



# Essendene Lodge School



An Independent Preparatory  
School and Nursery

**At the heart of Caterham**

# Introduction

Welcome to Essendene Lodge School. We are a small, established, family friendly school in the heart of Caterham. Our aim is to ensure that children are happy, successful and motivated learners. Our purpose is to provide educational excellence coupled with high expectation and enriching experiences so that all can reach their potential. We pride ourselves on the happy, safe and caring learning atmosphere so that boys and girls can really enjoy school. We offer our pupils a wide range of activities and opportunities designed to promote excellence, success, confidence and self-esteem; these include music, drama, sports and languages.

We are an inclusive school and our commitment to small class sizes means learning can be personalised to meet the needs of the individual. The teachers are committed and dedicated to ensuring all children succeed in a happy learning environment. We have the highest expectations of ourselves, enabling us to have the same high expectations of our children. This is the reason our pupils consistently achieve successful entry into local independent and grammar schools.

We have numerous open mornings throughout the year but come and see us in action anytime, meet the friendly pupils and staff, we are sure you will not be disappointed. If you would like to visit, then please contact us for an appointment and you can be assured of a very warm welcome. We would love to show you around the school we are so proud of, we hope to see you soon!

Mrs K Ali  
Head Teacher



# Our Mission and Vision

Our vision is to achieve success for all our pupils. We believe learning should be personalised and challenging. We support our pupils to develop their sense of tolerance, empathy, kindness and respect. We prepare our pupils to become leaders of tomorrow through instilling confidence and a sense of balance in the wider world.

- Provide all our children with an educational experience that stimulates and develops a passion for learning.
- In an environment that is nurturing, dynamic and forward thinking with inspirational teaching.
- A school where our children are self-disciplined; taking pride in their achievements and that of their peers.
- A community where parents are welcome to truly share their child's learning journey.
- A school where emotional wellbeing and mental health are at the heart of everything we do.

**An Essendene Lodge child stands out from the crowd.**



## Early Years - Nursery / Pre-School

At Essendene we pride ourselves on the pastoral care we provide throughout the school, stemming from our Early Years Department. For our children aged 2-5 years, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, set out by the Department for Education.

Essendene is a calm, nurturing, stimulating, education based setting. We ensure the children are engaged in their learning and are provided with appropriate resources and opportunities to become active, independent learners.

Our nursery and pre-school provision is available for 51 weeks of the year, with a variety of different sessions. The children enjoy a range of activities to support them in reaching their potential through curriculum based learning that promotes independence from a young age.

### What sets us apart from other settings?

From the day they start with us we will support your child in every aspect of their learning journey, to strive for learning excellence and enjoyment. Our Nursery, Pre-school and Reception classes, share our Early Years Unit. Staff support the children in accessing all areas of the curriculum in an open and free-flow space. This also makes transitions within the unit seamless and stress free. Working as a unit supports all the children socially and emotionally as the older children build confidence in their abilities to be able to support the younger children in certain tasks. The children benefit in sharing the learning environment, as they are continually exposed to a variety of activities, games and languages designed to promote independence.



“Our son found his voice at Essendene Lodge. He was made to feel welcome from the day he joined in Year 3 and the once rather shy boy threw himself into many of the activities the school offers” - Year 5 parent



## Key Stage 1

At Essendene Lodge School we use the National Curriculum as a basis for programmes of study in Years 1 and 2. We focus on key learning in English and Mathematics to ensure that all children have the knowledge and skills to become proficient in reading, writing and mathematics.

With their class teachers, children study Mathematics, English, Science, Geography, History, Religious Education and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education. Specialist teachers teach the children for Art and Design, Computing, Music, French, Swimming, Physical Education and Games.

The children are assessed on a daily basis by the class teacher and will have a half termly assessment in the core subjects to check their understanding and knowledge of a topic.

The curriculum has a thematic approach and where possible, cross curricular links are made to motivate the children and promote creativity. We also ensure that children gain experiences of the curriculum outside the classroom through off site visits or workshops.

**An Essendene Lodge child has a love of learning.**



“Our children are very happy, love going to school, enjoy learning and take great pride in their own and their peers’ achievements. What more can we ask for?”- Year 5 parent

## Key Stage 2

In the Junior School we continue to build on the knowledge and skills learnt in Year 1 and 2. The 'themed' learning approach continues within subjects such as English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Art and Design. In Modern Foreign Languages the children learn French from Years 3 to 6.

The children continue to experience a varied and stimulating curriculum. Within a supporting and nurturing environment, we enable every pupil to reach their potential.

We also focus on independent thinking skills through verbal and non-verbal reasoning and our curriculum is further enriched by the expertise of specialist PE, Music, ICT and Language teachers.

We take the learning beyond school through educational visits. Through motivational teaching and attention to every child's needs our pupils experience an inspiring learning journey.

In Years 5 and 6 pupils achieve a deeper understanding of all National Curriculum subjects. The varied and rich curriculum is demanding, coupled with high expectations that allows pupils to achieve academic success reflecting their own abilities. Children are encouraged to develop good organisational skills for transition to senior school and they also develop many leadership qualities through being given roles that carry responsibilities around the school such as Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, Sports Captain and Prefects.



“Benefitting from a combination of superlative pastoral care and top-notch academic tuition, she is thriving in every way.” - Year 2 parent



## Pastoral Care

Our aim is to establish a nurturing environment and an atmosphere where children feel valued and can thrive both emotionally and academically. Essendene Lodge children are happy children.

We celebrate achievement in our weekly star of the week and house points assembly. We ensure that children are awarded for behaviour and achievement throughout their time at Essendene Lodge. Teachers and support staff provide guidance and support through the teaching curriculum and relationships throughout the school between staff and students are 'outstanding'. Staff promote excellent behaviour at all times and pupils are encouraged to speak to any member of staff about their concerns.

In upper Key Stage 2, children are given roles as prefects and we have a named Head Boy and Head Girl as well as House Captains for each of the four houses and Sports Captains. This instils a sense of pride in the pupils and the message that is given is that leadership comes with responsibility. Pupils also elect a class member to become a part of the School Council who organise events and raise money for our partner school in Malawi.

We pride ourselves on the care we provide during school and in our wraparound services.

**An Essendene Lodge child has a sense of pride.**



Essendene Lodge is a caring school. I have gained in confidence and the school is like one big family where you achieve your goals no matter what.

Mia – Year 6 Leaver



## PSHE

At Essendene Lodge, through PSHE lessons, we want our pupils to learn and then apply their understanding of how to stay healthy and safe, develop worthwhile relationships, respect differences, develop responsibility, and make the most of their own abilities whilst respecting those of others.

Through circle-time and Drama lessons, we emphasise active learning through considerate discussion, stories and problem-solving activities. Additionally, our pupils take part in tasks that promote active citizenship: partnering up with the elderly from our community during their Wednesday Lunch Club, alongside national and local charity fundraising and the planning of special school events such as cake sales and gala dinners to raise money for our partner school in Malawi.

We also make links with people from our community such as police officers, librarians, soldiers and people with religious affiliations and invite these people to share their knowledge with our pupils.

Whilst our School Council meets regularly to discuss school matters and liaise between the senior leadership team and the class, they also have an important role of providing support for others at playtime. Playground Pals spend time in both the infant and junior playgrounds and anyone in need can easily spot their orange bibs and ask for help.

Unicef states that a child who is happy will learn better and faster. We believe that with the outstanding teaching and learning that is happening at Essendene, our pupils are benefiting from the best start to life - one that will offer a smooth and successful transition into adulthood.



I have really enjoyed my time at Essendene Lodge.  
Although I am sad to leave I feel ready to move on.  
I will miss my friends and kind teachers.  
– Year 6 Leaver.



## Sport

From an early age, children are encouraged to develop co-ordination, balance and a variety of skills using small and large equipment in Gymnastics. From Year 1 children begin learning skills in Javelin, Shot-Putt and Long-Jump which is developed through to Year 6.

Pupils enjoy a wide range of sporting activities throughout the academic year including: Athletics, Cricket, Dance, Football, Gymnastics, Tennis, Health and Fitness, Hockey, Netball, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Rugby, Rounders and Swimming. We believe that it is important for both girls and boys to enjoy all of these sports, so we combine girls and boys Games in the Spring Term and allow them to choose between Rounders and Cricket in the final part of the Summer Term.

At Essendene Lodge we consider swimming to be a vital life skill as well as a sport. For this reason, our children begin swimming in Reception class and swim weekly throughout Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, pupils have weekly swimming lessons for a term. During swimming lessons, the children are taught water safety and survival skills as well as developing their stroke technique and stamina, each child is given an award at the end of their swimming time, which allows for progression as well as achievement.

The annual school Sports Day, inter-house and inter-school fixtures foster the sense of team spirit so valued by the school.



“We were looking for a nurturing, inclusive and unpretentious school environment with modest class sizes. Essendene Lodge School fits that bill completely.” - Year 3 & 6 parent





## Music

Our students experience wonderful music lessons where singing, listening, musical composition, percussion, rhythm and pitch are part of the curriculum. The emphasis we place on music is in keeping with our aim to educate the whole child, allowing those with particular musical talent to explore and progress within the subject.

Pupils have many opportunities to perform each year: from recitals for both key stages, our much-anticipated Spring Concert to school celebrations such as our Carol Service, Harvest Festival and Prizegiving.

In addition to our music lessons, many of our pupils also learn a musical instrument. The children have the advantage of top-level tuition from peripatetic teachers from the age of 6. The musical instruments on offer include; piano, violin, flute, guitar and drums. These musicians collaborate in a variety of groups at different times of year to perform.

The school has both a junior and senior choir and they are involved in senior school music days, large charity concerts, as well as various singing performances for charity and within the local community. They perform for parents at the end of year Prize Giving ceremony.

**An Essendene Lodge child has a chance to perform.**



Essendene Lodge has been a great experience for me. I have enjoyed it so much. The pupils and teachers have been really kind to me.

Jack – Year 6 Pupil



## Computing

The Computing curriculum is taught from Reception to Year 6 and the children learn a variety of skills. Within the new curriculum, the children learn how to be confident with elements of computer programming such as coding and debugging. In school, there are twenty laptops for the children to access and thirty iPads. There are other resources which can be accessed such as interactive whiteboards and cameras.

## French

Every child from Preschool to Year 6 is taught French by a specialist teacher. They are given the opportunity to develop their reading, writing and oral skills in another language whilst helping to enhance their cultural awareness and tolerance of others.

## Science

Children are fascinated by Science with its many aspects and continual new discoveries. The teaching of Science at Essendene is designed to engender a curiosity and enthusiasm for all three elements, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The relevance of Science to everyday life is seen as a very important part of the learning process, and pupils are encouraged to make links with other subjects as well as the world around them.



“I am so glad that we found Essendene, the sense of community is outstanding and my children are so very proud to be part of the school.” - Year 5 parent



## Extra-Curricular Activities

The curriculum at Essendene Lodge is enriched by a wealth of creative and sporting activities which take place at break times and after school. Some examples include:

- Football
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Badminton
- Gymnastics
- Art
- Sewing & Needle Craft
- Musical Theatre
- Computing
- Choir
- Drama
- Chess
- Violin
- Guitar
- Drumming
- Piano

An Essendene Lodge child will find their passion.



I think Essendene Lodge has helped me with extra support. I have loved the residentials and everyone is very nice. Isabel – Year 6 Pupil



## Wraparound Care

Essendene operates a wraparound care service from 8am to 6pm every day, providing a good value and convenient option for working parents. This starts with breakfast club in the morning and continues after school with prep club, after-school care and extra-curricular clubs.

After-school care runs from 4:30pm to 6pm where children are provided with a hot meal and enjoyable activities. Children attending club activities until 4:30pm may complete their homework during after school care.

## Holiday Scheme

Our holiday club is highly popular with children of all age groups in the school. It runs during half term, Christmas, Easter and Summer holiday periods. A variety of activities are offered.

**We provide excellent wrap around care for our children.**



“The small class sizes are clearly of enormous academic benefit, while the care shown for the children by all the staff is to my mind even just as important.” - Year 4 parent



## Residential Trips

Towards the end of the school year the children of Years 5 and 6 are given the golden opportunity to experience their first outbound residential school trips.

Situated on the borders of rural Kent and Sussex, the Bowles Outdoor Activity Centre allows the children to experience a myriad of adventure activities, such as rock-climbing, canoeing, skiing and various team building challenges.

In alternate years, based in Penshurst, the Bushcraft Company provides a genuine outdoor experience for the children: wilderness survival skills, shelter building, camping, bush cooking and first aid.

Each year the children also have the opportunity to attend the school skiing trip to leading resorts in Europe. The trips are organised by a specialist school skiing travel company and the children receive expert tutoring daily.

**We provide a variety of experiences to promote independence.**



Essendene Lodge is a lovely place. I have learned so much from this school and will be sad to leave. Essendene holds such a special place in my life and I will never forget it. Yianni – Year 6 Leaver.

# Senior School Preparation

We want our children to take the transition to senior school in their stride. Our parents are kept well informed of the process of selecting a senior school with a 'Next Steps Meeting' when their children are in Year 4. A meeting with our Head, Mrs. Ali takes place for Year 5 parents so that choices of senior schools can be discussed and expectations made clear early on. Parents are encouraged and supported throughout the process with regular contact from our Headteacher and Year 6 teacher to choose the right school for their child.

During the Spring Term in Year 5, the children are introduced to 11+ preparation in the form of weekly preparation sessions, involving practice papers and guidance to improve examination technique. The children become familiar with the style and expectations of the papers and these are embedded into their weekly learning, with any marks and general feedback going home to parents. Interview preparations also begin, with the children seen by both the Headteacher and Year 6 teacher.

As a result of this gradual yet thorough preparation, our pupils go into their exams confident and self-assured and our senior school successes speak for themselves.

- 
- Caterham School
  - Reigate Grammar School
  - Croydon High School
  - Woldingham School
  - Whitgift School
  - Trinity School
  - Lingfield College
  - Wallington County Grammar School
  - Wallington Grammar School
  - Tonbridge Grammar School
  - Croydon High School
  - Royal Russell School
- 



Essendene has been awesome! I have made so many friends and super memories.....Essendene Lodge is a great school academically and socially.  
Oscar -Year 6 Leaver.

“He has had outstanding preparation for his secondary school exams and throughout the daunting process we as a family have had much-needed guidance and support from the head and his class teacher.” - Year 6 parent



---

Come and visit Essendene Lodge School

---



[www.essendenelodge.co.uk](http://www.essendenelodge.co.uk)

[office@essendenelodge.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@essendenelodge.surrey.sch.uk) | +44 (0)1883 348 349

ESSENDENE ROAD, CATERHAM, SURREY CR3 5PB

 @EssendeneLodge