

CHARD PREP SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

PRE-PREP & PREP



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A WARM WELCOME TO CHARD PREP SCHOOL

Our comprehensive education inspires students to become motivated and compassionate individuals, who go on to thrive in all aspects of life.

Chard Prep School is a flourishing, traditional preparatory school which is steeped in history. It is located in beautiful, historic buildings in the heart of Chard, close to the meeting point of Somerset, Devon and Dorset. We believe that Chard Prep School has a unique atmosphere which seeks to harness the potential of each one of its pupils. This is possible due to the intentionally small class sizes, ensuring high pupil-to-staff ratios.

Our aim at Chard Prep School is to foster a love of lifelong learning within every boy and girl in our care, enabling them to achieve their true potential by preparing them for the next step in their educational journey at eleven years old. The specialist staff nurture each child's academic and personal development. This can be seen in the breadth of the curriculum, the focus on pastoral care which is at the heart of our school, and the wealth of extra-curricular opportunities available to the children. This offer enables our pupils to excel academically whilst developing the self-confidence, resilience and thirst for learning that are key to further success.

We aim to equip children with the skills to make the most of each and every opportunity that comes their way, both now and far into the future. This will allow them to achieve and thrive in our ever-changing world.

Headteacher

Katie Hill



Throughout our non-selective school, the needs of the individual child are recognised and catered for by a team of enthusiastic and well-qualified teachers. Classes are intentionally small, each with their own full and varied timetable. Particular emphasis is placed upon English and Maths, which form the core of the curriculum.

Each of the taught subjects benefits from specialist subject teachers and facilities to match. Science is taught in the fully-equipped lab; ICT is taught in the networked Computer Suite; Art and Design is taught in the Art Studio; PE in the Gym and Games on the School's own Astroturf, or on the adjacent spacious fields at Holyrood Academy. Music, Geography, History, Modern Languages and Religious Studies are also taken by all Prep classes.



The School follows the National Curriculum for both Key Stages 1 and 2, with pupils attaining standards higher than the local or national averages. To reach these standards, the School has an extensive academic programme, supplemented by a wide range of cultural, aesthetic and sporting opportunities, both in the timetabled and the extended curriculum. Homework is considered an essential part of the curriculum.

Education at Chard Prep School is based around Christian values, with a daily Assembly. Music, particularly singing, is an integral part of school life and the school comes together as one voice in weekly singing assemblies.



WHY CHARD PREP SCHOOL?

We are dedicated to providing a stimulating, engaging, and enjoyable learning environment. We encourage questions and celebrate positivity and individual achievement, ensuring the happiness and success of each child in our care.

We are proud to offer:

- Specialised subject instruction
- Small class sizes
- Before and after-school care
- Comprehensive 11+ preparation
- An affordable fee structure
- Acceptance of early years funding
- Diverse extra-curricular clubs
- Languages taught from age 4
- Forest school
- Weekly swimming lessons
- Three hours of sport per week
- Integrated music curriculum

70%

of Chard Prep School children secure places at grammar schools or earn scholarships at local independent senior schools.





PRE-PREP RECEPTION - YEAR 2

The Pre-Prep Classes, for Reception to Year 2, are mainly taught by their class teacher. This helps foster important social and emotional skills and encourages lasting friendships in our school community.

Symes Class (Reception) has two daily sessions, and children can attend on a part-time or full-time basis from the term after they turn four. In Symes, school uniform is worn. As children grow older, they will gradually attend more sessions until they are full-time.

Our committed and nurturing staff offer supportive guidance to the younger children on-site and off, for example during weekly swimming lessons at Chard Leisure Centre's state-of-the-art pool and on days in the woods with our local Forest School provider, ROAM.





In the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, we place emphasis on developing skills across seven key areas, categorised into three prime areas and four specific areas:

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language: emphasising effective communication and language skills.
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development: prioritising personal, social, and emotional growth for well-rounded development.
- Physical Development: promoting physical well-being and an active lifestyle.

Specific Areas

- Literacy: providing a strong foundation in reading and writing to instil a love of language and literature.
- Mathematics: nurturing numerical skills and problem-solving abilities for real-world challenges.
- Understanding the World: encouraging curiosity and exploration of the environment.
- Expressive Arts and Design: fostering artistic and imaginative expression.





PREP YEAR 3 - 6

From Years 3 to 6, pupils progress to subject-specific rooms for their lessons, establishing a dynamic and imaginative learning environment that strongly encourages independent learning.

At Chard Prep School, small class sizes enable our specialist teachers to recognise the unique learning styles of each student. Teaching is personalised to meet the specific needs of every individual.

Our students engage in a comprehensive curriculum covering traditional academic disciplines. Alongside the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, Prep children study History, Geography, Foreign Languages and Religious Studies.

This academic offer is further enriched by instruction in Music, Art, Drama, Design Technology, ICT and Physical Education. We offer numerous opportunities for interactive learning, both within the classroom and through external experiences.





From Reception to Year 3, English and Mathematics lessons are delivered by the class teacher. Thereafter, from Year 4 upwards, the children benefit from five lessons a week with our Head of English, and five with our Head of Mathematics.

In English, great emphasis is placed on building strong and creative writers. Staff draw on a wide range of literary genres and writing styles to inspire students and give them the confidence to express themselves articulately. Rigorous attention to spelling and grammar underpins this, with tailored weekly learning targets. Our reading programme encourages children to become independent, attentive readers, and fosters a love of story-telling as well as encouraging critical thinking skills. Students are offered opportunities to illustrate their work, read it to an audience, participate in competitions, have their work published and create podcasts, offering them a glimpse of the world beyond the classroom.

Our Mathematics curriculum is an enhanced version of the National Curriculum which ensures that all the national targets are met as standard, but extends further to cover those important 11+ topics. Students can feel confident when sitting senior/grammar school entrance tests, and this boosted programme ensures that all children take their next step into secondary education feeling well-prepared. Differentiated homework is set each week; this either extends or consolidates the learning objectives which have been covered in class. All children are individuals, and lessons are designed with this in mind. Maths is a great topic for getting hands-on with manipulatives, and our well-stocked resources allow the children to practically experience the theory that they learn in class.

At Chard School we have class sets of iPads and a dedicated Computer Suite which are frequently used to extend learning in lessons.



SPORTS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Sports

Students from Reception upwards participate in PE lessons conducted on the School's own Astroturf, in the School Gym, and on the Holyrood Academy games fields. In addition to timetabled PE lessons, all children take part in weekly swimming lessons at Chard Leisure Centre.

Miss Ann Taswell, a British International athlete and Cross-Country runner, coaches various sports as part of the timetable, including Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Basketball, Netball, Rounders, Cross-Country Running, and Athletics. From Year 3, pupils begin representing the school in these sports.

Extra-curricular Activities

The range of activities varies according to the time of year, and changes on a termly basis. Clubs mainly take place after school and may incur a small charge as detailed in the Fees section. Recent clubs have included: Art, Chess, Choir, Cookery, Craft, Cricket, Crochet, Dance, Debating, Drama, Gardening, Gymnastics, Hockey, Juggling, Karate, Latin, Multi-sports, Music Ensemble, Netball, Pirates, Rounders, Science and Tag Rugby.

Trips

Educational visits and workshops for all classes occur throughout the school year. Pupils in the Cerdic classes are invited to attend a residential trip, where they enjoy a variety of team-building and outdoor activities.





CREATIVE ARTS

Performing Arts

At Chard Prep School we produce a varied and exciting programme of plays and musicals, giving all students the chance to develop confidence in front of an audience and to showcase their individual talents.

Beginning with the youngest members in the Pre-Prep classes, pupils take part in an annual Christmas production for parents and actively participate in school assemblies. The conclusion of the academic year includes the Cerdic Year 6 production, acting as a significant celebration that highlights the artistic and musical talents of the eldest students. Furthermore, Prep pupils frequently assume leadership roles in assemblies, showcasing their musical, dramatic, or poetic abilities. A notable example is the School Remembrance Service, which beautifully exhibits the children's proficiency in music and public speaking.

Art and Design

The school curriculum incorporates Art and Design from the beginning of the school journey. Symes class enjoy regular 'Drawing Club' sessions that let their imaginations flow while encouraging early mark-making and word/image interactions. From Year 1, the Art Studio becomes a key resource. Children explore Art, Craft, and Design from diverse cultures, exploring key themes such as colour, pattern, shape, tone, texture, and form. They acquire skills in a wide range of techniques, including painting, printmaking, textiles, collage, and three-dimensional design. Every topic includes opportunities for observational drawing, which we consider the cornerstone of successful art activities.





Music

Chard School takes great pride in the musical achievements of its pupils, and the importance of music is recognised throughout the School. To encourage children from the outset, music learning begins in the Reception Class (Symes) with simple songs and rhythms, which may be performed to parents and the rest of the School, in School Assemblies and at festivals and celebrations.

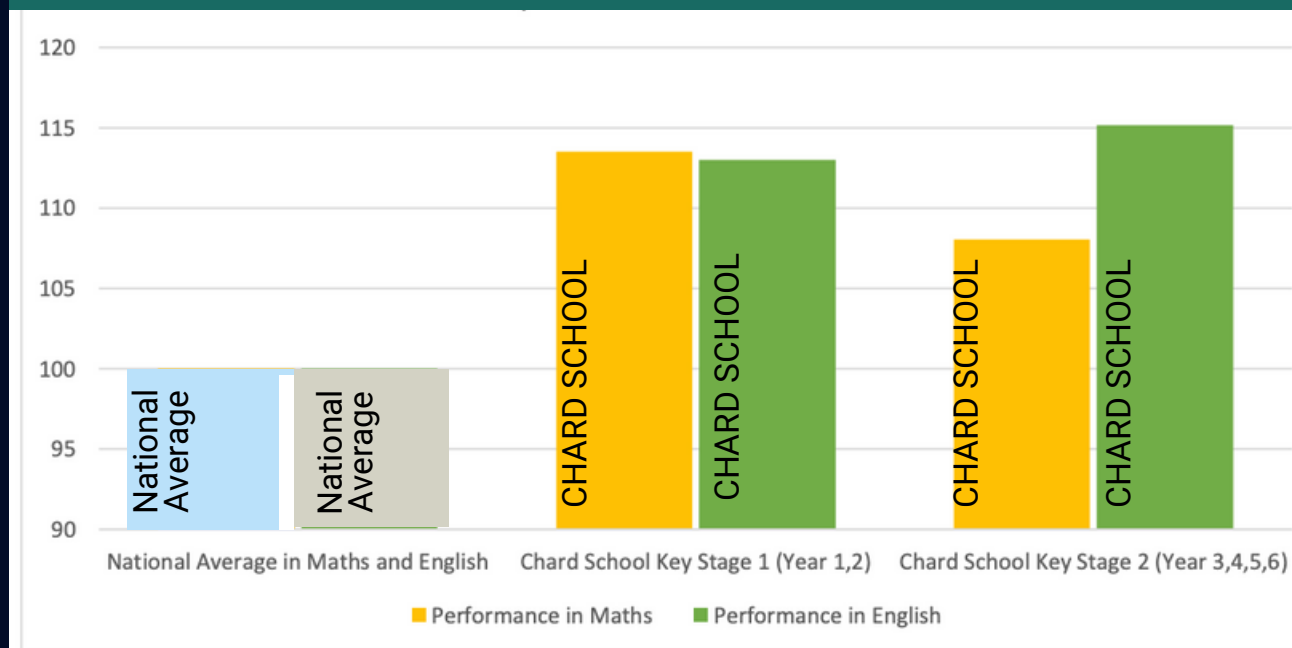
From Year 1, pupils can choose to have individual instrumental tuition in school, as well as taking part in class, group and ensemble music sessions. Alongside singing lessons, the following instruments are offered for tuition – piano, ukulele, flute, violin, clarinet, drums, saxophone, and guitar – with pupils prepared for Associated Board examinations on a regular basis.

Class music and singing lessons take place from Year 1 to Year 6, and all pupils become members of the School Choir, which performs at our Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, Carol Service, end of term concerts and at various other local concerts and events throughout the school year. The annual School Play includes singing and instrumental pieces, many of them solo, and gives a further opportunity for the older pupils to perform.

Pupils have frequent opportunities to demonstrate their musical skills in School Assemblies and at school events. Musicians will also play at the Summer Speech Day and the performances are always of a high standard.



2022 -2023 COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC OUTCOMES



ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

1. SURPASS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

PUPILS IN YEAR 1, YEAR 2 AND YEAR 3 ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN BOTH MATHS AND ENGLISH.

2. ALL CLASSES MET ALL NATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

YEAR 2 COMPREHENSION SKILLS—INFORMATION RETRIEVAL IS 28 PERCENTAGE POINTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

3. EXCELLING IN 8 OUT OF 12 MEASUREMENTS

IN MATHS AND ENGLISH ACROSS ALL SCHOOL CLASSES, CHARD SCHOOL CONSISTENTLY MET NATIONAL EXPECTATIONS, EXCELLING IN 8 OUT OF 12 MEASUREMENTS.

4. 21% POINTS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

READING COMPREHENSION AMONGST RECEPTION CHILDREN IS 21 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

5. CLASSES MET ALL NATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

YEAR 2 COMPREHENSION SKILLS—INFORMATION RETRIEVAL IS 28 PERCENTAGE POINTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! SEE WHAT OUR PARENTS HAVE TO SAY

“

Chard School is a fantastic school. It has a warm, caring, family-feel environment with excellent and dedicated teachers and support. The love of learning is at the heart of the school's ethos and I know my child will leave the school having reached her potential.



FEEDBACK FROM
CURRENT PARENTS



“

When I leave through the gates in the morning I feel so excited for the children and I know that they will be having so much fun, stimulation and variety in their day. We are over the moon that we 'discovered' the school! Thank you.

“

At Chard School my son is allowed to be completely himself. The smaller classes, the richer, busy curriculum and the academic stretch have been life-changing for him. Staff are so caring, and really encourage children to challenge themselves and try new things. We couldn't be happier with the school.



LEARNING SUPPORT & PASTORAL CARE

Small Teaching Groups

In the Pre-School Nursery, the average teacher:pupil ratio is 1:6. Children with specific educational needs are therefore more easily identified and can be helped within the classroom by class and subject teachers, much more readily than in schools with larger class sizes.

Classroom Assistance

Classroom support from Teaching Assistants is available to teachers, especially in the Pre-Prep, to make teaching groups even smaller and more effective.

Learning Support Teacher

Individual assistance, particularly for children with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, is available from a specialist teacher within the School. Children are taught on a one-to-one basis or as part of an intervention group and are given re-enforcement work according to their own specific needs. These lessons are charged separately. Parents are encouraged to become directly involved in the learning support process and a close liaison between the teacher and parents is actively sought.



LEARNING SUPPORT & PASTORAL CARE

Assessment

All pupils are assessed, using teacher assessments - both written and digital standardised tests - at regular intervals, so that progress can be continually reviewed and evaluated.

Pastoral Care

At Chard Prep School, prioritising well-being is paramount, with teachers equipped with training in mindfulness programmes. We firmly believe that a child's success, both within and beyond the classroom, hinges on their sense of happiness and security in their environment. By inspiring children to seize the opportunities available at Chard Prep School, we aim to empower them to develop into confident and well-rounded young individuals.



“Chard Prep School have provided a superb environment for my son to flourish in, not only academically but also in a sporting and artistic way.

They’re keen to encourage participation and involvement in all aspects of school life and the smaller class sizes allow a more personal approach to learning.”



APPLYING & FEES

Book an Open Day or arrange a personalised visit tailored to your family's specific needs. Personal visits include a campus tour and meetings with selected staff members.

As part of the admissions process, prospective students participate in a taster visit. This provides an excellent opportunity for a child to fully experience the Chard Prep School environment and engage with potential classmates in the upcoming cohort.

To secure a place at Chard Prep School, register by completing the registration form. This step demonstrates a strong expression of interest. Upon receiving the completed form, we will require copies of your child's last school report or reference from your son or daughter's current school.

Sibling Discounts: A 4% reduction in fees applies to a younger brother or sister once they are in full-time education and Early Years Funding has ceased. For a third child, there is an 8% reduction. These discounts are applicable only if all qualifying children from the family continue to attend the school.



FEES

Chard Prep School's commitment is to enhance the accessibility of private education, offering a 30% reduction of the full fees listed below in your first year, and a 15% referral incentive*. Additionally, we accept Early Years funding and provide scholarship and bursary opportunities. At Chard Prep School, you'll find an affordable private education.

*Terms and conditions apply.

Fees per term (full-time)

Year 6 (Upper Cerdic) £3,600

Year 5 (Lower Cerdic) £3,450

Year 4 (Harris) £3,300

Year 3 (Wyndham) £3,150

Year 2 (Monmouth) £2,690

Year 1 (Horner) £2,690

Reception* (Symes) £2,570

*Early Years Entitlement available

All 3 and 4 year olds, from the term after they are 3, are eligible for Early Years Funding. Please note that our fees are inclusive of additional services, which other Early Years establishments may not offer. Up to 30 funded hours per week are available. For more information please visit the 'Termly Fees' and 'Early Years Funding' pages under the 'Enrolling' section on the website: www.chardschool.co.uk



FEES

Part-Time – Pre-Reception (Sessions 8.45am - 1pm & 1pm - 3.30pm)

Pre-Reception age children can start in Lower Symes the term after their fourth birthday and may attend on a part-time basis for a minimum of two sessions. Please note that Reception aged children (in the academic year that they turn 5) are expected to attend on a full-time basis. For further information on the cost of sessions please visit the 'Termly Fees' and 'Early Years Funding' pages under the 'Enrolling' section on the website:
www.chardschool.co.uk

Fee Payment

Fees are charged per term and must be paid in advance. Payment is due on or before the first day of each term.

Notice of Withdrawal

If a pupil is withdrawn from the School, a term's notice, in writing, must be given by the first day of the term. Failure to provide the required notice will result in a term's fees being charged.

Nursery Fees

The Lawns Nursery operates as a separate entity from Chard School. For information about nursery fees, please visit the nursery website at www.thelawnschildrensnursery.co.uk/chard or email enquiries@thelawnschildrensnursery.co.uk.



ADDITIONAL CHARGES & OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Additional Charges

Lunch (Early Years and Reception) £3.25 a day

Lunch (Years 1-6) £3.75 a day

Swimming - £28.00 a term

Optional Extras

Before-School Club (from 8am) - No extra charge

After-School Club (until 4.30pm) - No extra charge

Prep Club (until 4.30pm) - No extra charge

Extra-Curricular Club (external coaches) - £95.00 a term based on 10 sessions

Extra-Curricular Club (internal coaches) - £55.00 a term based on 10 sessions

After-School Club (4.30 - 5.30pm) - £5.75 per session, per child.

Individual Learning Support - £20.50 per session

Group Learning Support - £10.50 per session

Membership of Old Cerdics Association - £5.00 a term (this is passed on to the Old Cerdics Association)



SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

Scholarships

Each year, scholarships are awarded to children in Years 2-4 whose talents will enrich the academic, musical, artistic or sporting life of Chard Prep School. Families that are considering applying for scholarships for their children are invited to tour the school at their convenience before application. For more information, please contact admissions at 01460 63234 or email admissions@chardschool.co.uk

Bursaries:

Means-tested bursaries are also available. For more information, please contact the School Secretary at 01460 63234 or email secretary@chardschool.co.uk.



SCHOOL TIMES

TERM DATES 2023/24

School Times: Monday to Friday 8.45am – 3.30pm.

Parking: The school issues parking permits to all parents for the nearest car park situated within a short walking distance, providing free parking during drop-off and pick-up times.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Term commences: Wednesday 6 September at 8.45am
Half Term: 3.30pm on Friday 13 October – Sunday 29 October
Term ends: Friday 8 December (12 noon)
INSET DAYS: 4 & 5 September

Spring Term 2024

Term commences: Thursday 4 January at 8.45am
Half Term: 3.30pm on Friday 9 February – Sunday 18 February
Term ends: Friday 22 March (12 noon)
INSET DAY: 2 & 3 Jan

Summer Term 2024

Term commences: Wednesday 17 April at 8.45am
May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May
Half Term: 3.30pm on Friday 24 May – Sunday 2 June
Term ends: Friday 12 July (12 noon)
INSET DAYS: 15 & 16 April

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