DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued

School Mission Statement and Ethos

At Ditcham Park School our mission is to nurture and encourage each child to learn and progress within a supportive environment so that our pupils develop into confident young people who go out into the world with the skills and desire to improve it.

Our ethos whereby 'Every child is known and Valued' is founded on outstanding pastoral care, excellent teaching and an all-round approach to education.

History & Situation

Ditcham Park School is situated near Petersfield, Hampshire in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on top of the South Downs with spectacular views of the rolling Hampshire hills and south across the Solent as far as the Isle of Wight.

The main building originated as a hunting lodge in the 18th century and developed into a 1000 acre estate by the 19th century. In 1886 the main building burnt down and was rebuilt as we see it today.

In the Second World War the building was commandeered by the Ministry of Defence and used as a rehabilitation centre for injured servicemen.

After the Second World War it became a Boys Preparatory Catholic Boarding School for Douai Abbey Senior School. It closed in 1975.

In 1976 the school was bought by our Founder, Patricia (Paddy) Holmes who was a teacher working in Portsmouth. She had become disillusioned with the new Comprehensive System of education and its one size fits all approach. She decided to set up Ditcham Park School where 'one size would NOT fit all' and where 'every child would be known and valued'. She opened the School in September 1976 with 100 pupils on roll. The School has gone from strength to strength and now has a pupil roll of 420.

The School is a registered charity. The directors of the charitable association are its Governors. The current Chair of Governors is Roger Overend and the current Headmaster is Graham Spawforth.

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School Aims

1. **Identify and develop each child's interests and abilities**

All children are unique and have a distinct blend of abilities. We aim to find the best in every child through an 'all round' approach to education and by identifying and developing their abilities whether they are academic, sporting or in the creative arts.

2. **Promote Academic Excellence**

We seek to inspire within our pupils a lifelong love of learning by creating a culture of innovative, dynamic and progressive teaching which ensures that, as our pupils learn, they are excited, curious and, like their teachers, passionate about their interests.

3. **Provide an environment where pupils are happy and where they can flourish**

We believe that our relatively small size helps us provide outstanding pastoral care so each child is known and valued. Our physical environment, situated on a beautiful 16 acre site in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the South Downs National Park, positively influences behaviour and encourages an appreciation of our natural environment and encourages a sense of well-being.

4. **Prepare pupils for the future**

We aim to provide our pupils with the academic qualifications, knowledge and skills, including technological and creative skills, to equip them for Further and Higher Education and to take full advantage of the opportunities provided in our Digital Age. We aim to develop self-confident young people with Christian values, a growth mind set and the desire to shape the modern world for the better.

5. **Connect with the Community**

We aim to develop strong links with our parents and the local community. We believe that an education at Ditcham Park School should be accessible to children from the local community.

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Ditcham Park School Today

Ditcham Park School is a thriving Independent Co-Educational Day School for pupils aged rising 3 to 16 with a pupil roll of 420. It is a member of the Independent Schools Association (ISA).

The School is organised in 3 parts:

- A Pre-School and Reception class for pupils aged rising 3 to 5
- A Junior School for pupils in Yr1 to Yr6
- A Senior School for pupils in Yr7 to Yr11

Leadership & Governance

Chair of Governors, Roger Overend, leads a team of 12 well qualified and experienced Governors forming a Council of Governors. The Council of Governors provides strategic direction and oversight through Governors Sub Committees and by frequent visits to the School.

The Council of Governors meets each term to review all aspects of the school's performance as reported by the various committees and make strategic decisions.

The key sub committees are as follows and meet on a termly basis:

- Safeguarding Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- Education Committee
- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Buildings Sub Committee

Senior Leadership Team

Headmaster (Graham Spawforth)	Responsible for all aspects of the School
Bursar & Clerk to the Governors (Glen Jones)	Chief Operating Officer
Head of Juniors + DSL (Pippa Probert)	Responsible for all aspects of the Junior School
Head of Seniors + DDSL (Kate Senior)	Responsible for all aspects of the Senior School
Deputy Head of Junior School (Roly Ainsworth)	Responsible for Clubs & Activities
Deputy Head of Senior School (Rich Howard)	Responsible for the timetable

The Ditcham Park School Charity Association
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Teaching & Pastoral Structure in EYFS & Junior School

Year Group	Class Teacher	Role	Line Management
Nursery	Emily Highmore	Nursery Manager	Kirstin Witte has leadership and management responsibility for EYFS and KS1
Reception	Lydia Stevenson Kim Barker	Class Teacher TA	Kirstin Witte
Yr1 Pre-Prep	Anna Somerville Jeremy Bullen	Class Teacher TA	Kirstin Witte
Yr2 Prep	Kirstin Witte Tracey Leadbeter-Zee	Class Teacher TA	Kirstin Witte
Yr3 Transition	Matt Livingston Kate Newton	Class Teacher Class Teacher	HoJ - Pippa Probert has leadership and management responsibility for KS2
Yr4 Lowers	Jo Burgess Louise Atkinson	Class Teacher Class Teacher	HoJ
Yr5 Middles	Jane O'Hara Kerry Vaughan-Carpenter	Class Teacher Class Teacher	HoJ
Yr6 Uppers	Roly Ainsworth Julie Mothersele Science, History, Geography, MFL, Art, D&T lessons provided by specialist teachers in Seniors	Class Teacher Class Teacher	HoJ
Junior Learning Support Dept	Belinda Fifield and Kate Dunleavy provide learning support for pupils in Juniors		HoJ

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Teaching Structure in Senior School

Department	Teacher(s)	Line Manager
English	Karren Robert (Head of Department) Katy Snow (2nd in Dept) Mike Lyons Kate Senior Jane Browning Julie Mothersele	HoS
Maths	Sarah Whittle (Head of Department) Yvonne Morris (2nd in Dept) Shelley Nellist James Walton	HoS
Science	Laura Hoad (Head of Department) Dan Leonard (2nd in Dept) Belinda Kelly Stacey Boyland James Hoad	HoS
MFL	Sophia Almedia-Field (Head of Department) Peter Swabey (2nd in Dept)	HoS
Art	Helen Drake (Head of Department) Nikki Rose (2nd in Dept)	DHoS
Business Studies	Rich Howard (Head of Department)	HM
Computer Science	Chris Murphy (Head of Department)	DHoS
Drama	Heather Baker (Head of Department)	DHoS
Design & Technology	James Hoad (Head of Department)	DHoS
Geography	Rose Turner (Head of Department)	DHoS
History & Careers	George Harris (Head of Department)	DHoS
Latin	Olivia Bicknell (Head of Department)	DHoS
Music	Ed Williamson (Head of Department)	DHoS
PSHE & RSE	Jane Browning, Kate Senior, Shelley Nellist	HoS
Religious Studies	Jane Browning (Head of Department)	DHoS
Sport & PE	James Walton (Head of Senior Sport) Sonia Cartwright(Head of Junior Sport) Georgia Brown	HoS

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Pastoral Structure in Senior School

Year Group		
Yr7	4 x Tutors Head of Year – Yvonne Morris	HoS
Yr8	4 x Tutors Head of Year – James Walton	HoS
Yr9	4 x Tutors Head of Year – Graham Vaudrey	HoS
Yr10	4 x Tutors Head of Year – James Hoad	HoS
Yr11	4 x Tutors Head of Year – Sarah Whittle	HoS
Wellbeing Coordinator	Juliette Barnes	HoS
Mental Health Support	Shelley Nellist	HoS
Senior Learning Support Dept	Hayley Brimble & Rachel Standen provide learning support to Seniors	HoS

Teaching & Learning Team

Laura Hoad (Behaviour Management)	Seniors
Karren Roberts (Stretch & Challenge)	Seniors
Chris Murphy (AI)	Seniors
Hayley Brimble (Pedagogy and General Practice)	Seniors
Peter Swabey (Marking & Feedback)	Seniors
Kerry Vaughan-Carpenter	Juniors
Kirstin Witte	Juniors

House Structure

Juniors	**Name**
House Coordinator	Roly Ainsworth
Head of Buriton	Kate Newton
Head of Chalton	Jo Burgess
Head of Harting	Matt Livingston
Head of Nyewood	Kirstin Witte
Seniors	
House Coordinator	Dan Leonard
Head of Buriton	Katy Snow
Head of Chalton	Dan Leonard
Head of Harting	Peter Swabey
Head of Nyewood	James Walton

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