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TRURO
SCHOOL
PREP

Truro School Prep



A Proper Childhood

A welcome from the Head of Truro School Prep

We are committed to nurturing every child in our care, instilling in them confidence and a sense of self-worth, as well as providing the opportunities for all to discover and develop their natural abilities and talents.

Our philosophy is that stimulated children will thrive and develop a lifelong love of learning. It is for this reason that we base our teaching around providing a proper childhood, where learning takes place both in and outside of the classroom. Education at Truro Prep is brimming with exciting cultural outings and visits that enhance every child's learning experience. We seek to take advantage of the beauty and variety that Cornwall provides at every opportunity.



A balanced approach

We provide a broad range of challenging educational experiences involving the humanities, arts, technology and sport, as well as a strong grounding in the core academic subjects.

Coupled with our curriculum is the promoting of values: integrity, honesty and respect for others. This takes place in a stunning setting, with superb facilities, driven by a dedicated team of excellent teachers and staff.

Our aim is not just to prepare your child for the next stage of their education, but to also lay the foundations for them to grow up and lead happy, purposeful and fulfilling lives.

I warmly encourage you to come and explore Truro School Prep where the wonder and adventure of childhood is tangible.,

Sarah Patterson, Head of Truro School Prep

Ensuring that your child develops a lifelong love of learning

At Truro School Prep, we believe that a stimulating classroom environment is the most important ingredient in the recipe for a successful education.

With our team of dedicated teachers and a huge range of trips and opportunities, you will never hear groans of "school is boring" from your child again.

Making every lesson fun

A key trait of all Truro School Prep teachers is their ability to think outside of the box, planning creative and engrossing lessons that appeal to young, enquiring minds. In fact, making lessons fun comes so naturally to our teachers that even the pupils themselves raved about it to inspectors.

Getting out and about

A Truro School Prep education is characterised by exploring Cornwall, understanding the county's heritage and creating a sense of belonging amongst pupils.

A huge variety of trips and events form the foundations of our extensive curriculum. From performing in front of packed crowds at the Hall for Cornwall to descending the depths of local mineshafts, your child will be guaranteed to face new challenges. Each exhilarating new experience will gently nudge your son or daughter out of their comfort zone, helping them develop a healthy learning philosophy where they are willing to try new things.

Pupils are full of praise for the teachers who they say make lessons fun, know them well and support their learning.

ISI INSPECTION 2017

VIP visitors

As well as getting out and about in Cornwall, pupils meet and greet a wealth of visitors each term. Workshops with visiting local artists form a prominent feature of school life, rousing creativity amongst all ages. Former pupils also return to the school to share their stories, igniting new passions within pupils and inspiring the next generation.

A distinctive feature of Truro School Prep is our series of regular visits from famous authors. There is usually one author visit per term, creating exciting opportunities for workshops, lessons, assemblies and book signing sessions. Not every child can say they have met their favourite author in the flesh – and received a signed copy of their book! Previous visitors have included Maz Evans, Michael Morpurgo and Christopher Lloyd to name just a few.

Recent Trips and Visitors

- Year 6 Trip to France
- Coast to Coast Cycling
- Levant Mine History Trip
- History Walk to Trelissick
- Famous Author Maz Evans
- Orienteering in Idless Woods
- Newquay Coastguard Station
- Art Workshop with Sue Lewington

Laying foundations with specialist subject teachers

Research suggests it is easier for young children to learn new things as thought processes and logical rules are not yet engrained within the brain.

At Truro School Prep, we seek to take advantage of this time frame, giving your child exposure to the widest possible variety of academic subjects with specialist teachers.

Fifteen different subjects between Reception and Year 6

Painting a picture in art, playacting in drama and getting out of breath in PE - these are the activities you would expect your child to enjoy at any school. In addition to the mainstream subjects, we also broaden each pupil's horizons with a wide variety of alternative subjects.

These include Computing, in the school's IT suite, Cookery, in the school's bespoke kitchen, Music, in the brand new Lovett Building music room, Design Technology, complete with all of the tools and gadgets in the specialist workshop, and finally, French, German and Spanish in language classrooms.

By the time your son or daughter moves on at the end of Year 6, they will have already grasped the fundamentals of key senior school subjects, putting them ahead of the class and enabling them to build upon concrete foundations in 1st Year (Year 7).

Learning from the experts

At Truro School Prep, your child will benefit from specialist expert tuition every day. Having teachers who specialise in their chosen fields means that pupils receive a greater depth of learning.

Subject-based teachers are first introduced in Year 3, with pupils slowly decreasing the time they spend with their main class teacher. Subject professionals are used in all lessons from Year 4 onwards, including the mainstream subjects Maths and English, right through to Modern Foreign Languages and Music.

Pupils demonstrate a great depth of understanding across the curriculum. They possess a strong, secure knowledge in many subjects and are able to apply such knowledge extremely well.

Attentive teaching through small class sizes

Here at Truro School Prep we believe that class sizes should be kept small in order to truly treat every child as an individual.

Our maximum class sizes are 20 and our average class size is 16.

Getting to know your child

A key benefit of small class sizes that cannot be overstated is the positive impact on teacher and pupil relationships. As your child settles in, our teachers will find out how your son or daughter learns best, pinpointing their strengths and helping them overcome challenges. Regular individualised feedback and support makes possible the setting of realistic goals for academic improvement, as well as wider, personal development.

Pupils' learning and progress is supported by the rigorous and thorough systems in place for monitoring and tracking pupil achievement that are used effectively by staff to tailor their teaching to pupils' needs.

ISI INSPECTION 2017

Encouraging a sense of curiosity

Small class sizes are also essential in creating a highly stimulating learning environment, one that is conducive to intrigue. It is not uncommon for children to ask the questions we, as adults, often fail to think of:

How do they really know what is in the middle of the Earth?

How far do clouds travel?

Why is the sky blue during the day but not at night?

Truro School Prep is characterised by being a place where pupils can put their hands up, ask questions and receive detailed answers from dedicated teachers who have the time to inspire every child, delivering a greater depth of learning.

Your child sets the pace

Our creative curriculum is centred on the individual so that your son or daughter can develop at a pace suited to their ability. Even greater emphasis is placed on our attentive approach to teaching in the core subjects of Maths and English. Class sizes in these subjects are often broken down into smaller sets in Years 4-6, ensuring that each child receives the individualised support he or she needs – whether that means increasing the pace and extending further or slowing down and consolidating previous learning.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

A WORD FROM MAGGIE ISSAKA, HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE



Happiness plays a fundamental role in enjoying a proper childhood. It is for this reason that my team and I are here to make sure that the welfare of your child is monitored each and every day.

Settling in and making new friends

Starting a new school can be a little daunting for any child. We enable a smooth transition by running a number of activities in the summer term for new starters. This means that your son or daughter can make new friends in a more relaxed atmosphere before they start the academic year at Truro School Prep.

Taster days are also available throughout the year, allowing your child to dip their toes in the water before jumping straight in. A typical taster day will shadow a normal day's timetable.

This is likely to include at least one core subject alongside a range of lessons in PE, art, music or drama.

Your child will be buddied with a peer pupil who will guide them through the day's activities, keeping them company at break and lunch times and showing them around the school grounds.



Creating a safe and happy school environment

During their time at Truro School Prep, pupils learn more about the world through our Personal, Social and Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) programme. The various year groups learn age-relevant information about topics such as relationships, how to keep safe when using IT, and what to do if a classmate looks unhappy. Topics are further reinforced with themed assemblies, visiting sessions, day excursions and residential trips in Years 4, 5 and 6.

On top of our PSHEE programme, we hold a weekly pastoral care meeting for our staff to make sure all are regularly updated on the needs of each and every child. The school chaplain holds regular 1:1 sessions with pupils where required and a school counsellor is on hand for additional support if needed.

Open door policy

We operate an open door policy for parents and offer arranged appointment evenings to give academic and pastoral feedback. Parents are always welcome to come in to talk through any concerns in detail. Points of contact include myself, your child's form tutor and Miss Patterson (Head of Truro School Prep).

There are also weekly parents' coffee mornings held after drop off time - an opportunity to mix with other parents and get involved in the active Friends of Truro School events throughout the year.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future to discuss your child's seamless introduction to Truro School Prep.

Maggie Issaka, Head of Pastoral Care at Truro School Prep

Forging well-rounded individuals through Christian values

As they progress through Truro School Prep, our goal is for your child to develop their personality, becoming sociable and empathetic individuals.

We strive for each pupil to understand his or her role as a global citizen, respecting others and identifying those who are less fortunate.

Celebrating all religions

Children of all religions attend Truro School Prep. We actively celebrate the wide variety of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds our pupils bring to school life. Celebrating such diversity enriches the learning experience of our pupils who get to understand and respect one another's beliefs from an early age.

Truro School Prep pupils from all backgrounds are expected to permeate our values in their actions, such as the encouragement and appreciation of working together, and an understanding of the importance of forgiveness.

The moral development of the pupils is exceptional and is a significant strength of the school. The respect that pupils show toward each other and the school community as a whole engenders a calm, productive atmosphere throughout.

Helping those in need

Teaching the importance of giving is another distinguishing aspect of a Truro School Prep education. Fundraising events regularly feature in the school calendar with pupils embracing the chance to get involved. Be it dressing up as their favourite fictional character or playing splat the teacher, pupils are regularly up to some kind of money-making mischief – all in the name of good causes.

Alongside the games and laughter, all fundraising efforts are twinned alongside themed assemblies so that pupils truly understand why they are raising money and how it will help. Charitable initiatives form a key part of our mission, helping your child to grow into an unpretentious teenager who understands how fortunate they are to live in a first-world country.

Giving pupils a voice

The student council plays a key feature in school life, offering leadership opportunities for all in Years 3–6. Pupils are elected on to the committee at the start of each academic year. This is done through a democratic tutor-led voting system, teaching important life lessons regarding politics and equal share of voice.

Once voted in, the council members regularly meet to discuss hot topics, from fair allocation of the sports equipment at breaktimes to what goes on the menu at lunchtimes. The annual elections allow a fair rotation of responsibilities, empowering all pupils to get involved during their educational journey.

Wraparound care for a stress-free lifestyle

We understand that it can be difficult for parents to strike the right balance between work, family and free time.

At Truro School Prep, we offer significant hours of wraparound care both before and after school, giving you that much needed flexibility and breathing space.

Be it an early drop-off or a 6.15pm pickup, we want your child to greet you with a warm hug and a cheek-to-cheek smile each and every day.

Flexible care from 7.45am until 6.15pm

There are numerous opportunities to keep your child active and extend their learning from Monday through to Friday.

Early Birds Breakfast Club

Starting at 7.45am, pupils can enjoy a delicious healthy breakfast and receive excellent care until school starts. There are also a range of early bird clubs that run on different days of the week including cricket, swimming and orchestra.

After School Clubs

We offer a huge range of after school activities. From the national award-winning Chamber Choir to Bushcraft, as well as a whole host of sports; there is bound to be something that captures your child's imagination.

Homework Club

Available from 4.00 pm to 5.30pm. Pupils can also join in with homework sessions after their clubs finish.

Supper Club

Has it been a long day? Save the hassle of cooking with Supper Club. Taking place between 5.30pm and 6.15pm, your child can enjoy a simple hot or cold meal before collection.

Sparking a passion in every child

There are a huge range of clubs and activities before and after school, meaning that your child is bound to discover a handful of new hobbies.

There are around 15 morning activities per week, lunchtime 20, and over 30 activities to choose from after school.

Clubs and Activities - A pick of the bunch

- Team Judo • Gardening
- Chamber Choir • Textiles
- Photography • Swimming
- Grade One Ballet • Fencing

The Prep Diploma – Preparing for Senior School

Upon entering Year 6, your child will embark on the Prep School Diploma, a year-long journey with the core aim of making each pupil a well-rounded individual.

The idea is that every pupil will develop a firm understanding of his or her own strengths and abilities ahead of secondary school.

The Truro Prep Diploma

The Prep School Diploma focuses not only on academic subjects, but also on developing your child as a well-rounded eleven year-old, teaching social skills, teamwork, self-esteem and respect for others.

We strongly believe that many of the less commonly assessed aspects of education are as important as the core academic subjects in the development of well-balanced, confident young people. The Diploma therefore reflects achievement in six broad areas of learning and experience:

- 1 Core Academic Subjects (English, Maths, Science)
- 2 Humanities (Geography, History and Religious Education)
- 3 Performing Arts (Music and Drama)
- 4 Creative Arts (Design Technology and Art)
- 5 Sport, Teamwork and Outdoor Activity
- 6 Life-Skills (ICT, Foreign Languages, Cooking and First Aid)

Award assessment

The Truro Prep Diploma is assessed through both the everyday curriculum and in a series of specially organised activity days during pupils' final year at the Prep School (Year 6), before they move on to the Senior School.

Each pupil's achievements in the six areas are determined at the end of the year and, where above expectation, can lead to the award of either Merits or Distinctions.

PUPIL PROFILE

Scarlett (Year 4)

First impression

My first impression of Truro School Prep was a loving place where no-one was left out. The teachers were the ones who helped make that happen.

Favourite subjects and activities

My favourite subject is drama because I love it when you turn into a different person. I also like gardening club and swimming. Next term I want to try chess club. I also love bushcraft!

Innovative teaching

I really enjoyed the field trip to the museum in Truro. I loved seeing the mummy and I learnt how they're wrapped up.

Making memories

My favourite moment of being at Truro School Prep so far has been singing a solo in the Bumble Snout play; it was really fun.



My favourite subject is drama because I love it when you turn into a different person!

SCARLETT

Parents' View

Our children have been at the school for two years now. Our son started in Year 4 and our daughter started in Year 1.

Starting afresh at a new school was a bit nerve racking. The term "pastoral care" is trotted out quite frequently in educational establishments and I do wonder how seriously it is sometimes taken.

We're happy to say that at Truro School Prep it's taken very seriously. We always felt that our children were being carefully watched to make sure that they were settling in, that they were not being left out by their peers and any wobbles were (and are) immediately addressed with intelligence and compassion. We've seen how the character of each of our children has been understood and nurtured and know our children feel that they are being listened to.

To have such a solid bedrock to build from does instil confidence and it's been wonderful to see them grow and achieve academically and creatively.

Of course any organisation is only as good as the people who work there, and the school is wonderfully led by the remarkable Miss Patterson whose world view is inspiring to all. Even in the depths of winter there is an infectious energy in the school.

Melody and Mark

Scarlett's Mum and Dad

PUPIL PROFILE

Billy (Year 6)

I moved to Truro School Prep in Year 3 and within the first month I went 'wow' there is so much sport going on compared to my previous school.

I love all sorts of sports and the activities helped me to make lots of friends very quickly. The teachers were really friendly and helped me to make new friends by putting me with another pupil in my form who showed me around and helped me to join in with games and other things at break and lunch time.

Supportive teachers

The teachers are really good at helping you when you make mistakes or get something wrong and help you understand how to put it right. They make you work hard but it's worth it because it makes me learn and they are really encouraging when I do well and really support me when I find things difficult. I think they really care about how I am doing and think of different ways to help me learn.

Understanding the bigger picture

The school gets involved with all sorts of charity work like Red Nose Day, Sports Relief and Children in Need and there is food bank support all the time. Since the fire at Grenfell, we support 'Cornwall Hugs Grenfell' by wearing green and we had a day when lots of the children affected by the fire came down to our school which was amazing. We had a good time with the children who were just like us but I think they really liked all the activities we did and the nice grounds of the school. They looked happy to be with us.

Before and after school clubs

Rugby, football, hockey and cricket are my main sports that I really enjoy so my day is really full and fun. There's loads more, like athletics, tennis, swimming, chess, art, judo and fencing. I haven't got time to try them all so I just choose the ones I like. All the sport helps me after being in school all day.

I used to do early morning swimming but I had so much going on with the after school clubs that I gave that up!

BILLY

Parents' View

When we transferred our boys into Years 3 and 5 at Prep School we were struck by the ease with which the boys settled into life there. It was as if they had been there for years. At parents' evening a few weeks later, we commented at how well the teachers had 'got' our children and understood their needs and abilities so quickly, which was very reassuring. The school's pastoral care was tangible and alongside an enormous choice of activities and sporting opportunities we could see that the transition into Truro School Prep was almost seamless.

In the years since then, we have been able to see the boys absorb all that the school has to offer, which has clearly stimulated them in many ways. Billy has developed a great enthusiasm for DT which has been nurtured and developed by the school's DT department. He can't wait until later in Year 6 to build the fabled go-kart! Equally, as a boy who has a tendency to under confidence at times in some subjects, we have seen him grow remarkably in many of the academic subjects he worried about before.

Alongside his academic progress he has developed some good, long-lasting friendships underpinned by the variety of team sports he has grown to love, especially rugby and hockey. He has had many opportunities to try out different sports and activities including sailing and kayaking which he has really enjoyed and this has simply given him a wider perspective of what life has on offer. The diversity of opportunities that the school provides, through experiences like the John Muir Award, camping, cycling, walking, orienteering to name but a few has certainly contributed to the development of Billy's character and we see a happy and well rounded young man emerging.

We couldn't ask for more.

Jenny and Mark

Billy's Mum and Dad



Book a Tour

Prospective parents and pupils are welcome to tour the school at any time and meet the Head, Sarah Patterson.

For more information or to book a tour of the school, please contact the Head's Secretary & Admissions, Mrs Simone Weston.

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