



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Willow Primary School tours

In order to help families without children in school understand more about how primary schools work, I thought it would be good to write down some of the most popular questions asked on my tours (and their answers), about school life. At the Information morning on 9th November we will discuss some of topics here in more detail, such as what happens before and after school for childcare.

What does the structure look like for the day?

A mixture of play and learning in short sessions ie 15-25 minutes. Structured (ie set activity) and free play (where children have a wide variety of choice in play-based learning).

Are the children inside a lot?

They are outside a lot, not just inside! They go out regularly in reception to encourage play, friendships, mixing socially, learning new motor skills (using your body parts) and also how to find quiet time including reading, eating a snack, or sitting on cushions.

Are the children only in their class or do they mix?

They regularly mix (with free choice), enjoying their classmates next door. They also separate for some activities including morning and afternoon registration.

Do we have to pay for lunch?

No, the government currently decrees free lunch provision for Reception, Year 1 + 2.

My child is a fussy eater. What do they eat and how can you help them?

The children have a wide variety of choice including morning snacks of tomatoes/banana/pear and bagel. They also have milk. At lunch they have a hot meal including meat/veg option, hot veg and cold salads, fruits and milk/water choice. They are assisted in ensuring they have at least two salads each day (ie raisins/cucumbers) and encouraged to try foods/eat them daily. Peer pressure helps enormously as they see their friends/classmates eating and try new foods. Within a week or two of starting school they will be eating at lunchtime, even if it is food they are not used to! If they really struggle, packed lunches are an option via us/you.

How do things work with The Brook special primary school co-located in the same place?

As a unique and inclusive Broadwaters' Inclusive Learning Community (BILC), we enjoy some great advantages working together. Children/Staff from our school nursery often come and join us for play sessions. At lunch, Brook staff and children join us for play/lunch. We also stop learning for a day each term to do whole BILC events including Christmas Dinner (children all make hats to wear), Arts festival each Spring and Black History month events (Dressing up, special lunches). We have linked class work across both schools. Obviously we also have children with higher level needs wishing to join us, and this is part of our inclusive nature. We can use areas of the site that are dedicated to Brook children during the day, after school, (ie soft play/swimming pool) in the form of after-school activities.

What hours of childcare do you operate?

- 7.45am childcare breakfast at £2 - we take your child to class for an 8.45am start. Ad-hoc or pre-booked, the rate is the same each day.

- 3.15-6.00pm childcare including a club from 3.15-4.30pm and snack around 4.45pm @£10 PRE-BOOKED only. If it is ad-hoc then it is £5/£11 respectively. We also close on Fridays at 4.30pm (not 6pm) throughout term. The last day of every TERM (3x a year) we close at 1.30pm (no childcare).

We also run activity clubs for limited numbers of children which are on top of childcare and incur extra charges. They run from 3.15-4.30pm only.

My child still doesn't wipe themselves properly after they use the toilet, can staff help them?

Unfortunately not. There are 30 children and one teacher, one nursery nurse per class (2 adults) looking after 15 children each. The child will need to be able to use the toilet independently - toilets are located in the classroom itself.

What uniform will my child need and does the school sell it?

Two uniform items must be bought locally (at one of two shops), which are the **logo** jumper/cardigan and book bag. All other items including white tops, black bottoms and PE kit can be found at other local shops including most big supermarkets.

I am worried about my child making friends.

Your child will make friends VERY quickly indeed! It is always a surprise to families how quickly their children settle into school life. The inclusive nature of our environment helps support children of all abilities to settle as well as visits for children not known to our nursery each May/June, as well as June/July meetings in school, and also a play morning in July once you have been allocated a space (which happens on 16 April each year).

How do you start children into reception life at school?

Five children start each day, Monday to Wednesday (ie 15 each week) over a two-week period in September. There are 30 children per class and two classes. This is the preferred method as most families return to work. There are no staggered starts (ie half days) for children. We have found this very successful over the past 6 years as children experience on average 3-5 hrs transitioning before they start school (ie home visit, nursery visits, meetings, play date as outlined above). We also try to start on the first day back for years 1-6 to support siblings coming to school.

For further information, please email Umarani Nathan at parents@thewillow.haringey.sch.uk or visit the website at www.thewillow.haringey.sch.uk

Thank you and see you on 9th November at 8.55am. Details of the zoom meeting here:



ZOOM meeting details Meeting ID: 886 5891 1554 Passcode: 536242