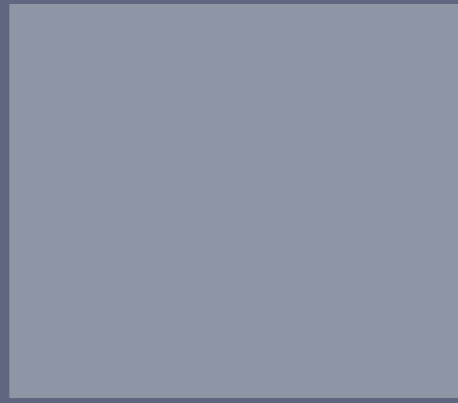




# Salisbury Cathedral School

Inspired to learn, prepared for life



Salisbury Cathedral School is a thriving independent day and boarding school for around 200 boys and girls aged 3 to 13. Situated in the heart of The Close, the school has a special relationship with the Cathedral and educates the choristers who make up its two famous choirs.

The school seeks to maintain and build upon the traditions of academic achievement, musical excellence and spiritual enrichment, which have developed over its 900 year history.

It aims to provide a rounded and fulfilling educational experience through which love of learning is instilled, within an environment which promotes a strong Christian ethos and respect for the individual.

High academic expectations and wide-ranging extra-curricular opportunities in music, sport, art and drama encourage pupils to develop skills and talents, which will equip them for life.

#### **An inspirational setting**

Located in beautiful grounds within the Cathedral Close, the school stands proudly beside the famous 14th-century spire. There is wonderful sense of history that comes both from the incomparable setting and from the 900-year story of the school. Founded in 1091 by St Osmund to educate the choristers of his cathedral at Old Sarum, we are one of the oldest educational institutions in the world. After 150 years at Old Sarum, the choristers' school moved to Salisbury, following the building of the new cathedral. In 1947, the school finally came to its present home, based in the 13th-century buildings and grounds of the Bishop's Palace.

Today the school makes full use of its historic buildings and also some more modern additions. By combining the best of both, we have created teaching spaces which are contemporary and relevant to life in the 21st century. We have a long-term programme of development to ensure improvements to our facilities in accordance with the changing demands of the curriculum and the growing needs and expectations of our pupils.





"We are proud of our unique setting. It instils an appreciation of our heritage and culture in all who live and learn here."

## All-round inspiration

The life of Salisbury Cathedral School is inextricably linked to the cathedral itself and our ethos is founded on Christian values. We are very privileged to live and work in the Cathedral Close. We believe the beauty and heritage of our surroundings have a very positive impact on all the children who are educated here.

Ours is an inclusive school which seeks to teach children in a caring and supportive environment. We nurture them, encouraging them to discover and reach their full potential academically, socially and spiritually. Our choristers play an important part in the life of the school, both in the music they make and in the fine example which they set. Their ability to balance their studies, their cathedral duties and their sport and leisure time is an inspiration which helps to raise the expectations of all our children.

In the boarding house, we are home to around 45 children aged 8-13 and this brings with it additional responsibilities to give these young children a warm and secure environment within which to grow up. We believe that this aspect of school life enriches the whole school, for it creates a unique family atmosphere where each individual child is cherished.

The Cathedral School is brimming with opportunity and activity. Children develop an appetite for learning and a sense of pride in their achievements. They learn good manners and a respect for other people which will serve them well throughout their lives. We also expect a level of self-discipline and personal responsibility and we lead by example.

Children leave us at 13 years of age confident, articulate and well prepared for their senior school education. We send our pupils on to a great range of different schools, priding ourselves both on the quality of our advice to parents and on the individual nature of the preparation which the children receive. Our results speak for themselves. Many children achieve both music and academic scholarships and invariably move on successfully to a wide range of excellent senior schools.

We invite you to come and visit us. We will be pleased and proud to show you our school, to give you the opportunity to meet members of staff, talk to the children and, above all, to let you experience for yourself the unique atmosphere for all-round growth and learning which has been created here.

*P M Greenfield*

P M Greenfield  
Head Master

"This is a very special school which offers an all-round education in a glorious setting."



## Inspiration to succeed

This is a school where children are treated as individuals. We support their learning where support is needed and we encourage all children to reach their full potential. In a small school where every child is known well, that level of personal attention is possible and indeed ensures that each child's progress is managed throughout the 10 years that the children are in our care.

Our work is based upon the requirements of Common Entrance, scholarship exams and the National Curriculum. We provide depth and breadth of education through an appropriate, broad and challenging curriculum which encourages all round emotional, physical, social and spiritual growth and to foster positive relations between pupils, teachers and parents. The dedicated team of teaching staff is committed to providing a stimulating programme of active learning which has rigour and discipline but avoids unnecessary pressure. ICT and drama play an important part in our curriculum and our pupils benefit from frequent trips outside school to complement their learning in the classroom.

Our pupils learn Latin to appreciate the roots of language. There are opportunities for pupils to practise their French during visits to Northern France.

Active minds need active bodies and a wide range of well-coached sports are there for all children to enjoy, whether or not they are stars in the making.

Regular assessment is built into our planning so that children's progress can be tracked through the school and targets and aspirations can be met. Academic progress is a central focus. We have high expectations and we motivate children to want to succeed. Parents are kept aware of progress and potential through regular reports and opportunities to meet with teaching staff. Children of all abilities can enjoy success here as they achieve or exceed their own targets.

The majority of pupils are prepared for Common Entrance and scholarship exams in Year 8 so that they can move on to an appropriately high-calibre senior school.

### **An important beginning**

Our Pre-Prep Department welcomes children from the Nursery through to Year 2. There is also Hobby Horse, a parent and toddler group. Important beginnings are made in small classes with individual attention. There is an emphasis on reading, writing and mathematics which gives access to a much broader curriculum in which skills and abilities in many different areas are valued and developed. The opportunities for children to experience science, technology, languages and the arts start at an early age.

In the vital years between Nursery and the start of Prep School, teachers ensure that pupils have the foundations in place to grow in knowledge in the years to come. Children entering Year 3 will have developed an appetite for learning and the confidence to discover for themselves.



"To live and work in the shadow of that magnificent spire is a joy and inspiration."



"With two famous Cathedral Choirs, the school is internationally renowned for excellence in music."

## Inspiration to create and perform

The school attaches great importance to the development of musical, creative and sporting talent all of which complement academic studies. Music plays a central part in the life of the school, which has a tradition of musical excellence.

Visitors to the school are, without exception, struck by the evidence of music all around them. As a choir school we cannot help but be influenced and inspired by the musical life here. Everyone benefits from hearing and seeing music being made and played.

We help children to learn through improvisation, composition, listening and performing music of all genres. It is an exciting subject which can be enjoyed at so many levels. We are fortunate to have a very large team of excellent visiting instrumental teachers who bring their specialist skills into the school for both individual and group tuition.

Younger children are all involved in the Music Circus during which they have the chance to try all the main orchestral instruments. This often inspires them to learn an instrument and, in time, to enjoy playing as a part of a group.

Our programme of activities includes two school choirs in addition to the cathedral choirs, a chamber orchestra, a concert band, brass and wind ensembles and a whole-school orchestra. We would challenge any child to come to this school and not leave without an abiding appreciation and love of music.

### **The Cathedral Choirs**

The majority of the Cathedral Choristers board. They lead full and exciting lives. The weekly routine of practices and services is further enriched by regular concerts, broadcasts and recordings. All choristers are likely to take part in at least one major foreign tour. The choristers play a full part in the academic, sporting and extra-curricular activities of the school. They may work side by side with adult professionals, but they still manage to maintain their youthful approach to life.



"It's lovely to hear music throughout the school. Everyone benefits from it."



# Information and Communication Technology

For children who are being educated for life in the 21st-century, ICT is an essential tool. At the Cathedral School, children start ICT in Pre-Prep and continue with it through to the top of the school.

ICT is being increasingly integrated into most curriculum subject areas and the internet is used as a valuable source of information. In addition, children are taught the basics of word processing, graphic design, spreadsheets, presentation techniques and database management. Children are becoming very accomplished at keyboard skills from an early age and the most recent intuitive operating systems and software enable them to explore and experiment independently.



"The school strikes a balance between academic success and personal development."



## Inspiring achievement in sport

To complement our strong musical heritage, Salisbury Cathedral School has a thriving and very successful sports department. We take the view that sport is for everyone and everyone has something to contribute. During their time with us, it is hoped that every pupil will have represented their school. Physical activity is not only healthy and enjoyable, it promotes good teamwork and a sense of achievement. Sport helps children to cope with disappointments, to respond to challenges and to celebrate success together.

We are fortunate to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Cathedral Close for outdoor activities such as hockey, rounders, football, rugby, netball and cricket. As well as the major team games, activities such as athletics, tennis, cross-country and orienteering also have their place. Indoors, children take part in gymnastics and dance. All children swim in the heated outdoor pool in the summer months.

We compete successfully with other prep schools of our size and we are rapidly acquiring a wider reputation in inter-school tournaments. Most of our sporting fixtures within school are structured on a 'house' basis, which adds an additional dimension to the loyalties and friendships formed throughout the school.

"Sport plays a big part in school life and we enjoy the extensive outdoor facilities in the Cathedral Close."





## Art for art's sake

We encourage children to make free creative choices within a stimulating artistic environment. We instil in them a confidence to express themselves creatively by experimenting with a variety of different materials and media. Children who discover the uplifting effect of creative expression blossom in other aspects of their school life. Art and Design Technology give valuable opportunities for children to build self-confidence and this often has a beneficial effect on their academic studies.

Every child of every age participates in drama - from 3 to 13 years of age and miracles are worked year after year. Drama is both exciting and alluring. All children are keen to participate in our regular productions. Not only do children learn poise and communication skills, they also connect with their emotions. This awareness instils in children a confidence that will serve them well as they grow up and face the challenges which adulthood presents.



"A happy and healthy environment in which children are encouraged to flourish."



## Boarding life

Children who board between 8 and 13 years of age have special requirements. On the one hand, they are still in need of affection and stability, and on the other they are naturally keen to experience independence. Our boarding House Parents and matrons have a vital role to play in loco parentis. Boarders live together in a newly converted house in the Cathedral Close, with appropriate modern facilities. Good communication with parents is an essential part of maintaining a healthy balance between school and home life. Boarders have many opportunities to enjoy life together as a close-knit community, with time for quiet contemplation and study, and a chance to enjoy pleasurable pastimes with friends, both inside and outside school.

Weekends are an opportunity for release from the constraints of the school day and to take part in leisure activities and outings. We welcome gap-year students from other countries, who help out with the recreation schedule.

Matrons and House Parents combine to create a caring and supportive family atmosphere in which all members, young and old, play an important part. The Head Master and his wife live in the school and are an integral part of the team.

The boundary between day pupils and those who board is deliberately blurred. Many day pupils choose to stay on into the early evening to be involved in activities, prep and supper. There are also those who enjoy an occasional night in the boarding house, or a longer stay when parents are away.

"They keep a watchful eye over relationships whilst allowing children to develop and explore without excessive interference."





## Spiritual development

Our Christian foundation forms the basis for our strong moral code through which children learn to distinguish between right and wrong and to be courteous and compassionate.

We welcome children from all religious backgrounds and hope to help each child towards an understanding of their own personal faith. We aim to give them an awareness of the inspiration and challenge of religion and to encourage them to discover spiritual values for themselves.

The choristers lead the worship in the cathedral day by day and are joined by all the senior members of the school for the memorable Advent service, Darkness to Light.

Morning assembly is a focal point for the day and, on Friday, all pupils worship in the Cathedral. There is also a termly Eucharist and an annual carol service. Parents are very welcome to join us in our Cathedral services.

The school chapel is used for junior and senior assemblies during the week. At other times it is simply there, as a space for quiet reflection or prayer. The School Chaplain also provides support for those who look for her company or counsel.

In Religious Education (RE) we explore in broad terms the essential questions of individual and community identity and belief. We study many aspects of Christianity and set it, in historical and cultural terms, alongside the other major world religions.



"The choristers are an inspiration to all children at the school."



"We were drawn to the spirit of this school.  
It is what matters most to us."



## Partnership with parents

Children learn best in an atmosphere which is happy and secure, where they know who to turn to when they need help. We work closely with parents to understand the needs of each child and, by working together, we can ensure the best education possible. Children need clear boundaries, a strong sense of purpose and the freedom to experiment. Our strong work ethic encourages diligence and good practice in all aspects of school life. To get to know the children who will be part of our lives for up to 10 years, we need to understand them as whole people. Through honest and open dialogue with parents, we can achieve a consistency of approach which builds confidence and self-esteem in pupils.

We find that parents are deeply committed to the school and their role in their child's progress. This gives us a firm foundation on which to build our relationship with them.

### **For those with individual needs**

From time to time, children need extra support, care and attention and this we readily provide. Some of our pupils need extra help with core subjects. Occasionally, we have to give support to children who develop behavioural or emotional difficulties and our pastoral support from the School Chaplain is invaluable in these instances. Often having someone to talk to, knowing that they are listening rather than passing judgement, is the first step towards healing and recovery. Our pastoral care is rooted in our moral values, where kindness, forgiveness and compassion are put into practice.



# Inspiring lives

It is often said that the best endorsement of a school's success is the quality of young people which it produces. It is unrealistic to expect every child to be a top-performer academically when they reach 13. We are confident that the children who leave our care are well-balanced, self-motivated and articulate. They understand that nothing worthwhile is achieved without effort and they have been encouraged to think well of themselves, learning to live with their beliefs, values and aspirations. They are equipped to take their place with confidence in society, to accept its rules and to try to help solve some of its problems. All children have tried hard to reach their potential. They are prepared for their time at senior school and to lead successful and inspiring lives. We are proud to have played a part in their development.

## Admissions

Children are admitted to the Cathedral School at any age, subject to availability of places. Registrations can be made at any time in advance. Boarders are usually at least 8 years old. An academic assessment will be required when children are entered for Year 4 and above.

Voice trials for choristers are held annually and an early informal audition is encouraged. The school also offers a range of junior and senior scholarships (academic, sport, art and music) which are applied for internally when children are in Year 3 and Year 6. External applicants are welcomed in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Details of all these scholarships and choristerships are available on request from the school office.

"The school is happy, vibrant, unique, realistic, normal."





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