



## Froebelian Frequently Asked Questions

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### *What are the aims of the school?*

Children are at the heart of everything we do and we are passionate that all children enjoy a positive experience at school each and every day. We want children to develop a strong work ethic and a life-long love of learning which will equip them with secure foundations for their future lives. Our aim is to provide a first-class, holistic education in which both the unique needs of our children are met and their talents can flourish in a caring, structured and secure environment.

### *Froebelian of the future*

We are always striving to improve our provision and we want to ensure that all Froebelian children receive a flying start which is relevant to their future success. The School Council and Senior Leadership Team have developed long-term, strategic plans for the benefit of current and future pupils. We realised the first phase of these plans with the successful completion of a project last summer to improve our provision in Early Years and Key Stage One. Future plans include investment in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and Sport.

At Froebelian, we place great importance on children developing the crucial building blocks of learning in Lower Kindergarten and Kindergarten. We provide a range of rich experiences and opportunities in early years and our investment in the EYFS environment, both indoors and outdoors; has ignited the children's curiosity and passion for learning through play.

We also intend to explore our approach to the STEAM curriculum. The disciplines involved in STEAM learning will be highly-valued in workplaces of the future as we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Equipping our children with the skills needed to contribute positively in an evolving world is vital in a forward-thinking educational model. Plans

may include a reconfiguration of specialist teaching areas; enabling wide, cross-curricular opportunities in purpose-built facilities.

Future plans will also concentrate on the potential for improvements to our sport provision; encompassing the range of sports we offer, access to specialist off-site sporting facilities and increased opportunities for teaching being supported by professional coaches.

### *The 'flying start'*

Our school motto centres around providing children with a 'flying start'. As they will be the 'citizens of tomorrow', we have a duty to prepare the children for their future. The workplaces of 2030 and beyond are likely to be very different and will require specific skills sets and attitudes.

As content and knowledge are so readily available to everyone at the touch of a button, we focus on the learning behaviours we believe children will need to be successful contributors in their chosen careers. These learning behaviours are celebrated through our awards system: The Froebelian Flyers. Children are encouraged to show **determination**, take **responsibility** and be **independent** in their learning. We want them to be **curious**, **take risks** and have the ability to **work strategically**. Opportunities in the curriculum for **collaboration** and **creativity** are plentiful.

### *At what age do children start at Froebelian?*

Children usually begin their Froebelian journey at three years old, in the school year (September to August) they become four. They join our Lower Kindergarten class and attend five mornings a week with the option of wrap around care to create full days.

Intake in older year groups depends on the availability of places.

### *What are class sizes like?*

Our maximum class size is 24 but for many lessons the children are split in to smaller groups e.g. ICT and Music. All our EYFS classes have three staff members and KS1 and KS2 classes have two staff members and specialist teachers in subjects such as Music, ICT, PE/Games and Drama. Our staffing ratio across school is 1:10.

### *How are staffing and teaching organised?*

The school is run by the Headteacher, Mrs Dodds and the Deputy Head, Mrs Stratford. We have a Pre-Prep Department which caters for children age 3-7 (Nursery to Year 2) and a Junior Department for children age 7-11 (Year 3 to Year 6).

Our Lower Kindergarten (Nursery) and Kindergarten (Reception) classes meet all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) but work to higher levels of attainment than are expected nationally. The majority of teaching is provided by the highly experienced EYFS team with specialist support provided for Music, Sport and ICT.

In Key Stage One (Years 1 & 2) the class teachers continue to deliver the majority of the timetable with specialist support with Music, PE/Games and ICT with French beginning for Year 2. Key Stage One adopt a Connected Curriculum approach which encompasses learning across Science, Geography, History, Art and Design Technology through half-termly topics.

Pupils in Key Stage Two (Years 3-6) have a form teacher who, with the exception of Year 6, provides core teaching in Maths and English with increasing specialist teaching as the children mature. All Juniors receive French and Drama lessons. In Year 6, all the teaching is provided on a specialist basis to both enable the pupils to reach exceptional standards and to help them prepare for the transition to secondary education.

In addition, we have many parent volunteers who come to Froebelian and read with our pupils on a regular basis.

## *Behaviour*

We are a caring school, with values derived from mutual trust and respect. We want all members of the school community to feel valued and respected, and to live and work together safely and happily. We treat all pupils - irrespective of race, gender, disability or creed - fairly and reasonably.

We provide clear guidance about good behaviour and how we support pupils in this important area of personal development. We expect parents and pupils to understand our values and our commitment to maintaining positive relationships that allow teachers to teach and pupils to learn.

The school expects that every member of the school community will behave in a considerate way towards others. In particular, we expect the pupils will be polite, respectful and obedient. Children will need help from parents and the school in developing these qualities. We expect that parents, as well as the school, will nurture, encourage, train and discipline children to enable them to become safe, responsible and trustworthy members of the community. We expect parents to respect and trust our professionalism, judgement and integrity.

The school promotes positive behaviour at all times. Staff are clear on the expectations and boundaries and the children are supported in ensuring their behaviour is appropriate. We have three simple school rules which encompass most behaviour issues: 'Safe Hands, Safe Feet, Safe Voice'.

## *ICT*

We have over 50 networked computers in school in addition to interactive whiteboards in all form classrooms. We also have 4 class sets of iPads available for use and each child from Transition (Year 1) upwards has an online learning journal in addition to working in our bespoke exercise books.

All pupils follow a programme to develop their ICT knowledge and skills and this starts from the age of 3. ICT is a timetabled subject from Kindergarten (Reception) onwards and many of the older pupils are encouraged to complete homework and projects using iPads or computers at home and school.

Online safety plays a large part in our ICT curriculum and the children are taught how to be effective and safe digital citizens.

## *Music*

Music plays a major part in the life of the school and is important for every child. We have a specialist Music teacher who works with every class and co-ordinates the work of the peripatetic music teachers who give instrumental lessons to individuals and small groups. There is a dedicated Music Suite, equipped with keyboards, percussion and a range of instruments from around the world.

The children are encouraged to develop their natural musical ability and the vast majority join our choirs, learn at least one instrument and join in the host of assemblies, concerts and special events that highlight their musical talents. Our aim is to engender a life-long love and appreciation of music.

## *Drama*

There is a great tradition of Drama at Froebelian and we encourage every child to develop their confidence and skills. Our specialist drama teacher, Mrs Taylor-Parker, works with all the older children and runs very popular extra-curricular clubs every Friday for children in Transition (Y1) onwards. Class assemblies, the annual Nativity, our Spring Festival and the Speech Day production provide children with a wide variety of drama experiences.

Older children have the opportunity to take Drama exams, either individually, in small groups or as a class. Many regularly achieve the highest award available: Distinction.

## *Sport*

All children in school enjoy weekly PE and Games lessons, including children in our Early Years classes. Physical education is so important to support children's all-round well-being and mental health and children are encouraged to participate in our extra-curricular sports activities as well.

In PE, children are taught gymnastics, dance, tennis, athletics and swimming (Transition-Form IV). We also sometimes spend lessons enjoying yoga. In Pre-Prep, Games lessons are focused on ball skills and team play. In the Juniors, boys and girls participate in a wide range of sports in Games lessons during the year, including football, netball, rugby, hockey, cricket and rounders. All children have an equal opportunity to succeed in each sport and a culture of skills development and personal achievement is encouraged.

The school is landlocked but makes effective use of its Hall and playground areas to deliver some elements of its PE/Games programme. In addition, we take children to a local swimming pool for swimming and hire a local field within walking distance for green playing space for sport. During the winter months, we hire all-weather facilities and the children are transported by coach. We also make use of nearby tennis courts; employing a tennis coach to support lessons. The children are invited to represent school in fixtures, tournaments and meets in a range of sports.

### *What is life at school like beyond the classroom?*

We have a broad range of extra-curricular activities on offer at lunch times and after school. The majority of our clubs are provided free of charge by members of staff but we also have a selection of paid activities run by external providers. We try to cover a variety of the usual disciplines such as Music, Sport, Drama and Art but we also offer other activities such as Chess, Archery, Current Affairs, ICT, Yoga and Cookery.

We have a full range of trips and visits each year to theatres, museums and other places of interest. We also run themed workshops in school and welcome visiting speakers. Children from Year 2 to Year 6 have a residential visit each year to various activity centres culminating in a trip to France for Year 6.

The school also facilitates peripatetic teaching for many musical instruments e.g. piano, violin, drums, flute, guitar and voice. This is a private arrangement between parents and the peripatetic staff.

### *What wrap around care is available?*

Our wraparound care options are flexible and we pride ourselves on catering for families' varying needs.

Our Breakfast Club is available from 7:30am for a small charge which can include breakfast. Free supervision is provided from 8:15am in the Pre-Prep playground or in classrooms for Juniors.

Froebees is our afternoon session for children in Lower Kindergarten (Nursery). This is available every day 1:00pm-3:30pm.

Our Homework and Activities Club (HAC) runs from 3:30pm-6:00pm. A hot tea is provided for those children staying beyond 4:30pm. Parents can choose session lengths to suit their needs.

### *School lunches*

The school kitchen is run by a professional, experienced chef who is supported by three assistants. They prepare over 200 lunches daily. We operate a wide menu; offering both meat and vegetarian options, and we can cater for a range of specific dietary requirements. There is always plenty of fresh fruit, salad and vegetables available.

Other staff who use the kitchen, e.g. HAC staff, receive training in food hygiene. The last environmental health inspection gave the kitchen a 5-star rating, the highest possible.

### *How can parents be involved in the life of the school?*

Froebelian recognises the important role parents play in their child's education and the partnership between home and school is vital to secure each child's happiness and security.

We operate an 'open door' policy and staff are always happy to speak with parents about their concerns. Each family has the email address of their class teacher and we also use our Pupil Planners as a means of communicating short messages and reminders.

We invite parents to come into school to support teachers; whether by hearing children read, helping out with baking sessions, providing interesting talks about their professional roles, their religion or their culture, or accompanying day trips.

We have an active Froebelian Parent Teacher Association who arranges social and fundraising events for parents, friends, pupils and staff of the school. It is led by a committee of parents with other members of the school community providing active support. Volunteers are always welcome and their main aims are to support the school and have fun! Recent fundraising projects have included a Trim Trail, a Happiness Hut and a new climbing frame for the Pre-Prep Playground.

### *How do the fees work?*

As an independent school, we must charge fees in order to provide excellent education and care because we receive no money from central or local government. As a registered charity we are a not-for-profit school and only charge fees that are necessary to run the school properly and to provide investment for continuing improvements to our facilities and resources. As well as the standard fee per term, we charge for extras e.g. swimming, lunches, visits and trips and wrap around care.

Fees are paid in advance via direct debit over twelve months. Extras are charged by invoice at the end of each term in arrears. We currently participate in the Nursery Grant scheme to offer fifteen free hours for children up to and including the term in which they turn five. We also accept Childcare Vouchers/Tax-Free Childcare as payment towards school fees up to and including the term in which they turn five. Once children turn five, Childcare Vouchers/Tax-Free Childcare may be used to help cover the cost of wrap around care throughout the school.

For more information on fees, please visit the 'Fees and Bursaries' section of our website [here](#).

### *What are the destination schools for children when they leave?*

Children leave Froebelian at the end of Year 6 and the majority progress to various independent senior schools e.g. Woodhouse Grove, GSAL and Bradford Grammar. For many years, we have enjoyed a 100% pass rate in the 11+ entrance examinations and a number of children receive offers of multiple places and/or awards and scholarships.

Some families opt to join a selective grammar school such as Heckmondwike Grammar and a number of our children also take places at local state high schools e.g. Horsforth School, St. Mary's at Menston, Prince Henry's in Otley and Harrogate Grammar.

### *So, why Froebelian?*

We are a warm, family-friendly school. Due to our single-form entry system, we have just eight classes and this enables children and staff to enjoy strong relationships. Everyone knows everyone at Froebelian!

For children to succeed in their learning, they need to feel happy and safe. We dedicate ourselves to creating a positive and happy atmosphere in school and each classroom is a safe environment where children can access their learning readily. A positive mindset is encouraged and making mistakes is all part of the learning process. As a result, Froebelian pupils can maximise their potential in academic work, sport, music, technology, art and drama, and their levels of personal development are excellent.

We nurture good citizenship, believe that children benefit from good discipline and we encourage healthy competition. An inclusive approach means that all children can access all the activities and opportunities available.

We offer an excellent staff pupil ratio across the school (1:10), well-maintained facilities and the support of highly dedicated, professional teachers.

**Thank you for your interest in The Froebelian School. We hope you enjoyed your virtual visit and we would welcome an opportunity to share our wonderful school with you in person. Please check the website for details of how to contact us to book a personal tour with the Headteacher.**