



WINDERMERE
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1863

Pre-Prep and Prep School Prospectus





With adventurous learning at the heart of our Prep School provision, children learn vital skills that they take back into the classroom, as well as take with them through life. Whether they are taking part in Forest School, Adventure lessons, or studying wind speeds at the top of a lakeland fell, there is always challenge, fresh air and enjoyment.

There is a warmth, vibrancy, and kindness at our Prep School, that makes it a very special place to learn and grow. We would be delighted to welcome you and your family to Windermere School.

Jenny Davies
Head of Pre-Prep & Prep School

this is our
school



Our unique and inspirational Lake District setting overlooking Lake Windermere, immerses pupils in nature allowing them the space to learn and flourish. This is a place where children can be children, with plenty of time to explore, play, and find their own magic through learning, both indoors and outdoors.

Linking children to the world around them reinforces what they learn in the classroom. Windermere School gives pupils the freedom to develop their imagination, perseverance, communication, and decision-making skills, helping to foster a sense of responsibility and self-confidence that will last a lifetime.

The outdoors is as important as the indoors and both environments complement each other with natural resources and places in which to play, learn and discover. We are lucky enough to have a private watersports centre on the edge of Lake Windermere which the children use regularly from Year 3 onwards.

this is our
view





A love of learning and an enthusiasm for challenges produces confident, highly motivated children who arrive, and leave with a smile. It has been known that they even count the days off in the holidays until it is time to come back to school!

Above all Windermere School gives children the most precious thing of all – time. It's only by having time to explore new concepts that a child is able to ask the questions that may not have occurred to anyone else, make connections to their past experiences and grow into the very best versions of themselves.

why our
school?



this is our *future*

We seek to challenge each eager young mind, fostering a love of learning, that will open a world of unlimited possibilities.

Staff are inspired by the curiosity and thirst for learning that each child naturally holds within themselves. Our task is to encourage each child to grow and learn. We allow them to ask 'why', to experiment, to challenge, to discover and to innovate.

With small class sizes, specialist facilities and the world's most inspiring classroom on our doorstep, education at Windermere School is not just a journey, it is an adventure.



A varied, enriched curriculum is at the heart of the Prep School, where the development of the holistic child is paramount. The children experience specialist teaching from their early years, including French, Art, Music and PE. In Years 5 and 6, the children start to experience what life is like in the Senior School, where they are introduced to further specialist teaching in Drama, Computing and Science.

When you step into the magical world of art, it is like entering Harry Potter's Room of Requirement, or Aladdin's Cave of Wonder. In our bright and airy art studio children are encouraged to view creativity as inventing, experimenting, making mistakes, and having fun across many mediums. From clay and 3D model making, to weaving, textiles, painting, stamping and graffiti.

our
wider view





Using the school's playing field, AstroTurf and tennis courts we build each child's confidence and ability in a range of competitive and co-operative sports and activities. Our goal is to achieve a life- long love of physical activity be that participating regularly at a recreational level, or striving to succeed at the very highest level.

Friendly competition is promoted and all children have the opportunity to represent the school in a variety of sporting fixtures, including Tag Rugby, netball and cross-country. The children are appointed a house when they join the school and, from an early age, work collaboratively and take part in Inter-House competitions, such as Performing Arts, Debating and the Spelling Bee.

our
sporting life

Our innovative Adventure Programme sets Windermere School apart. It allows children to push their personal boundaries and develop the extra skills that are so vital for a successful life beyond the school gates. Generally, but not exclusively, this takes the form of adventure activities – sailing, paddle sports, climbing, caving, walking and biking.

Children realise that they are capable of more than they could ever imagine. They are inspired to embrace challenges and become well-rounded, resilient, confident and independent thinkers.

At every opportunity we take the academic curriculum outdoors and into our amazing UNESCO World Heritage Site environment, whether that is within the school grounds or further afield. Geography becomes real, and science is

linked to the preservation and conservation of the environment. English might involve a trip to Rydal Caves to strengthen the use of 'spooky' adjectives, or taking a poetry lesson under the old oak trees.

We are incredibly fortunate to have our own private watersports centre, Hodge Howe, less than a mile away from the school gates. The Centre has been awarded British Youth Sailing Recognised Club status by The Royal Yachting Association, for the quality of its race training. It comprises of two boathouses, a private beach, and a pavilion with a classroom, offering the perfect location for learning to sail, kayak, canoe or windsurf.

our
adventures





Our philosophy is simple, we encourage each child to develop at their own pace and according to their individual needs. We achieve this through a combination of child-led and adult-initiated activities, with staff that are passionate about helping every child to succeed in a happy and nurturing atmosphere. There is a genuine family feel in our dedicated Early Years building, Elleray House, together with an incredible sense of fun and energy.

Using a practical learning-through-play approach, we ensure that these crucial developmental years are filled with wonder and new discoveries, in a warm and engaging environment. The garden allows the children to thrive in the natural environment, with inspiration from the beautiful views of Lake Windermere and Lake District fells beyond.

Children can join Windermere School from their third birthday. They will take part in a wide range of experiences: from music-making to watching the newborn lambs in the adjacent meadow; from writing their own name for the first time to performing in the Nativity.

Children in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 take part in two 90 minute Forest School sessions each week. The focus is on woodland activities which start to nurture those 'hard to measure' life skills that are so important in children's education; self-awareness, independence, motivation, confidence, empathy and determination.

Our dedicated Forest School Programme is designed to develop articulate and confident children who are well prepared for their future education. By linking children to the world around them using a range of exciting outdoor activities, Forest School reinforces what they learn in the classroom.

our
first steps





Our teachers and qualified Forest School Leaders take on a facilitator role, giving children the freedom to guide their own activities. This enables them to develop their imagination, perseverance, communication, decision-making skills and self-confidence.

There are small trees to climb, magical places to hide, spaces for den building, secret passageways through shrubbery and a log circle for telling stories, singing songs and eating toasted marshmallows!



Vincit Qui Se Vincit
one conquers who conquers oneself

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