



Willington

COMMUNITY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS
2025-26

DEVELOPING PERSONAL EXCELLENCE

AMBITION
RESPECT
COMPASSION
COURTESY
HONESTY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSON



SCIENCE LESSON



IS WILLINGDON THE SCHOOL FOR ME ?

Dear Parents / Carers,

Your child will spend the next five years of their life developing into a young adult and their chosen school will play a significant role in shaping their identity and their future. Therefore, choosing a secondary school most appropriate for them is a huge but very exciting decision you and your child will make. We know the priorities will be your child's safety, happiness, and where they can be the very best version of themselves. We believe that is with us, at Willingdon.

Every decision we make is based upon what is best for our students. We want our students to strive to achieve their personal best in everything that they do. We value the importance of parent, staff and student relationships and feedback in order to do the very best for our learners. We believe all stakeholders need a voice if we are to drive Willingdon Community School to greater heights.



Teaching and Learning will always be our top priority. We know that if children have consistently excellent lessons that ignite curiosity, they want to come to school and they make significant progress. Our OFSTED report evidences how all students of all abilities make outstanding progress with us and are able to access their post-16 first choices.

There is no typical Willingdon student. We celebrate the talents and interests of all and endeavour to create life-long learners who will thrive in a competitive world. We pride ourselves on the academic achievements of our students and consistently help each and every one to reach their potential by having uncompromisingly high expectations. Our staff help empower students to strive for 'Personal Excellence'. These key values underpin everything we seek to do in order for students to become socially responsible, celebrate diversity and value individuality.

We are very fortunate to have some incredible facilities for our students to use. Year 7 have their own bespoke area called 'Our Space', which has their own canteen pod, although they are very welcome to use the whole school canteen. They also have their own toilet block right by their area. The sports hall has proven very popular with our student body who are enjoying a better space dedicated to a range of sporting activities. We have designed the Dance Studio and are looking forward to growing this subject area. We have a wonderful Drama studio which has its own lighting. Our new library in the heart of the school has also shown students how reading for pleasure is part of our ethos at Willingdon. We also have fantastic technology facilities with a Food and Nutrition suite as well as a well-equipped Design Technology space. Finally, our SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) area which is in a prominent part of the school build is versatile and can allow us to fully embrace our values of nurture and inclusion.

Although this prospectus will give you an insight to Willingdon Community School, I invite you to attend our Open Evening and Open Days to appreciate for yourselves the benefits our school can provide. It is important you get a feel for the school and sign up to the values and ethos we stand for. I look forward to meeting you all soon and I wish your child the very best in their Year 6 studies and with their decision.

Mrs Emily May
Headteacher

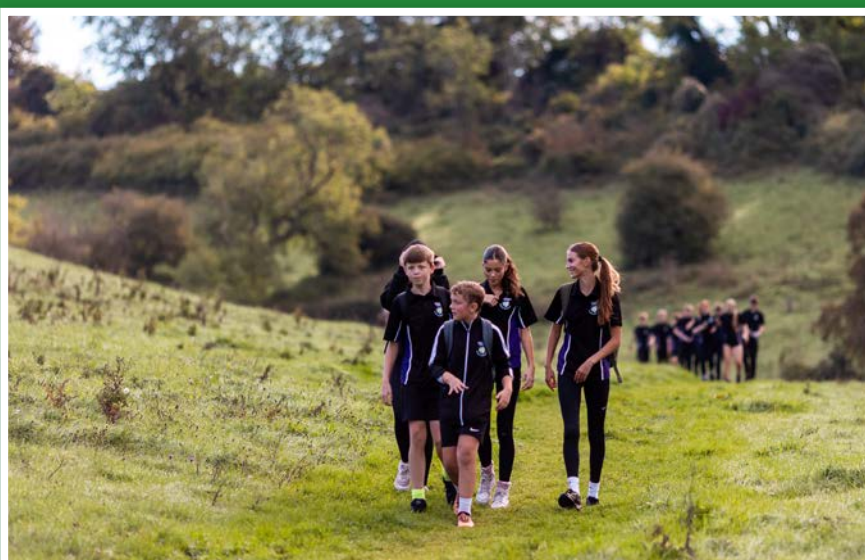
DRAMA SHOW



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



SPONSORED WALK



WELCOME FROM OUR STUDENT COMMUNITY

Being Head Students of Willingdon Community School is both a privilege and an incredible experience. We are proud to represent a school we truly believe in. One built on the values of ambition, respect, compassion, courtesy and honesty. These are more than just words; they are qualities we carry with us through school life and beyond.

Our aim this year is to strengthen connections within the wider community, contribute to the school's continued development, and ensure every student feels heard and valued. We believe that student voice is at the heart of what makes Willingdon such a positive and inclusive place to learn. No idea is too small, and no voice goes unnoticed.

We are fortunate to lead a dedicated student leadership team, which includes Assistant Head Students, Ambassadors, Prefects, and many others who play a vital role in shaping our school. Teamwork and clear communication are key to bringing about positive, lasting change, whether that's improving student life, planning exciting events, or launching new initiatives.

Willingdon offers a wide variety of opportunities for all students to explore their talents and step outside their comfort zones. From academic achievement to creative enrichment, there is something here for everyone. Whether you're passionate about music and want to perform at our much-loved Phoenix Festival, keen to take part in trips and clubs, or eager to lead a new student project - this is a place where you can truly flourish.

We welcome every level of involvement, from joining the Student Council to helping run events or starting a club of your own, even a Pokémon club if that's your thing! Every contribution matters, and every student has the chance to make a difference.

From your first day at Willingdon to your last, our community will support you in developing essential life skills such as initiative, leadership and resilience. These are the stepping stones that will help you move closer to your goals.

Willingdon is a place where every student matters. We cannot wait to welcome you to our open events. We're certain you'll love it here just as much as we do.

See you soon!

Roshan Kazi & Ava Jackson





VISION STATEMENT

We are a united, vibrant community which demonstrates personal excellence in all that we do. Learning at Willingdon transforms lives by igniting curiosity and expecting the very best from staff and students alike. We value opportunities, aiming for success today to prepare for challenges and opportunities tomorrow. We are respectful, honest and courteous to empower each other on our unique learning journeys.

We look after ourselves and each other, show empathy, respect and compassion to all people and our environment along the way. We encourage tolerance, resilience and reflection, which in turn allows everyone to make progress every lesson. We work together as a harmonious community to be the very best versions of ourselves. This makes us Willingdon.

RESULTS 2025

	Willingdon School	East Sussex Average	National Average
English & Maths Grade 4+	71 %	63 %	61 %
English & Maths Grade 5+	48 %	41 %	43 %
Attainment 8	44.9	41.6	44.0

SUPPORTING STUDENTS ON THE JOURNEY FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

At Willingdon Community School, we pride ourselves on the level of support we offer children and parents throughout the entire transition process. It is important to us that we work with the local primary schools in advance of students choosing their secondary school. There are a huge range of activities offered so that during their time at primary school, students start to become part of the Willingdon family. We have a specialist pastoral team fixed in Year 7 that are experts on transition and work closely with each and every feeder primary school. This includes a Head of Year and a non-teaching Pastoral Support Leader.

Once your child has selected Willingdon Community School, they will receive a visit from key staff to begin the transition process. A programme then follows which is full of transition events, helping students become familiar with our expectations, our systems and giving them a chance to form positive relationships with their peers and staff.



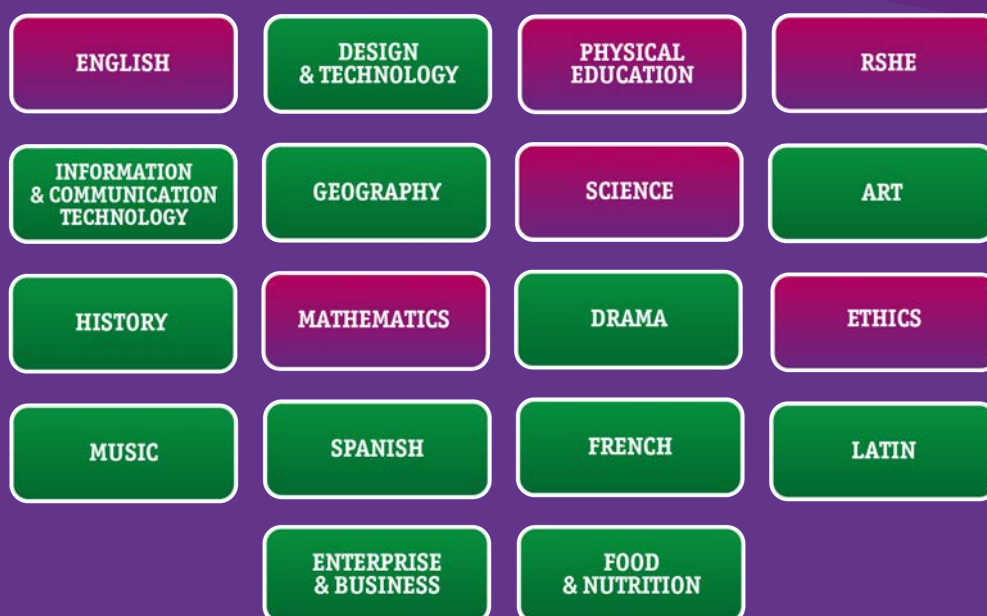
Transitioning from primary to secondary school can also be a new and daunting experience for parents too. There are many opportunities in Year 7 to help parents with this change and these range from Parent Forums to regular Positive Progress Evenings, along with an in-person Meet the Coach Evening in Term 1.

BRINGING LEARNING ALIVE

At Willingdon Community School, your child will experience a stimulating and enriching curriculum. In Key Stage 3, they will study core and foundation National Curriculum subjects. All parts of the curriculum are valued and teachers adapt delivery to ensure the needs of every learner are met. We pride ourselves in the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer at Key Stage 3, giving students the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects for a full three years. Our curriculum is reviewed annually to ensure that it remains vibrant and relevant for our students.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9)

CORE SUBJECTS & FOUNDATION SUBJECTS



We value the breadth of our Key Stage 3 resulting in deeper learning in a whole range of subjects from Drama to Design Technology, separate Humanities (Geography, History, Ethics, and RSHE) to Music, Art, IT, PE, a choice of language, including Latin on a rotation, and all these in addition to the core subjects of Maths, Science and English. In Year 9, students make their option choices for GCSE. These provide a bespoke curriculum for our students to ensure they are fulfilling their potential. As we are a school with a fully comprehensive intake, we have developed a system with sufficient flexibility to incorporate the needs, interests and talents of every learner. We use student voice to help design our GCSE offer. In the last few years, we have introduced GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Psychology, GCSE Latin, Travel & Tourism, and Child Development to our options menu, in addition to the other subjects following our student voice process. Careers education is a golden thread throughout our whole school curriculum. Students are given opportunities to learn about a variety of workplace settings, and staff embed specific careers education into their lessons and extra-curricular activities.



Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)

In Key Stage 4, every student follows an examination course in English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Science together with four other subjects.



“Leaders have created a curriculum which is carefully planned and sequenced. Content is ambitious for all pupils including disadvantaged pupils and those with Special Education Needs and/or disabilities (SEND)”

OFSTED 2023

SUPPORTING YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNEY



“Pupils say that bullying is uncommon and dealt with effectively.
Pupils say they feel happy and safe.”

OFSTED 2023



The key to our success as a school is ensuring that every child feels safe, secure and happy.

Our safeguarding and pastoral welfare system underpins everything we achieve. Throughout their time at Willingdon Community School, students are supported by a coach who sees them on a daily basis during the coaching period and, as far as possible, stays with them throughout their five years here. The coach acts as the first point of contact for parents or carers and monitors the overall progress and wellbeing of those in their group.

We place great importance on a strong pastoral system, as students need support to develop and overcome any hurdles whether emotional or academic. Each year group is led by a Head of Year (HOY) and they will support the transition the students experience as they progress through each year group. Also, they have a Pastoral Support Leader (PSL) who works alongside the HOY. These are non-teaching members of staff offering additional help and guidance for students. Further support is provided by the Inclusion Team and the school has invested in the services of a counsellor. Additionally, referrals can be made for Behaviour Intervention to our county advisors (TASS). We are also very proud that 72 of our staff have been trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

PROUD TO BE AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do at Willingdon Community School. Our curriculum is broad and balanced in its design to ensure that every student can make the best possible progress whatever their needs or abilities. We value every student and endeavour to support those who may find their schooling difficult at times. These students may be on the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) register or from groups that are nationally recognised as vulnerable to underachievement such as Looked After Children, students eligible for free school meals, Gypsy Roma Travellers and from ethnic minority groups.

At Willingdon Community School, we have a Deaf Support Facility (DSF), which meets the needs of deaf students and ensures opportunities for these students to take part in mainstream school. Students have access to a Teacher of the Deaf and the support of the Educational Audiologist. We pride ourselves on Developing Personal Excellence within all students. Part of the process to achieve this is to teach Relationships, Social, Health and Economic Education throughout your child's education. We also recognise the importance of community and have at least one assembly per year group a week. We invite visitors into the school to present on themed topics and we also like students to lead their own assemblies, in order to develop their confidence in front of a large audience.

It is important to us that our school community is cohesive and supportive of one another. We therefore have a strong prefect team which works across the year groups and has the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills. We very much value our student body and this is reflected in the student council who contribute to school decisions and drive the vision of our school.



“Pupils are kind and caring. They look after one another.”

OFSTED 2023

“Pupils are considerate of one another.”

OFSTED 2023



Our annual sponsored walk encapsulates everything which we hope to achieve with inclusion: a strong community, comprehensive support throughout the journey and full participation, irrespective of background or ability.

NURTURE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

At Willingdon Community School, we are fully committed to the six principles of nurture and these guide us in everything we do.

A nurturing approach recognises the importance of both the environment and social opportunities in shaping children's development. Providing nurturing experiences through the school setting and curriculum helps develop social and emotional skills, resilience and the capacity to deal with their life journey. A nurture group runs part-time at Willingdon and provides additional support and opportunities for children and young people. Each group runs for six weeks as part of our Forest School. We also have a trained P.A.C.E. practitioner who runs individual and small group sessions where the focus is on explicitly teaching children how to build emotional resilience and develop problem solving skills. Many children who are not in the nurture group are also given specific nurturing experiences, via a range of alternative provisions, which are offered as part of our commitment to inclusion. The nurture approach is most successful when the ethos underpins everything a school does. This is why we continue to work hard to share and develop school-wide best practice guided by the principles of nurture.


Restorative Practice forms a key part of nurture. We believe that restorative conversations enable staff, as well as young people, to develop a better understanding of social interactions and to learn from experiences.



ENRICHING YOUR SCHOOL LIFE

Willingdon Community School offers a comprehensive enrichment programme designed to broaden students' horizons, raise aspirations, and enhance their learning experience beyond the classroom. Through a diverse array of extra-curricular activities, including sports, arts, music, and STEM clubs, we foster creativity, leadership, and critical thinking skills. Our enrichment opportunities also include field trips, guest speakers, and community projects, encouraging students to enhance their cultural capital, pursue their passions, and engage with the wider world. Every subject area at Willingdon Community School provides chances to learn outside of the classroom, and our goal is to get every student taking part in at least one club and school trip each year.

Throughout the year, we also celebrate student achievement by offering Activities Days which include trips to explore horizons beyond East Sussex leading to regional, national and international experiences.



“Extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities are extensive.”

OFSTED 2023

An outline of some of the activities we provide is listed below:

Residential Visits:

Ski trip to Austria, Morfa Bay, Year 8 Camp, University visits, Humanities trips to Iceland and Poland, Charity trip to Nepal, MFL trip to Canada, and STEM trips to France and Spain.

Themed Learning Days:

RSHE, STEM, Citizenship, Careers, Employability and Life Skills.

Sporting Events:

Towns Sports, County competitions, National competitions, International sporting events at Wembley and Twickenham, fixtures with local schools.

Educational Visits:

STEM Skills Fair, Big Bang Careers Fair, Belgium Battlefields, University taster day visits, Seven Sisters field work, performing arts theatre trips, day trips to French markets, local historical sites.

Lunch / After School Clubs:

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Intervention clubs for Maths, English and Languages, Year 7 Social Club, Coastline, Homework clubs, STEM Club, Robotics Club, Advanced Science Programme, Gardening, Chess, Dance, Sport, Drama, Music and Art clubs.


EVENTS



TRIPS



YOUR JOURNEY BEYOND WILLINGDON



Our priority is for students to reach their potential during their school journey and for this to be reflected in their public examination results. Although students move on from Willingdon Community School for post-16 education, we will ensure that students have developed key transferable skills to adapt to their next destination and as confident learners are ready to embrace life to the full. To demonstrate this commitment we have been awarded, by the Investors in Careers – a nationally recognisable body as ‘Fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks’ for the National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Provision.

Through our comprehensive careers programme which begins in Year 7, all students will receive a robust careers curriculum linked to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance. Students will learn from career and labour market information and experience encounters with employers, employees and different workplaces to ensure that they are post-16 ready and have knowledge of over 300 different careers.

“External examination outcomes are extremely strong.”

OFSTED 2023



To ensure students understand the benefits of both further and higher education, we have developed strong links with local and national universities and colleges. All students have the opportunity to visit and gain an understanding of university life and the benefits of achieving a degree. We work closely with many of the local colleges and support students on taster days during Key Stage 4.

A comprehensive work experience programme exists for students in Key Stage 4, providing first hand insights into the world of work and we also welcome different speakers into our school to educate and enthuse students about future careers and the vast range of choices available to them.



OUR LIBRARY



Our library is at the heart of our school building. An inclusive and accessible space to allow study, reading for pleasure and the opportunity for students to fulfil their potential.

Use of the Library:

KS3 students have one dedicated 'Reading for Pleasure' lesson per week as part of their English lessons. Across the school year, students will: visit the school library to browse and read for pleasure, engage in online author book talks, share reading in groups, write book reviews, and take part in termly reading conversations. Year 7 and 8 students are also involved in BookBuzz from the BookTrust, thanks to the sponsorship of the Friends of Willingdon School.

Our enticing books are grouped in themes linked to the #inmyshoesWCS challenge so that all students can find something to capture their imaginations. Each term students build their empathy skills using the feelings wheel vocabulary to enrich their book talk.

Current sections include: about life, adventure, animal stories, based on real life, comics, crime, dystopian and scary, fantasy, funny, graphic novels, mythology, non-fiction, poetry and plays, sci-fi, sport, dyslexia friendly super readable, war, quick reads, and study zone guides.

Students have the opportunity to enhance their scope of reading and to engage with new texts through the Southern School Book Award and the UKLA Book Award. Each year we develop our stock with new and enticing texts from a range of genres to ensure there is something delicious to read for everyone. A study zone area allows KS4 students to revise and study calmly and quietly with the resources they need to support them.

Library resources:

Our library is equipped with a bank of laptops to aid revision and study, a wheelchair accessible desk and SEND friendly seating including wobble cushions and variety of seating to help everyone concentrate and enjoy the space quietly. Our study zone area includes a range of study resources and text books that students can use to support their revision whilst working in the library.

THE FOREST SCHOOL

We have an on-site Forest School where we have developed a program that offers an immersive learning experience. This provides a unique and enriching complement to traditional classroom learning. This works alongside a specialist off-site provision that allow students to experience regular outdoor sessions, engage hands-on with sensory activities that promote creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and social skills. Our Forest School encourages exploration and curiosity, allowing children to discover the wonders of nature while developing resilience and self-confidence. It promotes a sense of environmental stewardship, physical and mental well-being, and enhances emotional and social growth. Guided by trained educators, students learn to respect and care for their surroundings, gaining valuable life skills that extend beyond the classroom. This innovative inclusive approach not only enhances academic learning but also nurtures the physical, emotional, and social development of each child.

Quotes from students:

"It helps me concentrate"

"I feel it improves my focus"

"It helps me calm down"

"Allows me to work with different students"

"It helps me to open up for learning"

"It makes me want to attend school"





FRIENDS OF WILLINGDON

The Friends of Willingdon are a group of parents, carers and supporters who seek to provide a link between the school, home and community through the organisation of a wide range of events which are not only a great deal of fun and a fantastic way to make new friends, but also an opportunity to fundraise for school projects to enhance and enrich all our children's school lives.

In recent years, they have been very proud to present a new minibus to the school - a vision that seemed all but impossible a few years ago! They have also given the school a new laser cutter for the DT department, table tennis tables for PE as well as supporting the purchase of various curriculum based items that would not have been affordable for the school. The Friends have for the past two years funded Bookbuzz, a reading initiative for all our Year 7 students. The Friends have also supported many activities of the school, including sponsored walk, Christmas concert, school play and Phoenix Festival in the summer. The Friends also organise and host a very successful firework event, in conjunction with a local primary school, and regularly raise over £2500 for the school each time. We already have a date in the diary for this event to take place this Autumn. The Friends also host the annual Christmas Fayre as well as supporting other school events throughout the year and are always looking for new members and new ideas to further support the school.





OUR SPORTS HALL

In 2019, Willingdon warmly welcomed the opening of our brand new Sports Hall, offering top quality facilities to students, staff and the local community. This four badminton court sized facility is part of a larger redevelopment of the school and provides our students a modern, multi-functional space where various sporting activities are offered both during the day and after school.

Within the PE curriculum, students are encouraged to maximise their physical fitness through a range of sports. We listen to our student voice when shaping our PE core curriculum offer. We have a purpose built dance studio, enabling our learners to develop confidence in movement memory. We are lucky enough to have 25 mountain bikes in the PE department, which are used to develop physical fitness, balance and coordination. We also have two full size trampolines which are used in lessons and during extra curricular time.

Willingdon has a 400 metre running track on our field for the summer months. These are converted into full size football and rugby pitches for the rest of the year.

In order to help students develop physical and mental wellbeing, we have an outdoor gym and ActivAll interactive wall games, which they use both in lessons and during break and lunch times.

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