and sports days.

There are many opportunities for parents to share their views with us, from informal coffee mornings to parents' surveys, we value the close relationships there are between school and home and welcome suggestions for changes and improvement.

Beyond the Classroom

With two fields, an adventure playground, astroturf pitch and climbing frames, our beautiful grounds allow the children to explore and play. We hold lessons outdoors in our 'secret classroom' and children create imaginative scenes on the outside stage area. Forest walks take place and children grow vegetables in the school allotment that are served on special occasions as part of the lunchtime meal.



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE: LOWER KINDERGARTEN, GARDEN ROOM & TRANSITION (2½ - 5 YEARS)



Our aim is to support children and parents, introducing them to school life with continual guidance and encouraging the youngest to develop a love of learning.

Children in the Early Years are offered caring and stimulating environments that enable them to learn, experiment, play and gain independence. We place emphasis on kindness, helpfulness, sharing, courtesy and respect for others.

The curriculum is based on seven areas of learning: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design.

Specified keyworkers oversee all social, academic and pastoral aspects of development and get to know children and parents very well.

Lower Kindergarten (2½ to 3 years) and Garden Room (3 to 4 years)

These classes are accommodated in their own separate well-resourced areas. We develop the safe and secure environment that parents find so assuring. Children in these classes are taught by specialist teachers for Music, Dance and PE/Games and use the main school facilities such as the Studio, ICT Suite, School Hall and extensive grounds.

Transition (4 to 5 years)

As the children's education starts to become more formal, they move to the Main Building. Each Transition class is assigned a teacher and an assistant who are responsible for monitoring their personal, social and academic progress.

We develop the children's reading and writing skills through a nationally recognised phonics scheme. We encourage creative practical play and number games to help improve numeracy skills.

Pupils are taught by specialist teachers for Computing, French, Music, PE/Games and Dance. Throughout the academic year they are encouraged to take part in drama performances, school assemblies and whole school events such as World Book Day.

Partnership with Parents

Parents and families are a valued part of the learning process and we try to involve you as much as possible. There is regular daily contact with each keyworker or teacher so that any questions or concerns can be addressed immediately without the need to wait for the more formal parent teacher meetings. Contact can be made via telephone, email, daily link books and, in Transition, reading diaries.

The School Day

Although the school day begins at 8.45am, parents are able to drop off from 8.30am. Those children who stay for lunch and afternoons, including the Transition children who attend full time, are collected at 3pm.



Excellent...

"We have been very happy with the way our son has settled in to the Garden Room. His keyworker keeps us informed with regular updates about his progress."

Garden Room Mother



YEARS 1 AND 2 (5 -7 YEARS)

Building on solid foundations - a happy place to grow and learn academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

Curriculum

Although we use the National Curriculum as our framework, we add much more to enhance the quality of the education we are able to offer. Pupils are mainly taught by their class teacher and specialist teachers add to the learning experience in subjects such as Science, Computing, French, Music, PE/Games and Dance.

Reading aloud individually is encouraged on a daily basis and children learn at their own speed with guidance and assistance. Reading diaries are used to monitor children's progress and are useful for passing messages to and from school.

Spellings, writing skills and basic punctuation form part of the Years 1 and 2 curriculum, whilst in Maths children continue to enjoy number work and grow in confidence throughout the year. Numeracy skills are practised through a variety of tasks, games and problem solving activities. Children have a broad range of subjects during the week that include Science, Computing, Music, PE, French, RE, Art and DT, Geography, History and PSHE.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Learning goes on outside the classroom through the use of our extensive grounds and on educational trips. Children take part in a variety of clubs, with most taking up several activities. The latest list of extra-curricular activities is available to download from our website.

Recognition and Progress

Recognition and rewards for effort, achievement and behaviour form regular parts of our assemblies. Our pupils take pride in their life at Oaklands and are delighted when rewarded. Merit points are important for children to work towards class or House targets. Regular class assessments help our teachers to monitor progress in different areas of learning and to differentiate their teaching accordingly.



Partnership with Parents

We encourage families to become as involved as possible in their children's learning to maximize their full potential. Oaklands has an open door policy for parents to discuss their children's learning on a regular basis.

There are parents coffee mornings, class assemblies, formal parents' evenings, written bi-annual reports and workshops to enable parents to understand our modern teaching methods. The relationship between parents and school is very important.

The School Day

The school day starts officially at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. However, children often start earlier through our popular Breakfast Club and stay later when attending one of our after school clubs, including Teatime Club that finishes at 6pm.

A healthy and nutritious lunch is served daily in the School Hall, with all dishes freshly created by our experienced chef and his team.

Excellent...

"Oaklands has an excellent reputation as a happy, friendly school."

Year 2 Parent





YEARS 3 TO 6 (7-11 YEARS)

Oaklands is an excellent independent preparatory school. The focus on these years is to prepare children to achieve their full potential in the 11+ exams.

Curriculum

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are taught in smaller class sizes with an excellent staff to pupil ratio that allows for a more personalised approach to learning. Although we follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2, we add so much more from a variety of additional sources to extend our pupils and enrich their learning experience.

Homework takes on more structure as pupils find their thinking and creative skills challenged.

Class teachers are responsible for their pupils' daily welfare, overall academic progress and social development. There are specialist teachers for Science, Computing, French, Music and PE/Games.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Children take part in a variety of clubs, with most taking up several activities each week. The latest list of extra-curricular activities is available to download from our website. As pupils move through Years 3 to 6 they are given more opportunities for educational visits to enhance their classroom learning.

Progress, Attainment and Responsibilities

The pupils are rewarded for effort, achievement and behaviour, both as part of our assembly programme and the House Points system. National standardised tests and regular teacher assessments help staff to monitor progress and attainment. Year 6 pupils take on extra responsibilities in preparation for senior school life.

Partnership with Parents

As with the earlier years, we encourage parents to become as involved as possible in their children's learning. Oaklands has an open door policy for parents to discuss their child with class/specialist teachers or the Headmistress. There are parent coffee mornings, class assemblies, formal parents' evenings and written bi-annual reports. We value the relationship between parents and school immensely and always have time for discussion.

Preparation for 11+

Our exam preparation at 11+ is exceptionally comprehensive and we are proud to boast that the majority of our Year 6 pupils achieve places at their first choice schools. When children are in Years 5 and 6 we offer impartial advice based on our extensive experience on the huge range of senior schools available and which ones we consider to be most suitable.

The School Day

School starts officially at 8.45am and ends at 3.30pm. However, the majority of the children extend their day by attending several of our after school clubs and activities, including Teatime Club that continues until 6pm. Breakfast Club is also available from 7.45am until the start of school.

Excellent...

'My children have thrived at Oaklands and continue to grow in confidence. We definitely chose the best school!'

Year 6 Parent





PREPARATION FOR SENIOR SCHOOLS

When our pupils are ready to move to senior schools at 11+, our preparation for examinations is very thorough and has proved to be consistently successful year after year.

Responsibility

Throughout Years 3 to 6, older pupils have many opportunities to develop their confidence and self-esteem. There are special responsibilities such as being a School/Food Council representative or volunteering to be one of our many playground buddies helping younger children.

Year 6 pupils become School Prefects and are expected to act as role models for the younger children. Prefect positions include House Captains or Vice Captains, Games Captains and Librarians.

The majority of pupils obtain places at one of their first choice senior schools at the end of Year 6. Alongside the rigorous personalised curriculum, our normal in-depth preparation for 11+ entrance examinations includes:

- Practising verbal and non-verbal reasoning from Years 3 to 6
- Practising past papers and exam questions in English and Maths in years 5 and 6.
- Holding individual parents' evenings in Year 5 to discuss which schools to apply for and to advise about application procedures
- Holding mock interviews with the Headmistress
- Organising scholarship preparation in small groups

Not all senior schools are right for every pupil so it is important that a child goes on to attend the school that is most suited to his or her individual needs. We work very closely with parents to help ensure a smooth transition to the next stage of the children's education.

Destinations of Year 6 Leavers

We are very proud of our pupils' record of gaining entry to the next stage of their education.

In the last three years, pupils from Year 6 have been offered places at:-

- Anglo European School
- Bancroft's School
- Bishop's Stortford College
- Braeside School
- Brentwood School
- Chigwell School
- City of London School
- Davenant School
- Felsted School
- Forest School
- Immanuel College
- Jewish Community Secondary School
- New Hall School
- Normanhurst School
- Queenswood School
- Roding Valley School
- St Edmund's College
- West Hatch School

More detailed information about our junior education and recent results is available on our website.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Our well-rounded academic education goes beyond the classroom door as we give our pupils a wide range of additional experiences and offer many different sports, performing arts, clubs, activities, educational trips and outdoor challenges.

Sport

We believe that regular physical exercise is important to keep our pupils alert and ready to learn. Our main sports are football, netball, hockey, tennis, swimming and athletics, but we also offer cricket, tag rugby and cross country running.

We consider swimming to be an important life skill and it forms part of the curriculum from Years 3 to 6. Parents can come to our annual Swimming Gala at Loughton swimming pool each Spring Term. Sports Day in the summer gives pupils of all ages the chance to participate in a variety of events to earn points for their Houses.

Extra Curricular Clubs

From Transition to Year 6 (ages 5-11), pupils take part in many clubs and activities which vary from term to term. Clubs include: Speech & Drama, French, Art, Mad Science, Chess, Rugby, Football and Netball. Current information is on our website.

Outward Bound

Year 3 children camp out overnight and undertake team building activities as part of the World Challenge in the Autumn Term. Years 4 and 5 spend time at an outdoor pursuits centre and Year 6 go for a week of adventure at a national residential centre. Years 5 and 6 also visit activity centres as part of their PE curriculum.

Music and Performing Arts

Every pupil is given the opportunity to perform to parents during the year in a show that incorporates dance, drama and music. They also take part in the various class assemblies and annual dance display. Musical events include the Christmas Carol Service, Summer Prize Days and various prom concerts. The choir has also performed at the Royal Albert Hall and the O2.

Many pupils take individual lessons in instruments such as piano, guitar, drums and violin. The orchestra is growing larger and more proficient each year and performs regularly during events.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 take part in the biennial Oak-Tree Festival, joining together with Normanhurst School and Coopersale Hall School pupils. Pupils from Years 1 to 6 enter LAMDA examinations every year and consistently achieve excellent results.

Educational Visits

Our younger children enjoy a range of interesting and educational visits such as Hayes Hill Farm, Paradise Wildlife Park and Southend Sealife Centre.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are taken on a variety of educational visits to enhance their curriculum. These include local visits such as to the William Morris Gallery and the Elizabethan Hunting Lodge and visits to Central London to the Victoria and Albert Museum, The British Museum, the National Gallery and Hampton Court Palace.



PERSONALISED LEARNING

We believe in developing the whole child, taking into account their individual needs or talents and providing a personalised programme of learning.

Social and Emotional Development

We attach great importance to the acquisition of social skills and encourage respect and consideration for others at all times. This helps children to understand the needs of others. Good manners, respect for others and self-discipline are fundamental aspects of the core values we teach.

At the heart of the Oaklands ethos is the recognition that each child is an individual who deserves a differentiated and more personalised education.

Our excellent team of class teachers is ably supported by experienced support staff who work with different groups of children.

Gifted and Talented

From Garden Room upwards throughout the school, the Gifted and Talented programme identifies pupils who have a particular flair for a subject and helps them to maximise their full potential.

'High Flyers' who display a particular talent or flair for a subject are given additional time to develop it in a 1:1 or small group learning environment with a specialist. Topic work, which combines History, Geography, Art and Design Technology, offers opportunities for individual research projects and extended use of Computing skills.

Creative talents are also catered for through Computing Club, music peripatetic lessons, the school orchestra, choir, dance competitions and annual dramatic performances.

Sporting talents are encouraged via our broad extra-curricular club provision and our entry into local dance, netball, football, swimming and athletic competitions individually or in teams.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Our team is able to help personalise each child's education so that focused support may be provided in class as well as in extra lessons. This is given individually in or out of the lesson, in pairs or groups or through extra materials.

We also have access to a large number of independent specialists, such as Speech and Language therapists who are able to offer individual programmes to help children's learning and general development.

Excellent...

"My child's experience at Oaklands since joining in Lower Kindergarten has been fantastic! She has had the most fabulous start to her education and I cannot praise Oaklands enough."

Year 5 Mother



LEARN MORE ABOUT US:

Come and visit us:

Open Mornings in March and October
Or arrange a personal tour at a time to suit you

See our website for all latest information about:

- Newsletters
- Headmistress's Letters
- Fees
- Entrance procedures and examinations
- Admissions Policy
- Staff List and how to contact us
- A wide range of weekly clubs and activities
- Christmas, Easter and Summer Holiday activity clubs
- Parents' Association events and fundraising

Follow our news on Twitter and in local magazines and newspapers

Call us soon to talk about your child joining the Oaklands family: 020 8508 3517



GOVERNANCE

The Hagger family acts as Principals of the school and Mr Matthew Hagger acts as Chair of Governors, or Group Managing Principal.

MANAGING PRINCIPAL

Mr Matthew Hagger B.A. (Hons), M.Ed., PGCE

Matthew Hagger taught languages up to A-Level for several years at several local schools. He officially joined the family business as Principal in July 2001 and runs the Oak-Tree Group in the capacity of Group Managing Principal. Matthew Hagger oversees the day-to-day running of each school in matters such as staffing, finance, education, maintenance and communication. He is at the school several times each week and meets parents on a regular basis informally, formally or for coffee morning chats.

PRINCIPAL

Mr Nicholas Hagger M.A. (Oxon)

Before acquiring Oaklands School in 1982, Nicholas Hagger spent many years teaching abroad, he wrote for the Times and Guardian newspapers in the 1970s and then became Head of English and Senior Teacher at a large comprehensive school in Wandsworth. Nicholas Hagger is a published poet, philosopher and author with many titles to his name.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs Ann Hagger Cert.Ed.

Ann Hagger taught at several primary schools in South London before becoming Oaklands School Headmistress in 1982. She spent 14 years in this position until the acquisition of Normanhurst, whereupon she used her extensive knowledge to help develop the school in the late 1990s.



Mr Matthew Hagger- Managing Principal





Oaklands School

8 Albion Hill Loughton Essex IG10 4RA

T 020 8508 3517

F 020 8508 4454

info@oaklandsschool.co.uk

www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

[@OaklandsSch](https://twitter.com/OaklandsSch)

