

North Lancing Primary School



Starting School - frequently asked questions

Below is a list of frequently asked questions related to starting school. Feel free to browse the questions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

How can I contact the school to ask questions about starting school?

You can use the dedicated email address: startingschool@northlancing.co.uk Please state your name and any queries you may have. A member of the team will answer you as soon as they have all the information to answer your query. You can also use the dedicated contact form on the North Lancing webpage under the parent/new parent tab.

How many places will be available at North Lancing for reception pupils in September 2021?

North Lancing Primary has a published admission number (PAN) of 60. This means that there are 60 places in each year group. These places are arranged into two classes of 30 pupils. There are two classes in each year group across the school. This equates to 420 pupils across 7 year groups (Reception to Year 6.) North Lancing is a popular school and many year groups have waiting lists. Waiting lists are held by the West Sussex County Council admissions team.

What facilities are available at North Lancing?

North Lancing School is lucky to have incredible facilities. Amenities include a heated outdoor swimming pool, two large playing fields, a playground marked out with games and activities, quiet area games tables, an outdoor theatre, adventure playground, hard surface games courts, table tennis tables, a log roll, climbing wall, pond, forest school wild area and basketball rings. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have their own dedicated outside space. In Reception it includes access to sand and water play, themed houses, a bike and scooter track and a physical play area. Year 1 even have their own pirate ship to play on! Inside, classrooms are bright, airy and well resourced. Computing equipment is up to date and supports learning across the curriculum.

What will my child be learning in Early Years?

The Early Years curriculum is fantastic. It is age appropriate and builds upon your child's experiences at home and in nursery. Approximately 50% of the Early Years curriculum is based outside. The curriculum is mainly delivered through play and games. One third is teacher led, one third is guided by resources provided and modelled by staff and a third is free flow pupil initiated. The areas of learning are: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; and expressive arts and design. The children are encouraged to develop effective characteristics of learning: engagement, motivation and thinking. Your

child will be given opportunities to find out and explore, play with what they know, have a go at new things, become involved and develop concentration, persevere, enjoy achieving, have their own ideas, make links and choose things to do. Further information about the curriculum can be found on our dedicated Early Years website: www.northlancingeyfs.co.uk

Are there any specialist teachers or extra support that comes into school?

At North Lancing, a specialist teacher is employed to teach music. Every class has an hour music lesson each week. Peripatetic teachers also come into the school to teach a range of musical instruments including saxophone, violin and guitar. The school also has a play therapist who works with children who have suffered trauma, adverse childhood experiences or require strategies to help manage everyday life more easily. A speech therapist also supports our own staff to assess and deliver speech and language programmes on a weekly basis. School staff excel in many areas of sport and art, so a variety of clubs are also offered. North Lancing has an incredible sporting record. We also aim to offer opportunities to explore a range of different sports, examples include archery, tri-golf, karate, judo, table tennis, netball, football, athletics, cricket, stoolball and street dance. We also employ a forest school leader. Opportunities for pupil premium children are provided to engage in forest school activities during the school day and a club is open to all pupils after school.

Are children expected to complete learning at home?

In Early Years we will begin to teach your child to read. As with any new skill, reading requires practice. We will cover skills at school but send activities, games and books home to practice at home. As the children progress through school, they will be required to complete activities at home to support their learning at school. These activities help children to practice, use and retain new learning.

How will I know how my child is getting on at school?

In Early Years we use a system called Tapestry to record your child's achievements and interactions. It allows us to share new learning and celebrate success. An account will be set up for you and you will be able to securely see photos, videos and comments relating to your child's learning at school. You will also be able to share things you do at home.

You will be offered two parents meetings each year to discuss how your child is progressing and will also receive a school report. As your child progresses through school, interim reports will also be provided. We love to celebrate success at North Lancing, holding weekly award celebrations. Children receive certificates and acknowledgements from their teachers and the Headteacher. Awards are presented for handwriting, reading progress, maths achievement and attendance. Children are also encouraged to share awards gained from activities and clubs outside of school in these special assemblies.

How will the school communicate with me?

We pride ourselves on being approachable and supportive. We know that working together as a team will be most productive for your child. A system called StudyBugs is used to communicate. A free app

can be downloaded and any messages, letters and supporting documents are sent directly to your phone. In Reception we use Tapestry to keep you up-to-date with your child's learning but also to send updates. In Year 1, 2 and 3 an app called Class DoJo is used. Year 4 to Year 6 have their own dedicated websites. This combined method allows us to offer age appropriate communication routes which also allow home-learning tasks and support groups to be provided.

How is behaviour managed at the school?

North Lancing has an inclusive ethos and staff throughout the school educate and support the children to interact positively with all members of the school community. Behaviour management is consistent, fair and positive. Children are encouraged to work together for both individual and class rewards and any students who struggle to conform are provided with boundaries and support to help them succeed. When children make mistakes, they are encouraged to learn from them. Pupils help and have high expectations of each other. They expect to be treated with kindness and respect and turn treat others in the same way. They work closely with staff to ensure the learning environment remains a happy, safe place to be. The school works closely with parents and carers to ensure that all children behave appropriately and can succeed in the school environment.

What provision is there for meals at school?

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive a hot school meal free of charge. They also receive a free piece of fruit each day for a snack. Meals at North Lancing are provided by Chartwells. The current menu can be found at:

<https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/CSS/WestSussex/UploadedImages/SteamplicityV3sept20.png>

We appreciate that children like some foods more than others, so we operate a flexible system at North Lancing. Children can opt for hot meals on all or just some days. Those who prefer, can bring a packed lunch to school. The children eat lunch in their classrooms. This is preferred as the children are familiar with the setting and their surroundings. Pupils up to the age of 5 are also offered free milk each day.

What are the chances of my child obtaining a place at North Lancing if we live outside of the catchment area?

Currently 50% of the school population at North Lancing reside outside of the catchment area. This means that 30 places in each group have been allocated to children who do not live in catchment. There are 60 places available in reception at North Lancing in 2021. If there are less than 60 applicants for these places, then all applicants should be offered a place. If there are more than 60 applicants, the oversubscription criteria is then applied when allocating places. Admissions to the school are handled by West Sussex County Council. The oversubscription criteria for North Lancing can be found at:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/13180/west_sussex_oversubscription_criteria.pdf

Do you offer wrap around care at North Lancing Primary?

Prior to COVID-19, North Lancing hosted 'Incrediclub' on site. The externally run club offered breakfast club from 7.30-8.30am and an after school club from 3pm until 6pm. Unfortunately, the introduction of strict rules and the need to maintain 'bubbles' has meant that Incrediclub is not operating. We will update on this when the situation changes. There is however a forest school club that runs after school a couple of days a week – this is based on the school grounds.

How does induction work at North Lancing?

In times without COVID-19, once your child has been offered a place at North Lancing, we invite you in as a family to have a tour of the school with one of our current Reception pupils and a Year 6 student. This will give you an opportunity to start to talk about where your child will be spending time, where they will play and start to become familiar with staff. We then offer three stay and play sessions. Reception staff will go out and visit your child in their nursery setting in the summer term and spend time talking to key workers.

At the beginning of the new school year, staff will complete a home visit to meet your child in the environment they feel most safe and confident. They will talk to your child about their interests and what they like to do. We then offer a couple of transition days. The year group is split into three groups of twenty (you choose your preferred session time) and each group comes into school to experience their classroom, playtime, using the toilet and general school routine. These sessions allow all 5 reception staff to work with just a third of the year group at a time.

Transition into school is gradual. Even the most experienced of nursery attenders finds learning new rules and making new friends tiring. The first full week is mornings only, followed by a week staying for lunch and then full time. We understand that all children are individual and that some take longer than others to settle to school life. If your child is not ready to attend full time or requires a more flexible approach, we will be happy to work with you to arrange for the most appropriate provision.

How do I apply for a school place?

All information regarding applying for a school place can be found on the West Sussex Admissions pages: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/apply/starting-school-places/> The web page will guide you through identifying your catchment area school, choosing preferences and completing the application form. There is also a booklet to guide you through the process: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/14834/info_for_parents_starting_school_sept2021.pdf

When do I need to complete my application for a school place?

The closing date for all primary, infant and junior school applications is on **Friday 15 January 2021** at 11.59pm.