



Coopersale Hall FAQs

What age do children start in your school?

Lower Kindergarten caters for children ranging from 2½ to 3 years. Children enter the class in the term in which they have their third birthday. Upper Kindergarten takes children from 3 to 4 years.

What is the admissions procedure?

The admissions procedures differ depending on the age of your child. However, the process usually begins with a visit to the School, either on one of our Open Mornings or on a pre-arranged personal tour. The normal procedure (pre Covid-19) is for each child to have a taster morning in school for children in Year 1-6. Your child will come to school from 9.00am – 1.00pm. They will spend the morning in the class they will go in to if they are offered a place. During this time your child will do a Maths and English assessment within the relaxed class atmosphere. They will enjoy break and lunch with the children in that class. We have had to adjust the procedures during Covid-19. You will still come in for a tour and then an assessment morning with Mrs Doherty. This happens one to one.

Do you have a catchment area?

No, we have families living in the local area, Epping, Redbridge, Ongar and Bishop's Stortford. If you are happy to commute, we are happy to welcome you in to our school.

Once my child is in Reception, will they have to do another assessment to go higher up in the school?

No! Once you are offered a place at Coopersale Hall School, the transition is automatic. The children will not have to do another assessment.

What is the minimum session in Kindergarten? Can I increase the sessions during the year?

The minimum amount of sessions you can send your child to school is 3. You can increase your sessions at any point during the year if we have availability.

Do you provide wrap around care?

Yes, we have breakfast club from 7.30am. We have a lovely team of adults to provide a healthy breakfast and supervision. We then also offer teatime club until 6.00pm. Children will have a healthy snack and drink, have the opportunity to do homework or play a range of games with their friends. Children from 3 years old can access both.

Does every teacher have a teaching assistant?

All teachers from Lower Kindergarten to Year 2 have a full time teaching assistant. From Year 3-6 a teaching assistant is shared across the year group. This helps to develop some independence with the children.

How much time do the children spend outdoors?

All the children will have at least 2 hours of PE a week, which is usually outside on the AstroTurf or on the netball court. All of EYFS have direct access to their covered outdoor learning throughout the year. We have an outdoor classroom that we use for any of our lessons. Break and lunchtimes are spent outside if it is not raining. The majority of the sports clubs are outside. We have a dipping pond, which is used throughout the year. We encourage outdoor learning whenever it's not raining.

What curriculum do you follow?

We are guided by the National Curriculum. But as an Independent school we have the freedom to tailor the learning to specific needs or interest. In EYFS we follow the EYFS Framework.

What are you 11+ results like?

The results are always very good. Last year we had 12 children sitting 11+ exams but received 28 offers with scholarship places.



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What schools do the children go to after Year 6?

This is very different year on year. Every year the preferred school amongst the children will be very different. Haileybury, Brentwood and Bishop's Stortford are always popular with our families.

How do you prepare the children for 11+ exams?

From Year 3, the preparation starts with weekly reasoning sessions and then looking at past papers to guide the children through their preparation. High quality teaching means we finish the Year 6 curriculum in Year 5 so that we can focus on writing past papers so that we can set individual targets for each child. The children will also have interview practice in school with personalised feedback given to each child.

How much contact will the parents have with the teachers?

Normally, every day. The parents have the opportunity to see their child's class teacher every morning or every afternoon. A member of SLT will be available every morning at the gate for parents to talk to them or then every day after school by appointment. Teachers all have their own email address that parents use frequently. We also update our social media accounts a regularly during the week.

What are lunches like?

The children receive a snack at morning breaktime with a drink of milk or water.

We have a wide range of food on offer at lunchtime freshly prepared by our Chef and her team. There is a daily choice of a hot main meal with a hot vegetarian alternative, together with a cold buffet that includes filled baguettes and a wide variety of salads. A daily pudding choice is available or plenty of fresh fruit and yoghurts.

There are many members of staff on duty to help children with their choice of food and to ensure that they eat a balanced meal. We always encourage children to try new food. Our team is used to catering for all dietary needs.

What do you think are the strengths of your school?

We are a small school with a big heart! We know our children. We know when things are going well and we know when things aren't going well. We interact with the children a lot. As headmistress, I speak to most children every single day in the dinner hall. I see at least a child per class every week for hot chocolate. It's a fun way for me to know that is going well around school and where we can improve. We have small classes, which means the teachers can tailor the teaching to each child's needs. We have lovely spaces around the school for the children to use.

When can my child start attending extra-curricular clubs?

We have clubs for all ages. Starting with our 3 year olds.

What happens if my child needs extra support?

We are fortunate to have a well-resourced Learning Support team, coordinated by our SENDCo Mrs Doherty. We have a large number of Learning Support Assistants who work in a variety of classes. All work is routinely differentiated to meet the range of abilities of our children so that they are all able to access the curriculum.

Our specialist staff give one-to-one targeted support to pupils to help them make progress. We also have a specialist dyslexia teacher who provides lessons for some of our pupils and undertakes assessments if necessary.

What foreign languages do you teach in school?

French and Spanish. All the children will have French lessons in school and then access to our Spanish club.

How much PE do the children do weekly?

2 hours every week with lots of extra sports clubs after school.