



WETHERBY

PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL



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11 Pembridge Square, London, W2 4ED.



HISTORY

Wetherby was founded by Mr and Mrs Gerald Russell in Wetherby Place, SW7 in 1951. It moved to Pembridge Square, W2 in 1971 when it became part of Davies, Laing and Dick Educational Group with its own board of Governors.

In 2002 Wetherby became part of the Alpha Plus Educational Group.

The School, occupying 5 floors, is housed in a freehold, double-fronted listed building of the Italian Ornate style, dating back to 1849. It overlooks the beautiful Pembridge Square Gardens, where the boys enjoy play time each day.



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MISSION STATEMENT



Wetherby School provides an environment that promotes educational excellence and tradition through a forward-thinking, holistic curriculum within which the needs of individual pupils are fostered.

With the opening of the Preparatory School in 2004, Wetherby boys have the opportunity to proceed through, or sit a competitive exam for, a London Day School. Wetherby has an excellent reputation in placing boys in top London Day Schools at both 7+ and 8+.



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The school operates an entry procedure that requires early registration. Parents whose sons may be allocated a definite place are invited to visit the school by appointment and meet the Headmaster. A deposit to secure a place is required at the end of the Summer Term preceding entry for the following academic year.

The three classes within each group of the four-year structure operate in a parallel fashion and entry is in the September following the boy's fourth birthday. The School boasts a high teacher/pupil ratio (each class teacher has their own assistant teacher), and particular focus is given to the important foundation skills in the early years of education.

The curriculum is set over a four-year period with particular emphasis placed on the core academic subjects of Maths and English. There are also weekly lessons in Reasoning, Science, History, Geography,

Religious Studies, P.S.H.E. and Citizenship, French, Music, Drama, Art/DT and Sport. The School has an excellent library and I.C.T facilities. All classes have regular access to the School Library as well as a timetabled library period. I.C.T is taught as a specialist subject to supplement and support the boys' learning across the whole curriculum.

The school day begins at 9am, although boys are welcomed in from 8.30am. Parents are free to visit classrooms at this time. There is an assembly three times a week and lessons start at 9.30am. The boys have time to play in the garden square each day as well as a break within school when milk and a healthy snack is provided. Lunch lasts for half an hour and School finishes for everyone at 3.15pm or 3.30pm. School Clubs start at 3.45pm and last for one hour. These extra-curricular activities are many and varied and are on offer to all boys in Years 1-3.





LEARNING ENRICHMENT



As Wetherby operates a non-selective entry system, all classes are of mixed ability. Some children though, may require additional tuition and support if they are identified as having learning difficulties or differing learning needs.

The excellent in-house specialist team are able to offer advice, and specialist tuition can be provided where necessary in areas of Maths, Literacy Skills, Speech and Language and Visual Perceptual training. Such professional help is offered within the School and allows for excellent communication between the parents, teachers and specialist tutors.

All Wetherby teaching staff are cognizant of various differences in learning styles and difficulties that might manifest, and are rigorous in working with Special Needs Staff to ensure that a boy is appropriately supported both in and outside of the classroom. This learning support also relates to children who are recognised as 'gifted and talented' and who require differentiated programmes.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Games, physical education and swimming take place for all boys and are taught by a specialist sports teacher. The school houses specialist gym equipment in the School Hall where boys are taught gym for their first two years, practising skills that focus on the development of basic co-ordination. In Years 2 and 3 the local gymnasium is the focal point for these lessons where the boys learn gymnastic skills.

Games include football, tag-rugby, cricket, hockey, rounders, athletics and short tennis. Throughout the year, Reception and Year 1 have one sports afternoon a week while Year 2 and 3 have two afternoons. The older boys also participate in numerous sporting fixtures against neighbouring schools. Opportunities for the boys to represent Wetherby on the sports field are plentiful.

Swimming takes place at a local swimming pool and all the boys compete for various trophies and awards in the Annual Swimming Gala and in addition, termly inter-school Galas which are attended by parents. The Annual Sports Day, held at Perks Field, is also a major event in the school calendar and there is Sports Fun Day for the whole school in the Summer Term.

Wetherby deservedly enjoys a fine reputation for its sporting achievements.



THE ARTS



The Arts are an important part of every boy's development and Wetherby prides itself on the high standards attained. Boys in Reception and Year 1 have twice weekly music lessons and those in Year 2 and 3 have music and drama. There are three School Choirs open to boys in Years 1-3 (Junior and Senior), who are selected by audition. The Choirs perform in many of the major events in the School calendar such as the Harvest Festival, the Christmas Carol Concert and Annual End-of-Year Prize Giving, as well as providing other concerts within school to parents. Individual tuition by visiting specialist teachers is available in piano, guitar, violin and 'cello and concerts are arranged termly.

There is also an annual Pre-Preparatory Choir Festival, established by Wetherby in 2005, in which a coveted cup is competed for by other Pre-Preparatory Choirs.

Drama is part of the timetable in the boys' final two years and this leads to the culmination of a major production in the Summer term in which all Year 3 boys participate and to which parents are invited.

Art and Design Technology is taught on a weekly basis and much of the boys' work can be seen displayed in the School. The standard of art work at Wetherby is extremely high and the boys enjoy working with and practising a variety of media.



SCHOOL LIFE



The boys of Wetherby are extremely fortunate to be able to play in the beautiful gardens opposite the School every day. This is an important opportunity to learn to socialise with their peer groups, as is Lunch Time. The cooked lunch provided daily is of excellent quality and all food is prepared fresh on the premises. Importance is placed on table manners, and the boys have a chance to relax and chat before afternoon school begins.

Whilst Wetherby prides itself on its academic success the main focus of the school is the happiness and social development of each boy.

Particular emphasis at Wetherby is given to courtesy, open appreciation of the talents of others and the value of being part of a team. Wetherby provides a happy and stimulating environment for boys to experience some of the most important years of their lives.

Parental involvement in the life of the school includes Grandparents Day, Mothers Day and assisting with charity events. Parents are valued members of the community and are welcomed into our school at all times.



EXTRA CURRICULAR



A great variety of after school clubs are offered to the boys in Years 1–3. These are always popular and the boys have the opportunity to pursue their interests and talents further in activities such as: Art and Design, Cookery, Drama, Chess, Football and Cricket to name but a few! Further concerts, plays and exhibitions are arranged in conjunction with these.

Drama workshops form part of our extra-curricular provision. Excursions are organised regularly for all year groups to various landmarks, museums and exhibitions in London. In the final term of Year 3 the boys go on a residential visit with PGL which is the highlight of the year.

Holiday Clubs are also a popular feature of “Life out of School” and these are made available to all boys, including older and younger siblings.

Wetherby boasts a dynamic, innovative and talented staff!