



Avondale Preparatory School

Independent Day School
for Boys and Girls
aged 2 - 11 years



Welcome to Avondale Preparatory School

**A family run independent school
for boys and girls aged 2 - 11 years.**

Thank you for your interest in our school.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make.

Our school is located in a rural village and offers a healthy, peaceful ambience, conducive to a child's formative years.

At Avondale we believe in a learning environment in which all children feel valued and confident. We provide a happy, safe and stimulating school. We endeavour to help children develop their full potential by providing a broad, well balanced curriculum. We regard a close partnership between home and school to be essential.

Your child's happiness is of primary importance to their education. The friendly, homely feel of Avondale Preparatory School helps children to develop from their first tentative day at Nursery, into confident assured young people ready to move on to secondary school.

Why not arrange a visit to see for yourself how we can provide the best start for your child? We look forward to meeting you.

Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Diploma Of Teaching
Headmaster





History

Avondale Preparatory School was founded by Captain Perks of the Worcester Regiment and the Army Education Corps in 1923. It moved from Amesbury to its present location in 1957.

In September 2000 Richard and Susanna McNeall became joint heads of Avondale. As the elder daughter of Lt. Col and Mrs Holmes, the Bursar and Headmistress from 1982 to 2000, Mrs McNeall had a strong affiliation with the school. She attended Avondale as a pupil and then witnessed its development over the 18 years her parents were running the school. During this time, the house and grounds were greatly extended.

In September 2010 Mr Stuart Watson was appointed Head of Avondale Preparatory School. Originating from New Zealand, he brought with him international experience as well as 10 further years of teaching experience in the UK. He enjoyed the school and its children so much that he bought it from the McNealls in the later part of the 2012-13 academic year.

The main house has bright, airy classrooms and is complemented by the sports facilities available in the school hall, on the playground and on the field. The Nursery is located in Little Avondale adjacent to the hall. The secure school grounds include an environmental area with a large pond, a kitchen garden and greenhouse, all of which are used to enhance the learning experiences available to the children.

*The children feel valued,
gain confidence and can
progress successfully.*

Ethos

A key feature of Avondale Preparatory School is the small class sizes. The class teachers quickly get to know their pupils ensuring that each child receives attention appropriate to their particular needs and abilities.

Equally important to the way Avondale works is our 'Open-Door' policy. The close involvement of parents in their child's education, and thus the life of the School, is actively encouraged. We consider the education of the children we teach to be a partnership of responsibility between the School and parents or guardians. As such we welcome dialogue, whenever it is felt to be appropriate.

Our ethos is based on non-denominational Christian principles and places great emphasis on consideration for others, good manners and the fostering of good social relationships. We aim to nurture the joy of learning in an environment in which all children feel valued and confident, and where they can reach their full potential.





Early Years/ Foundation Stage

Our Early Years Department is an integral part of the school. The classrooms are bright, well-equipped and stimulating. All spaces are in close proximity to the school hall and have access to a shared outside covered area and playground.

A carefully planned curriculum, appropriate to this age, ensures that all seven aspects of learning are included. Each day the children experience exciting and stimulating activities based on their current interests and needs.

During these formative years we nurture good social skills and encourage a love of learning, laying firm foundations for each child's future direction.

Tots (2 year olds)

Our Tots area is self contained with planning catering for both indoor and outdoor learning experiences. We cater for a maximum of eight children at any one time – opportunities are provided for our Tots to mix with older children within the EYFS.

Our Tots have two daily sessions:

**Session 1 – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
(including lunch)**

**Session 2 – 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
(including afternoon tea)**

Little Avondale (3 & 4 year olds)

Our Nursery provides a stimulating pre-school education. Well qualified staff create a happy and caring environment which allows children to feel secure and confident during their first school experience.

Little Avondale has two daily sessions:

Session 1 – 8:30 AM – 12 noon

Session 2 – 12:50 PM – 3:20 PM

Children are also able to experience full days with a hot lunch provided. Significant savings are made for children in full-time education.

The Wiltshire Council's 15 hours 'Free Entitlement Funding' may be used for both morning and afternoon sessions; funding is made available for all children from the term after they turn 3 until the term of their 5th birthday.

Government 'tax-free' childcare vouchers may be used for funding extra tuition until a child turns 5 years of age. They may also be used for children of all ages to fund places in our After School Care Club.

Reception

Children move to our Reception Class in September preceding their fifth birthday. We take great care to ensure that this transition to 'big school' is a smooth and positive experience for all children. They will have many shared experiences prior to this, to ease transition. Our older children also play a vital role in working with our EYFS children, providing positive reinforcement and support.





Years 1 to 6

Avondale Preparatory School provides a broad, well-balanced curriculum, based on the National Curriculum. This reflects our independent status, yet enables easy transfer when a pupil moves school.

The curriculum consists of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Technology and IT as well as PE (including swimming) and creative subjects such as Music, Drama and Art. French is taught from the Reception Class upwards. Homework, appropriate to their needs, is given to all children. All children are monitored and assessed to ensure that the education they receive fulfils their academic needs. They are

taught by enthusiastic, well-qualified and committed staff. Each child's abilities are recognised and developed; any concerns are addressed at the earliest opportunity. All children are praised and encouraged to do their best, remembering that their self-esteem is of great importance.

Each curriculum area is well resourced with equipment and artefacts appropriate to age and topics studied. A well-stocked library offers a wide selection of fiction titles and non-fiction reference books to aid research, or simply to spark an interest. Educational visits and experiences are arranged to further enhance the children's learning.

All children are encouraged to develop their leadership qualities and their sense of personal and collective responsibility.

Information technology is embedded in the curriculum as a tool to aid learning. There are computers in all classrooms to complement classwork and a separate ICT Room. Additionally, all classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards with a fast internet connection, allowing access to a large array of on-line resources.

Other activities associated with the wider curriculum may include participation in the Salisbury Young Person's Music Festival, preparing and presenting class and school assemblies and taking part in school productions. All children are encouraged to develop their leadership qualities and their sense of personal and collective responsibility.

The school takes great pride in preparing children for the next stage in their schooling. Whilst the National Curriculum provides a framework for learning, the overwhelming emphasis is on preparing children for the 11+ Examination enabling entry into Grammar Schools of choice. This said, we have a number of children that are prepared for entry into both state secondary and public schools. The success of the curriculum delivered can be measured by our excellent 11+ and SATs results and by the percentage of children who go on to their first school of choice when leaving Avondale.





Sport and Extra-curricular Activities

Children are encouraged to participate in a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities. These include music, choir, art, drama and additional sports coaching to prepare our teams for a range of fixtures against other schools.

Sport is an increasingly important part of the curriculum, which encourages confidence, self esteem and team work. Children benefit from their enhanced physical skills and fitness and develop a sense of fair play. We believe that these are essential life skills. In addition to games sessions, each child in years 1 to 4 has weekly swimming lessons.

It is our aim for every pupil to represent the school in a sport during their time with us. Boys' and Girls' teams compete regularly. Fixtures are played against other schools in a range of traditional sports and Avondale regularly 'punches above its weight!'

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Football - boys	Rugby - boys	Cricket - boys
Rugby - boys	Netball - girls	Rounders - girls
Netball - girls	Cross Country - boys & girls	Athletics - boys & girls
Swimming - boys & girls	Swimming - boys & girls	Swimming - boys & girls
	Hockey - boys & girls	

Individual music tuition for a full range of instruments is available by arrangement, from our peripatetic music tutors. Lessons are available in violin, clarinet, drums, saxophone, flute, piano, recorder, guitar, ukulele, cello, keyboard and singing, to name but a few. A range of instruments are available for rental on a 'per-term' basis.

We believe that outdoor education adds another dimension to the individual. Children benefit from increased self-awareness and better personal organisation. Their leadership qualities and team spirit are also enhanced.

In Years 3 and 4, children have a two night / three-day excursion to Hooke Court in Dorset, where activities complement the Science and History curriculum. Years 5 and 6 benefit from a trip to France in the Spring Term every couple of years; they are able to practise their delivery of the French language whilst visiting historical sites such as the D-Day landing beaches and Bayeux. In Year 6, once all examination work is complete, children visit the Isle of Wight for a week-long PGL experience.

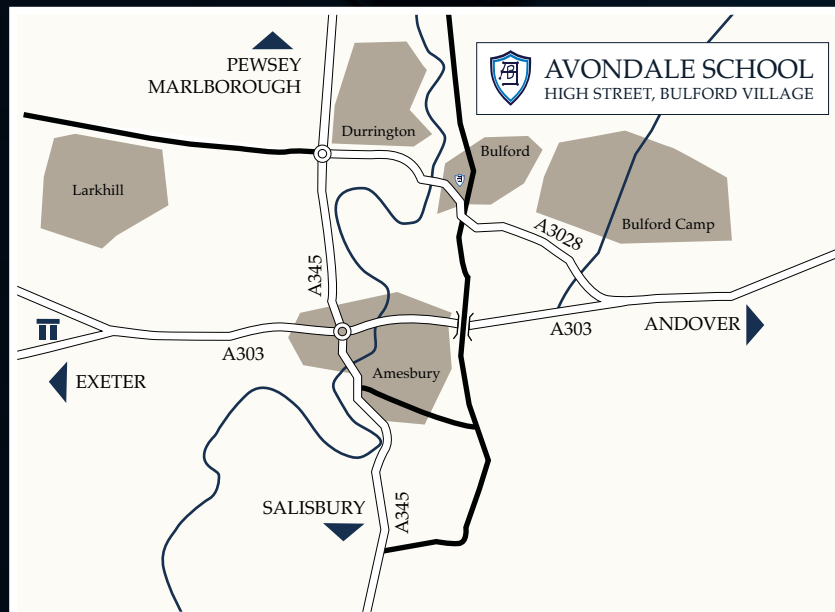
The After School Care Club

This club exists to help parents bridge the gap between the end of school and the end of the working day. It runs until 6:00 pm Monday to Thursday and 5:30 pm on Friday. The children are given a light tea, and enjoy outdoor play, indoor games, art activities and computer games. Some of the older children also have the opportunity to begin their homework. A number of teacher led activities also take place each night of the week.





Avondale Preparatory School



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