



# Essendene Lodge Preparatory School and Nursery

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**Calm, nurturing, and  
stimulating *education***

# 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.

An Essendene Lodge child stands out from the crowd.

- 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.



# Welcome

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 Kishwar Ali,**  
Headteacher,  
Essendene Lodge School



## Our **key strengths**

1

### Early Years Excellence

Essendene Lodge early years offers a unique, caring, nurturing and stimulating environment for 2-5 year olds. Our aim is to support children to become confident, independent and well rounded by offering them opportunities, experiences and support to become happy and inquisitive individuals. If you are looking for more than just a daycare then we are the setting for you. We provide routine and stimulating activities to challenge your child and get them actively learning through play.

2

### 11+ Preparation

In Upper Key Stage 2 we work very much in partnership with parents to help prepare pupils for common entrance exams taken at the age of 11 for entrance into local independent and Grammar Schools. Our strong academic success means that in recent years pupils have attained places at local schools such as: Caterham, Whitgift, Trinity, Woldingham, Tonbridge Grammar School, Lingfield College, Box Hill, Wallington County Grammar School and Wallington High School for Girls.

3

### 1-1 iPads

At Essendene Lodge every pupil from Reception Class upwards has a personal iPad. The iPad in the classroom brings education to life – interactive technology makes learning more engaging and memorable. Tools such as audio and video recorders, interactive learning programmes and the ability to present ideas in the way the child thinks change the way learning, exam preparation and homework is completed. Students have a sense of ownership and are more apt to take charge and become more invested in their own learning. They have access to resources not confined by the classroom walls or the school day.



**“The quality of the pupils’  
academic and other  
achievements is excellent.”**

ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate



# Why Choose Essendene Lodge

**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 guidance, set out by the Department for Education.**

Essendene is a calm, nurturing, stimulating, place to learn. 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.

**“A school with academic rigour and a *nurturing approach* to teaching.”**

**“We strive to provide a caring learning environment that is friendly, homely and fun for the children.”**

Kishwar Ali, Headteacher







## Nursery (Ages 2-3)

**In Nursery/Pre-school the children follow our Early Years curriculum with a wide variety of learning opportunities provided. Our two-year old's learning is focused on the prime areas of the curriculum. Their Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development, including their health and self-care.**

They are also exposed to learning in Maths and Literacy through songs and activities in the classroom and in our daily Read, Write, Inc. phonics sessions, with a trained teacher. We encourage the children to participate in circle time sessions, to build up their abilities to sit listen and participate with their learning as a group. These children experience all their learning through play and interactions and activities with adults and their peers.

Our focus for our Nursery children is to support them in beginning to become independent and confident in their own abilities and to begin to understand expectations and to follow rules and social cues, by promoting positive interactions with others.

We strive to provide a caring learning environment that is friendly, homely and fun for the children. We know the children as individuals and support them in developing their interests and exploring the unfamiliar.

We aim to be different to other Nurseries and our unique set up allows all the children in the Early Years Unit to free-flow, not only indoors and outdoors in all weathers, but between the age groups as well.

This means our Nursery children can free flow and explore their learning with children up to age 5. This has shown to support many children with their social and communication skills.

The Nursery provision is for children 2-3 years old and is available for 51 weeks of the year. We provide care from 8am to 6pm daily. (Other sessions are available).

### Nursery Pastoral Care

When settling the children into Nursery we understand it can be an emotional time for both child and parents. We therefore endeavour to make the transition as smooth as possible and to suit the needs of the child and parents. We work with parents on a phased entry, starting with a 1-1 interview with a senior member of the Early Years Team to allow us to get to know the child. From this we would agree further settling sessions to suit both parent and child's needs.





# Early Years

## Pre-School (Ages 3-4)

Our focus for Pre-school children is to support them with growing in confidence and independence in their own abilities and to understand expectations and to follow rules and social cues, by promoting positive interactions with others. It is important to understand that we are not a daycare centre and children in our setting are exposed to early education that is fun and exciting. We help them to develop skills that will prepare them for a life-long love for learning. We have high expectations for the children in their behaviour and in their individual achievements.

Our class sizes are small, which allows the adults in the setting to provide a personalised education and gain wonderful relationships with the children. Our unique set up means all the children in the Early Years Unit can free-flow, not only indoors and outdoors in all weathers, but between the age groups as well. We have found our Pre-school children develop empathy and a caring nature towards the Nursery children and they have the Reception children to look up and aspire to. Mixing the children's age groups for free-flow has also shown great positives for not only the children's learning and development but communication skills too.

The Pre-school provision is available from the term a child turns 3, for 51 weeks of the year. We provide care from 8am to 6pm daily. (Other sessions are available).

## Holiday Camps

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.



## Pre-school Pastoral Care

All the adults in the unit will get to know your child, but they will be assigned a keyworker with whoever they have the best bond with. We have regular contact with parents through our tracking, monitoring and communication system, 'Famly', which allows us to share photographs and videos of children with their adult, privately.

If a child struggles to separate with parents at drop off we will support them and send pictures or call parents to re-assure them.

## Early Years Extra-Curricular

Each week the children have a dedicated PE session, introducing new skills and developing previous learning. They also have music lessons with a very inspirational and fully qualified Music Teacher.

The children experience a lot in our community as we regularly take the children on local walks, to the library, local shops and the park. Each term the children also experience a visitor in school or a trip relating to our topics, such as The Sea Life Centre for our Under the Sea topic, or Chessington Zoo for our zoo topic.





# *Academic rigour* with a **nurturing approach to teaching**

## 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.

## 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.

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.

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.





# *A core part of life at* **Essendene Lodge Prep School**

## **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.

## **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. 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.

## **Residentials**

Years 5 and 6 pupils also go on an annual residential trip to Rockley sailing centre in Dorset. While the focus of the week is upon learning to sail, they also have the opportunity to experience activities including kayaking, problem solving, paddleboarding, windsurfing and team work challenges.

Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to join our annual skiing trip. In 2024 we visited Pinzolo in the Italian Dolomites for 5 days of skiing. Organised through a professional school skiing company, this

allows the children to develop their skiing expertise through guided daily lessons whatever their level, from expert to absolute beginners!

## **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. 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.

## **Technology**

Children start using technology in preschool. Their first experiences with the interactive whiteboard are integrated into their learning and may involve tracing letters with their fingers or playing maths games. As the children enter reception, the children are introduced to the school laptops and are encouraged to improve their recognition of upper case letters by logging into the school network, increase their typing speed and improving their hand/eye coordination with the simultaneous use of the touchpad and cursor on the screen.

As the children move into KS1, the children are taught to understand the basic principles of computer programming through Scratch. They are introduced to algorithms and learn how to create and debug simple programs. In addition, they start using Microsoft Office to practice their word processing skills as well as learning to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve the documents in their personal folder.







“Pupils relish opportunities to make decisions in their learning and other areas of their lives and do so extremely effectively, understanding the impact such decisions have.”

ISI - Independent Schools Inspectorate

## Celebrating Success

**We really pride ourselves on being a small school that achieves big things. Our focus is on nurturing well-rounded and confident individuals, preparing them for future challenges.**

### Malawi Project

Essendene Lodge began supporting Msalura Primary School in Salima, Malawi in 2011. Over the course of the last 8 years, the school has supported Msalura in a multitude of ways – engaging all elements of the school community in the process.

Msalura is an urban school serving Salima, one of the poorest areas of one of the poorest countries in the world. The school provides basic education to over 1,500 pupils daily. Class sizes are often in excess of 70 pupils, and teaching facilities are basic. For many years the school could not provide more than the most basic sanitation.

### 2024 11+ Results

In a remarkable achievement, Essendene Lodge School's Year 6 pupils have secured an impressive number of scholarships, 9 among the current cohort, highlighting their outstanding talents and academic excellence.

The individual successes of these students include:

**Alexi:** Music Scholarship at Dunottar School.

**Ava:** Music Scholarship to St Edmunds, Canterbury.

**Joseph:** Scholarship to Royal Russell School, with additional offers from Caterham, Trinity School, and Whitgift School.

**Florence:** Sport and Academic Scholarships to Reigate Grammar School, along with a Sport Scholarship to Caterham.

**Khaiyan:** Academic Scholarship to Caterham, Sports Scholarship to Trinity, and an offer from Whitgift. Khaiyan excelled by achieving full marks in the Kent Grammar School Exams and passing the Sutton Grammar School Exams.

**Eugene:** Music Scholarship to Whitgift, with offers from Trinity and Caterham.

**Bea:** Academic Scholarship to Croydon High School for Girls and an offer from Caterham.

**Janine:** Offer from Croydon High School.

“Essendene Lodge School Celebrates **Exceptional Success** in 11+ Scholarships.”



# Wellbeing and Support at Essendene Lodge School

Our primary objective is to cultivate a nurturing environment that prioritises the well-being of our pupils, fostering an atmosphere where they feel appreciated and can flourish both emotionally and academically.

To acknowledge and encourage achievement, we organize a weekly assembly called “Star of the Week” and distribute house points. These accolades are bestowed upon students for their exemplary behaviour and accomplishments throughout their time at Essendene Lodge.

Our dedicated teachers and support staff not only provide academic guidance but also offer support and build strong relationships with students, which we consider to be exceptional. Our staff members consistently promote positive conduct, and pupils are actively encouraged to approach any staff member to discuss their concerns. Additionally, we organise a weekly well-being club, open to all children who wish to participate, to further address their emotional needs.

We take immense pride in the level of care we provide within the school premises, as well as in our supplementary services that extend beyond regular school hours.

“Essendene Lodge  
children are happy  
children.”



“Children feel comfortable to share their ideas from a young age in response to well established routines and empathetic support from teachers which create a conducive environment.”

ISI - Independent Schools Inspectorate



## Preparation *for senior schools*

**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. For comparison purposes, our assessment system uses 'scaled scores' to allow internal assessment to be compared to national standards at the end of Key Stage 2.

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.

In Upper Key Stage 2 we work very much in partnership with parents to help prepare pupils for common entrance exams taken at the age of 11 for entrance into local independent and Grammar Schools.

Our strong academic success means that in recent years pupils have attained places at local schools such as:

- Whitgift
- Caterham
- Trinity
- Woldingham
- Tonbridge Grammar School
- Lingfield College
- Box Hill
- Wallington County Grammar School
- Wallington High School for Girls
- Wallington school for boys
- Reigate Grammar School
- Dunottar
- Croydon High School
- Royal Albert and Alexandar School





# Life after Essendene Lodge School

We trust that your experience at Essendene Lodge School will be enjoyable. You might also wish to explore the option of enrolling your child in one of our senior schools following their time at Essendene.



**Rookwood School information:**

**Acting Headteacher:** Jennifer Jellard  
**Address:** Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AL  
**Website:** rookwoodschool.org  
**Email:** receptiondesk@rookwoodschool.org  
**Telephone:** 01264 325900  
**Status:** Day and Boarding School, co-educational  
**Age:** 3 to 18 years



**Saint Felix School information:**

**Headteacher:** Mr Matthew Oakman  
**Address:** Halesworth Road, Reydon, Southwold, IP18 6SD  
**Website:** stfelix.co.uk  
**Email:** schooladmin@stfelix.co.uk  
**Telephone:** 01502 722175  
**Status:** Day and Boarding School, co-educational  
**Age:** 2 to 18 years  
**Preparation:** Yes



**St Francis' College information:**

**Headteacher:** Mr James Nichols  
**Address:** Broadway, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PJ  
**Website:** st-francis.herts.sch.uk  
**Email:** admissions@st-francis.herts.sch.uk  
**Telephone:** 01462 670511  
**Status:** Day and Boarding  
**Girls ages:** 3 mths to 18 yrs  
**Boys ages:** 3 mths to 7 yrs



**Yateley Manor School information:**

**Acting Headteacher:** Miss Laura Ball  
**Address:** 51 Reading Road Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 7UQ  
**Website:** yateleymanor.com  
**Email:** office@yateleymanor.com  
**Telephone:** 01252 405500  
**Status:** Day School, co-educational  
**Age:** 2 to 16 years  
**Preparation:** Yes

# Inspired Learning Group senior schools



To visit one of our senior schools or to book a place at an open day please visit the school website:  
[www.essendenelodge.co.uk](http://www.essendenelodge.co.uk)







**Essendene Lodge School**

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