



Academy Tours

Frequently asked Questions

PLEASE NOTE THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT REFERENCE TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS AND MEASURES PUT IN PLACE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

1. How many children are in each class?

- Due to infant class-size legislation, all of our classes across the academy are limited to 30 children.
- Each year group has four classes with a maximum of 30 children in each class.
- Over the past few years we have had classes slightly smaller than 30 but this is obviously dependent on the size of the cohort.

2. What does a typical school day look like?

- The children come into school at 8:50. They line up with their teacher and enter into their classrooms.
- Throughout the day the children enjoy...
 - Child initiated learning time in their own classes (free play).
 - Free-flow across the wing where they interact and play with children in other classes and explore the learning environment both outside and inside.
 - Focus phonics lessons with a teacher.
 - Focus writing tasks in small groups.
 - Focus maths tasks in small groups.
 - Carpet sessions related to topic or relevant themes.
 - Story times.
 - Circle times-where we explore feelings, emotions and develop listening and attention.
 - Opportunities to read 1:1 with an adult.
- The children's lunchbreak lasts between 11:30 and 12:30. At lunchtime the children go to the hall where they will be given a hot lunch. Alternatively, you may choose to provide a packed lunch from home (See question 6). Following this the children go to the playground where they can access they play equipment and ball space alongside their KS1 peers.
- Home time is at 3:15pm. The children collect all of their belongings and line up. The class teacher lets each child out of the class one-at-a-time once we have seen an adult with consent to collect.

3. What phonics scheme do we use?

- At The Southwater Infant Academy, we like to make everything 'our own' to ensure our curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of our children. We base our phonics teaching on song of sounds. More information about this can be found [here](#).

4. What if I have concerns about my child starting school this year?

- If you have concerns about your child's development, wellbeing or there are any other circumstances you believe would impact their education please feel free to contact our SENDCo Mrs Vicky Dilling on 01403 733254 or office@southwaterinfants.co.uk
- We have a fully inclusive approach here at The Southwater Infant Academy and work hard to ensure our curriculum caters for all children regardless of any Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

5. Can I request that my child is placed in a class with their friends?



- Classing the children is a challenging task for us. Many factors are taken into account when classing the children and we spend lots of time liaising with the nurseries and pre-school settings.
- Of course, we always try our best to ensure that the children have a few familiar faces in their class. We cannot take requests from parents for certain children to be classed together. The free-flowing nature of the learning environment means that children will see their peers in adjacent classes throughout the day and will have plenty of opportunities to play and interact with them.
- Of course one of the wonderful things about starting school means they also make lots of new friends!

6. Do the children play with their older siblings and friends when at school?

- In Reception the children don't have a morning or afternoon playtime as their learning is very play based with opportunities to Free Flow inside and outside throughout the day as they choose.
- At lunchtime, they play on the main playground with Key Stage One, though lunches are staggered and KS1 children leave the playground to eat in year groups.

7. What do they have for lunch?

- All of the children are entitled to a Free Hot Meal each day. Our Hot Lunches are provided by 'The Easy Lunch Company'. More information can be found [here](#).
- If you would rather your child does not have a hot lunch, you are welcome to provide a packed lunch from home. Please note that we are a "Nut Free School" and would expect all lunches brought into the Academy to be "Nut-Free".

8. How do we cater for children or families with disabilities?

- The Southwater Infant Academy is fully accessible to wheelchairs. We have two disabled toilets and three disabled parking bays reserved for blue badge holders.
- The academy endeavours to provide information in a suitable format for pupils and parents who may experience difficulty with standard forms of printed information. We provide visual timetables in class and can provide information in large print and translation where necessary.
- Please contact the academy office if you have specific questions relating to accessibility.

9. Do you offer wrap around care?

- "Kids-Like-Us" are OFSTED Registered. They provide a Breakfast and Afterschool club for children at The Southwater Infant Academy. Breakfast Club opens at 7:45am and Afterschool club runs until 6:00pm.

<https://www.kidslikeusclubs.co.uk/>

10. What is your OFSTED Grading?

- Our last inspection was in 2008 where we were graded as "Outstanding". Read our Ofsted Report [here](#). We recognise this was a while ago and are continuously striving to progress and improve to maintain this high standard. Each year we set ourselves Academy Improvement Targets and these are monitored and assessed externally, as well as by our own "Board of Trustees". More information can be found [here](#).



If you have any further questions you would like us to answer please contact our academy office using the details below.

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