



LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

PREP SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS



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Welcome to Leweston Prep

Set in forty-six acres of inspiring countryside, Leweston Prep is a very special place to learn and grow.

Because we firmly believe that children learn best when they are happy, our staff strive to achieve a deep understanding of each and every pupil. Our family atmosphere enables children to flourish in an environment where kindness is key and interests are celebrated.

Balance is central to Leweston Prep. We offer a wide range of complementary opportunities to encourage pupils to become well-rounded, engaged and enthusiastic about school life. Children benefit from dedicated outdoor time and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, with running clubs, Forest School, gardening and a daily welly walk for the Pre-Prep. Whilst the curriculum narrows in many educational settings, we pride ourselves on the breadth of our offering, which includes weekly lessons in Modern Foreign Languages, Latin, Performing Arts, Music, Design Technology, ICT, Art, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Science, Swimming, PE and Games. This wide spectrum of opportunities broadens pupils' horizons from an early age and provides everyone with the chance to discover their passion, and their strengths.

Academically our pupils are focused and dedicated, however at Leweston we believe that learning extends far beyond traditional classroom studies. The 'Leweston Learner' model, with its five core learning characteristics, sits at the heart of all we do. The model encourages pupils to be confident, adventurous, inquisitive, resilient and creative. Frequent progress reviews in each area equip pupils with the tools to recognise and make the most of all the opportunities afforded them. Throughout this prospectus, you will hear how they do this in their own words.

At Leweston Prep every child is nurtured and supported on their educational journey to excellence. Our children leave as fully rounded, confident and secure individuals who are ready to embrace all that their Senior School education has to offer.

I would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school, so please do arrange to visit.

Alanda Phillips, Head of Leweston Prep
BA (Hons), MA (Ed), PGCE, PGCE Ed Lead



The Leweston Learner

The Leweston Learner is a distinct philosophy that underpins every aspect of teaching and learning at the school and all pupils from Reception to Prep 6 use the approach and share a common language for learning.

The Learner focuses on five key characteristics: confident, adventurous, inquisitive, resilient and creative. The idea being that if encouraged in these skills pupils can then go on to develop their own abilities as a learner, work with greater independence and be better prepared for their future education and, ultimately, the adult world. This enables them to achieve not just higher academic results but also encourages problem solving and resilience to failure.

The Learner characteristics are promoted implicitly throughout every educational experience. They underpin the school reward system, reports and communication. The Leweston Learner Diploma rewards achievements from Prep 5 into Year 8 and enables pupils to track their own development in each skill area. In this way, pupils are encouraged to self-assess, to understand their own development and to have high expectations.



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I am Confident

Leweston pupils are articulate and friendly, welcoming new members into the school community. They believe in themselves, regular classroom debates are healthily competitive, and they can be assertive in the face of challenge. However, they recognise when it is appropriate to change their beliefs based on the evidence or arguments of others. They are both leaders and team players.

Leweston pupils are comfortable in their own skin and are not afraid to be who they are. Whether they are presenting in class or leading an assembly they can stand out knowing that they are secure and valued by the community around them.



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“

I AM CONFIDENT WHEN...

I deliver my presentation in our public speaking exams.

I read in the carol concert in front of the parents and Prep School.

I am goalie for the Leweston team.

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I am Inquisitive

Leweston pupils are keen to learn; they are enquiring and actively seek out answers to their questions. They expect teachers to help them to ask questions, not just to give them the answers.

They are inspired by a topic-based curriculum that fully engages their thought. They take responsibility for their own progression and participate in half-termly feedback meetings, where they reflect upon their own learning and development.

They are enthusiastic and passionate about their interests, in an environment where we celebrate individual and group successes. There is always something new to try, from author visits and workshops, to world food tasting, art installations and book fairs.



“

I AM INQUISITIVE WHEN...

I do science experiments in class.

I am solving Maths problems with my friends.

I try new recipes in Cookery.

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I am Adventurous

Leweston pupils aim high and never shy away from a challenge. They actively explore and enjoy new ideas, skills and experiences, supported by a team and a curriculum model that prioritises such inspiration. They are taught to take risks and are not afraid to admit and learn from their mistakes. Practical work in Forest School, Cookery and Design Technology enables them to make 'real' mistakes, and to find their own solutions.

They know how to work in different ways and with different people, adapting themselves to get the best out of the group, through challenges on our annual residential trip, sailing courses, and House team events.



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“

I AM ADVENTUROUS WHEN...

I go to Forest School and get lost in the woods.

I try different writing styles in Literacy.

I go to Braeside and do the leap of faith.

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I am Resilient

Life is a challenging journey but Leweston pupils remain focused and optimistic. They treat set-backs as learning opportunities and believe that all experience is valuable, steadily rebuilding their dens in Forest School when they fall. With strong friendships built in a close community, pupils help each other by recognising and applauding success, and supporting each other when someone is feeling discouraged.

Our playtime buddy scheme ensures that everyone is included. Older pupils take the lead with the younger in their Prep 6 Prefect and House Captain roles. Secure in the knowledge that their friends will catch them, our pupils are not afraid to fall, ever building on their mistakes and moving forward.



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“

I AM RESILIENT WHEN...

I struggle to climb the ropes during our climbing session but I keep trying.

I get stuck on a subject in Maths but carry on trying to solve the problem.

I try to improve my handwriting presentation each week.

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I am Creative

Leweston pupils embrace all forms of creativity. They express their thoughts, feelings and ideas using their imagination and drawing on their own passions. The opportunities offered by Music, Drama, and Art and Design give them the confidence to try new things, to listen, concentrate, persevere and create.

Creative expression plays a key role in their emotional development and is not limited to the music room, theatre, or studio. They explore and innovate in all subjects without setting themselves boundaries. Our creative classrooms use storytelling, brainstorming, and visualisation to transform the way that Leweston pupils learn and how they apply that learning in real life. They are encouraged to never shy away from a challenge, to always look at things from different angles, and to find the fun in every day.



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“

I AM CREATIVE WHEN...

I sing and perform my own songs.

I designed an animation of a snail and a monster in Computing lessons.

I invent new playground games.

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Every day we witness the sense of adventure, creativity, resilience, and confidence in Leweston children, brought about by a conducive atmosphere for learning and a strong ethos.

Staff astound us with their ability and inventiveness to provide such a broad range of creative activities. The level of detail that goes into reporting the children's development and frequent updates on Tapestry are nothing short of incredible.

All of this has resulted in a wonderfully happy child; one who is so very content at Leweston that, as parents, we could not have wished for a more successful outcome.

PARENT, PREP 3

Somehow you and your staff seem to have managed to establish in the children some fundamentals beyond the narrow scope of performance and we had seen results of a deliberate holistic approach to educating young children. You and the staff obviously worked very hard on the School Concert but in turn, that was of secondary importance because each and every child had learned, probably subliminally, that if they apply themselves to something wholeheartedly they can succeed and then enjoy the results.

GRANDPARENT, PREP 1

The prep teaching staff have excelled in encouraging our daughter to discover her talents and worked tirelessly with her in imaginative ways to develop them effectively. The confidence and self-assurance that has come from their commitment has encouraged a love of learning that is priceless and has helped equip her fully for the transition to Senior School. We could not be more delighted with our choice of school.

PARENT, PREP 6

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For more information call us on: **01963 211054**
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