

PARKGATE HOUSE SCHOOL

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# Welcome to Parkgate House School



Parkgate House is a well-established independent school that overlooks the wide, open spaces of Clapham Common and enjoys an outstanding reputation.

Combining a warm, welcoming and nurturing atmosphere, with a strong educational ethos, our school comprises of just 220 pupils across the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Preparatory stages.

With purposefully small class sizes, we are able to get to know every child just that little bit better; something that enables us to maximise talent and help each pupil excel.

Encouraging all children to thrive in an atmosphere of high standards and exciting challenges, we offer an education that caters to the individual and achieves impressive results.

With almost the entire Preparatory curriculum taught by specialist teachers, who are passionate about their subject, we bring education to life with a whole range of rich experiences.

Creating an environment where learning is highly enjoyable and is never seen as a chore, we are frequently told by parents how their children 'simply can't wait to go to school'.

We invite you to see for yourself what makes our school community so very special, by visiting Parkgate House very soon.

**Catherine Shanley, Principal**



“Through a secure and happy environment, our nursery puts in place the foundations for future success.”



## Montessori Nursery, 2½ - 4 years



Understanding that every child develops at a different rate, our caring Nursery teachers ensure all children feel happy, secure, confident and able to achieve.

Embracing the principles of the Montessori method, to provide an exciting and stimulating learning environment, we also follow the Early Years' national curriculum for the foundation years and include a wide range of activities to help develop physical, cognitive and social skills.

In addition to establishing the vital building blocks for future success in reading, writing and number work, during the Nursery years we begin each child's journey into the world of science, art, craft, music and physical play.

Simple, fun activities are used to help develop co-ordination and movement skills and optional swimming lessons are available.

To help each child prepare for the world of technology that they will grow up in, interactive whiteboards form part of many daily activities and an introduction to early computer skills is provided during the second year of Nursery.

Class projects, plays, visits by artists and musicians – and even nature walks on Clapham Common – are all used to enrich the learning process. Almost certainly unique at this early stage, our use of specialist teachers for French, music and ballet further enhances the learning experience.

Perhaps most important of all, however, we don't allow children to grow up too quickly. Instead, we prefer to let them enjoy their childhood years.

# Pre-Preparatory School, 4 - 7 years



Through an extremely wide and varied curriculum, Parkgate House Pre-Prep provides each child with all the opportunities necessary to begin to find their true niche in life.

Nurturing children for who they are, all learning takes place in an extremely happy, enthusiastic and energetic environment, where small class sizes, totally dedicated teaching staff and numerous subject specialists help every child to achieve their full potential.

In classes of 18-20 pupils, Pre-Prep school life commences by introducing children to the basic skills required for successful learning. This approach enables us to then move forward and teach each child how to learn, enquire and turn interest into knowledge.

With an emphasis on English, mathematics and science, the Pre-Prep curriculum also includes: French, humanities, IT, ballet, drama, karate, swimming, music and games.

Violin is taught to all children during their reception year. A range of indoor sports activities take place at nearby Latchmere Leisure Centre, and Clapham Common provides the perfect venue for outdoor sports during the warmer weather.

The annual Pre-Prep sports day is held in the summer term. While our popular parent assemblies give pupils ample opportunity to perform in front of family members.



“Every subject is brought to life, to give children the best possible understanding.”



“Parkgate House  
pupils typically go on  
to succeed at some of  
the country’s premier  
independent schools.”



## Preparatory School, 7 - 11 years



Creating well-rounded, highly capable individuals, our Preparatory School is renowned for helping each child secure a place at the senior school most suited to their skills. Indeed, Parkgate House pupils typically go on to succeed at many of the country's top independent schools.

Building on the foundations established during the Pre-Prep years, our Preparatory environment encourages all pupils to thrive, flourish, thoroughly enjoy school – and have lots of fun on the way.

Firmly believing that real enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity stems from being taught by a true specialist - someone who is passionate about their subject and can bring learning to life - the majority of lessons at Preparatory level are taken by subject specialists.

Promoting self-confidence and independence, in a happy, stimulating environment, our curriculum includes: mathematics, English, science, humanities, French, various sports, ballet, karate, horse riding and swimming.

New subjects, such as Latin, are introduced during the Preparatory years. Skills in mathematics and English are further developed, while other subjects are more clearly defined.

To keep learning fresh and engaging, a different curriculum focus is embarked upon every year, and this culminates in a spectacular summer fair with displays and presentations.

With senior school and scholarship successes that are a testament to our approach, Parkgate House pupils leave us as polite, articulate, well-educated young citizens who are superbly prepared to succeed in the world.

## A rich and varied curriculum...



### Art

Through a broad arts curriculum, that embraces drawing, painting, textiles and sculpture, Parkgate House pupils enjoy the freedom to experiment with different tools, textures and materials. Art normally occupies one lesson per week and is supplemented by visits to galleries and displays. The optional Prep School Art Club provides pupils with further opportunities to develop their artistic abilities.

**“Art is a wonderful subject for confidence building.”**

## Drama

By allowing children to express themselves and experience a very different type of learning, drama lessons give pupils the opportunity to explore the actions of different characters and even question their own behaviour.

Through half-hour weekly drama activities, increasing during the summer term in preparation for the end-of-year shows, Parkgate House pupils are encouraged to create different characters, understand complex plots, as well as help organise and star in productions.

School productions are normally held in the prestigious Battersea Arts Centre. There are also regular opportunities for pupils to visit children's plays and shows.



“Childhood should be a time of enjoyable experiences that colours what happens in the future.”

## Music

“Singing and music making is what children enjoy most of all.”



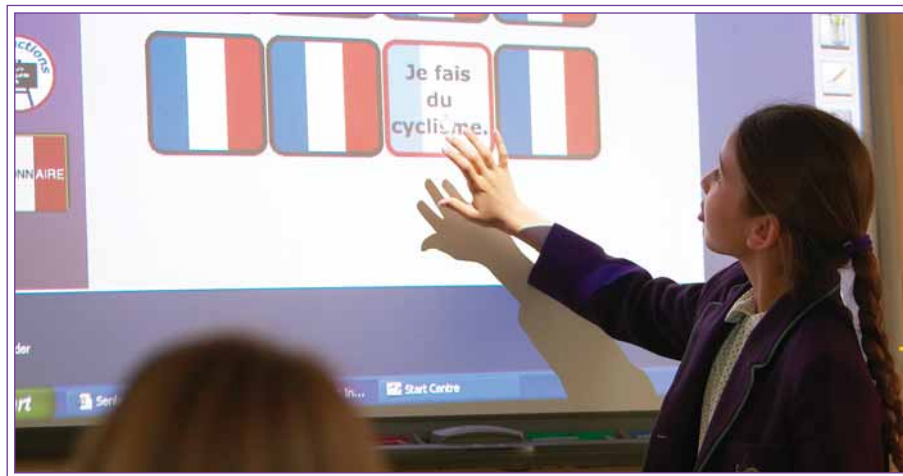
Music is taught by our music director and a team of specialists. Various teaching methods are used to encourage a love of music making, and individual tuition in piano, violin, singing and guitar is available.

Nursery and reception children are taught to make a variety of sounds using their voices, objects and instruments. In Pre-Prep, children begin to control the pitch of their voices and instruments, whereas Prep pupils are introduced to the recorder and encouraged to create their own music and musical ability.

The school holds an annual carol service, musical evening and summer musical production and Prep 3 children are invited to join the school choir.



# A wonderful environment of opportunity...



## French

Starting with games and songs for Nursery children, French-teaching develops through role-play, basic conversation and pronunciation activities at Pre-Prep. Preparatory children then develop their linguistic skills further through conversation, oral activities, 'everyday French' role-play, reading, writing and exchanging letters with pen pals.

For those children who are native French speakers, additional lessons are provided under the CNED programme (Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance). The CNED curriculum follows the guidelines of the French Ministry of National Education.

**“Lessons are designed to open each child’s mind to a different language and culture.”**

## ICT

ICT plays a vital role in our teaching and learning. The use of interactive 'computer' desks and whiteboards, along with specially selected software, helps keep lessons enthralling, dynamic and up-to-date.

Working with a dedicated ICT teacher, children develop a whole range of ICT skills and progress from simple tasks such as how to correctly hold a computer mouse to confidently using quite complex software and programmes.



“As IT is a part of everyday life, our pupils are well-prepared for the future.”





## PE and Sport



PE and sport play an important part in the school curriculum. For Nursery children, activities are based around 'throw', 'catch' and 'kick' to help build movement and improve co-ordination. Optional swimming club is also available.

During the Pre-Prep years, sport becomes more varied. Boys learn the basics of rugby and football. Parkgate girls enjoy ballet, netball and rounders. In addition, there is a range of co-educational sporting activities, as well as karate, horse riding, swimming lessons, athletics and our sports club.

Establishing the importance of team play - the Preparatory years' sporting programme builds on the sporting skills developed during Pre-Prep and includes competitive fixtures against other schools. The school holds an annual swimming gala during spring term and a sports day at the Millennium Arena, Battersea Park.

**“Through sport, we establish the true value of teamwork.”**



We sincerely hope this brief introduction to Parkgate House School has provided a flavour of the education and opportunities we are able to offer.

To arrange to visit us, in order to experience school life for yourself, please call the Admissions Secretary on +44 (0)20-7350-2461 or email: [admissions@parkgate-school.co.uk](mailto:admissions@parkgate-school.co.uk)

**“We take pride in creating confident, highly able young citizens who are eager to make their mark on the world.”**



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