



ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

**GREAT THINGS HAPPEN
AT ST. ANTHONY'S GIRLS**

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ABOUT ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

St. Anthony's School for Girls educates pupils aged 4-11 in a Catholic environment which is inclusive and open to all faiths. We share the same ethos and values as our sister school, St. Anthony's School for Boys, and operate a Pastoral Board which works with the Alpha Plus Group and the school leadership team to ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is nurtured.

St. Anthony's is both academic and caring. We set high educational standards as well as being deeply focused on nurturing the individual. Our family atmosphere develops respect and compassion, creating an environment in which kindness is a core value. By learning in a setting where our students feel valued and safe, St. Anthony's girls will grow to be confident and resilient young women, well prepared for the wider world.

Our school is located in Ivy House, a magnificent three storey building with a beautiful façade, overlooking Golders Hill Park. It is the former home of the prima ballerina, Anna Pavlova and was also at one time occupied by the painter, J. M. W. Turner.

The building has an area of 12,000 square feet, including 14 spacious classrooms which retain the character and charm of the building, a specialist science room and a multi-purpose hall for dining, assemblies and gymnastics. The addition of a barre and mirror creates the perfect space to uphold the building's history of dance.



*“The quality of teaching
is Outstanding.”*

Ofsted 2017



“All are united in their quest for excellence.”

Ofsted Report 2017

WELCOME



At St. Anthony's School for Girls, we believe that children reach their true potential when they feel safe, secure and valued as part of the community. St. Anthony's girls will learn in an informal yet structured, happy environment where they will develop a lasting passion for knowledge and the confidence to express their moral and spiritual beliefs.

Our individualised curriculum allows us to tailor learning to the needs of each child, enabling success in all areas; academic, creative and sporting. Learning is further enhanced through our wide range of extra-curricular activities taught by specialist teachers. We teach our girls that through hard work and determination, they can achieve great things.

We recognise and value parents as the first educators. Through working in partnership with our parents, we can ensure that the girls thrive, grow and reach their full potential in all aspects of their school life.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mr Brennan
Headmaster







THE CURRICULUM: OUR APPROACH

The core purpose of our curriculum is to enable pupils to discover for themselves and become independent and confident learners. From the EYFS and Pre-Prep onwards, our pupils are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and are made aware of their achievements through in-depth feedback and by identifying the next steps to their success.

St. Anthony's girls are encouraged to be active learners in all areas of the curriculum. Collaborative projects, investigation and open-ended questioning are tools used by our teaching staff to engage pupils in their learning and achieve a greater depth of understanding. Our pupils are encouraged to pose their own questions, and then draw upon their carefully honed skills of enquiry and research to solve and answer those questions.

Our girls have access to a curriculum which features a similar breadth and balance of both core and non-core subjects. The core subjects of English and Mathematics are given dedicated, discrete lesson time with the vital skills of discussion and reasoning crossing over into all areas of the curriculum. Our non-core subjects, which include humanities, art and design are taught through a project based, cross-curricular topic.

Self-led tasks, research projects and open-ended challenges are all strategies we use to encourage children to take ownership of their learning from an early age, developing autonomy through the practical and exploratory nature of our lessons. Our pupils are active rather than passive learners who are encouraged to use their voice and their actions in pursuit of academic and emotional growth.

“The school provides an exciting and motivating curriculum.”

Ofsted Report 2017



RECEPTION

The Reception day is organised into a variety of adult-led and child-initiated activities. New concepts are introduced during adult-led sessions which are then embedded during child-initiated learning time. Skills in fine motor control, problem solving and communication are practised through independent play and then applied, when the child is ready, to the more academic subjects of reading, writing and mathematics.

English

Speaking and listening skills underpin every aspect of our curriculum. Pupils work and play in a language rich environment and are encouraged to fully participate in discussion with their peers. Vivid texts, images and materials are used to broaden our pupils' vocabulary and promote their use of exciting language in preparation for writing. Pupils are read to and encouraged to read regularly. Through the careful selection of texts, they will develop a love for reading and an understanding of its purpose. Our phonics programme is key to our success in creating confident readers and writers. A systematic phonic programme is taught daily and supported by regular practice and application.

Mathematics

Mathematics lessons in Reception are practical and hands-on. A variety of concrete materials are used to embed the concept of numbers and guide our pupils to gain a secure understanding of the number system. Problem-solving activities are central to our approach and encourage the use of mathematical language in order to develop skills in reasoning. These skills are vital to successful mathematical progression in older years.

PRE-PREP (YEAR 1 & 2)

Pupils' skills in independence, which are developed throughout Reception, transfer into the curriculum once the pupils reach Pre-Prep, and a more formal approach to the core subjects is adopted by our teaching staff. Teachers provide tailored activities to challenge pupils in their thinking and learning and encourage confidence in their academic and emotional growth.

English

Our systematic phonic programme continues into Year 1. Pupils begin selecting the correct spelling patterns for accurate use when writing more sophisticated vocabulary. Reading continues to be a key focus and skills in fluency and comprehension are developed through guided and individual reading time in class.

Our literacy lessons are delivered through a text-based approach called 'The Power of Reading', which places high quality children's texts at the heart of our teaching. Pupils are encouraged to identify and use writing features adopted by authors within these texts to enhance their own creative writing.

Mathematics

Our Mathematics curriculum is taught through a Singaporean approach using a programme called Inspire Maths; a highly scaffolded learning framework with problem solving at its heart. The CPA (concrete-pictorial-abstract) approach is a key element to this mathematical methodology. CPA helps children achieve secure number sense; understand what numbers truly represent and how to use them mathematically. This is done through a series of carefully structured representations. First, using physical objects (concrete), then diagrams or pictures (pictorial), and ultimately using representations such as numerals (abstract).





PREP (YEARS 3 - 6)

The prep school at St. Anthony's equips our girls with the academic ability, social awareness, confidence and self-motivation required for a natural transition to senior school.

A greater depth of learning is achieved through continual challenges such as finding possible answers to the question: 'How have Ancient Greek inventions impacted on the modern world?' Pupils are also encouraged to pose their own questions to broaden their knowledge of a subject. Moral questions and critical thinking are woven into the school day through class discussions around literature, pondering a 'big question' during whole school assembly or tackling a problem-solving task in mathematics.

English

Our prep school students will often be 'free readers', but their reading education continues as the focus shifts from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. Comprehension skills are taught daily through guided reading sessions. Skills in inference and reasoning are developed further when studying texts in other curriculum areas such as Religion and History.

Creative writing is inspired by authors such as Ted Hughes, Phillip Pullman and Anthony Browne through our 'Power of Reading' lessons. Guided by our expert teachers, pupils quickly become adept at 'unpicking' a text or poem through whole class reading and discussion. Skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar are practised daily and pupils strive to write with accuracy. We hold high expectations of our writers to ensure they are ready to thrive in the next stage of their academic life.

Mathematics

Our mathematics curriculum continuously builds and consolidates knowledge so that pupils reach a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Extensive practice is built in to the programme in order to develop fluency and mastery. Emphasis is placed on the development of intellectual competence such as the ability to visualise. Our pupils are taught ways of 'seeing' the mathematics within a problem using heuristics for problem solving. Through our guided and independent practice sessions, pupils become competent in applying these problem-solving tools to any age-appropriate mathematical problem.



“The extra-curricular activities enhance pupils learning immensely.”

Ofsted Report 2017.

THE BROADER CURRICULUM

The girls at St. Anthony's follow a broad curriculum in order to maintain a balance between academic, physical and creative nourishment. Ensuring this important equilibrium helps to better equip pupils with a broad variety of skills to be a lifelong learner: a well-rounded, happy and confident child.

Art & Design

The girls enjoy weekly art lessons covering the major disciplines from painting, printing and clay. Girls are encouraged to work at their pace and have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and as individuals. Each child's completed art piece is celebrated and displayed.

Performing Arts

Drama and dance opportunities are available to all of our students, with options varying from Ballet to Street Dance, Performance Class to Drama and Public Speaking to LAMDA training.

Sport

The girls play netball, hockey, football, swim termly and have the opportunity to play sports at team level against other schools. Through sporting activities, they will grow to understand what it takes to persevere, succeed and acknowledge other children's successes. They will be encouraged to take the initiative to lead activities and focus on improving aspects of their own performance.

Rhythmic Gymnastics is a discipline, an art and a creative sport. All girls have termly rhythmic gymnastics and opportunities to perform at competitive tournaments.

Science & Computing

Our science facilities enable practical, hands-on and challenging learning. Equipped for our older girls, the lab includes an interactive smartboard screen, electrical points and gas taps for use with Bunsen burners, microscopes and rock samples, and many other exciting resources for enhanced learning.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In addition to their timetabled subjects, our girls have the choice and opportunity to further develop their individual interests through our rich extra-curriculum offerings. These are open to all children in Pre-Prep and Prep. Subjects such as Spanish, French, German, Chess, Coding, Ballet, Yoga and Choir are just a few of the clubs available in our before, after and lunchtime school sessions.

To supplement our curriculum and to further enrich our girls' learning experience, we offer an extensive extra-curricular programme ranging from visiting speakers and workshops to off-site school trips. This is considered an integral part of our student's school experience as learning is brought to life and our pupils quickly become resilient learners.

Themed weeks are organised throughout the school year to promote and raise enjoyment in curriculum subjects. For example, Mindfulness Week, Fair trade Fortnight, Multicultural Week, Book Week and Arts Week. During these weeks, pupils benefit from engaging workshops led by specialists, experience off-site trips to museums, galleries and other centres of educational interest and engage in cross-curricular lessons which excite their curiosity for learning.



PASTORAL CARE

As sister school to St. Anthony's Boys, our girls benefit from single sex education alongside the advantages that co-educational activities can offer. The schools foster close links through sharing sporting events, assemblies, the creative arts and science workshops.

The children's voice is at the centre of all teaching and learning. At St. Anthony's, the girls learn to trust the value of their insights and opinions. They grow in confidence and courage and are able to verbalize complex thoughts and feelings in a safe space of respect and authentic interest. We model and embed this approach in all of our teaching and learning.

During assembly, children are encouraged to volunteer their ideas and opinions related to the topic of discussion. This is a time for coming together, celebrating our achievements and being thankful for our opportunities.

We create safe and non-judgmental listening spaces using "Talk Points, Talk Partners", and weekly Critical Thinking sessions where the girls can believe that what they say truly matters.

We employ a 'buddy system' in which our older girls are partnered with younger pupils during lunch-time to foster support, care and communication.

Our girls are given the space to flourish intellectually, spiritually and emotionally in order to achieve their full potential. They are encouraged to always seek to understand themselves and be the best they can be. The girls bear witness to this by being focused, engaged in challenging work and willing to work in harmony to develop positive relationships.

CATHOLIC LIFE

The Catholic Life of St. Anthony's Girls encompasses everything we do as a community to live out the Gospel Values.

A fundamental element of Catholic education at St. Anthony's Girls is the shared focus to work towards 'The Common Good'. Through our charity work, we instil in our girls the need to reach out to one another in our Catholic duty to support and help those in need. Our chosen charities support children who do not have the access to education that many of us take for granted.

Catholic religious education at St. Anthony's is taught as a discrete curriculum subject, however we believe true understanding of the Catholic faith comes through everyday experience and interactions. We seek to inspire this worldly participation in our students so they can take their place in today's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society, mindful of the needs of others at home and in the world around them.

“The contribution to the common good - service and social justice is outstanding.”

Westminster Diocesan Inspection 2018.





GENERAL INFORMATION

School Uniform

We are extremely proud of our smart uniform in the traditional St. Anthony's colours of blue and green. The girls wear a blue and green tartan pinafore along with a white blouse, navy logo cardigan and blue blazer displaying the St. Anthony's crest in green.

Outdoor Space

The play areas of the school include climbing equipment to support physical development and dedicated spaces for reflection and learning about the natural environment.

Situated next to the magnificent Golders Hill Park, St. Anthony's girls are surrounded by an expanse of green space. The park includes ponds, a stumpery, Butterfly House and even a zoo; home to a European Eagle Owl which St. Anthony's has sponsored.

Transport

St. Anthony's is well situated between Golders Green and Hampstead underground stations. Regular bus services stop outside the school with safe access to pedestrian crossings. Space is available on the school forecourt to park children's bikes and scooters.

A shuttle bus service is also available for morning and afternoon journeys between St. Anthony's School for Girls and St. Anthony's School for Boys in Hampstead.

NEXT STEPS

St. Anthony's school for Girls aims to mirror the success of St. Anthony's School for Boys, Hampstead. As their sister school, we share in the educational quality and ethos currently experienced by the boys.

The school welcomes children from a non-Catholic background, continuing the excellent tradition of the boys' school in contributing to the diverse, tolerant and inclusive nature of the local community.

Assessment Process

For entry into Reception, an age appropriate assessment will be carried out. This will include play-based activities to determine strengths in your daughter's development. We assess fine motor and communication skills and basic phonic and mathematical knowledge. The assessment will take place in small groups and will be designed to ensure your daughter is relaxed and comfortable throughout the activity.

For entry into all other year groups, your daughter will be interviewed by the Headteacher and will take an age appropriate assessment in English and Mathematics. The report from their current school is also considered carefully.

We are firmly committed to inclusivity and to giving every child the best possible start in life. Irrespective of their special educational needs or disability, we consider all children who have the ability and aptitude to access an academic curriculum.

Open Days

Come and join us on an open day tour to see our wonderful school environment and excellent facilities. Our open days are an opportunity to meet our Headteacher and find out more about the school curriculum and the excellent provisions at St. Anthony's School for Girls.

Please contact the admissions department on admissions@stanthonysgirls.co.uk to book a tour.

“The curriculum is used effectively to promote equality, tolerance and respect for difference.”

Ofsted Report 2017.



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