

WOODSIDE SCHOOL



‘Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn’ – Benjamin Franklin

<https://www.woodside-school.co.uk/>

Our School

Woodside School, registered by the DfE for pupils aged 8 to 18, is nestled in the heart of St John's Wood, Central London—an area rich with opportunities for learning, exploration, and adventure.

Our location is Woodside School, St Johns Church, Lords Roundabout, London NW8 7NE.

Our school enjoys a prime location next to the historic St John's Wood Church, with a vibrant community and an array of extracurricular activities right on our doorstep. Just a stone's throw away, pupils can experience the thrill of Lord's Cricket Ground, the beauty of Regent's Park, and the excitement of London Zoo. The park offers endless outdoor fun, from canal walks and adventure playgrounds to boating lakes and open green spaces.

Right behind the school, a charming smaller park provides additional recreational facilities, including a playground, an outdoor gym, and a dedicated forest school area—perfect for hands-on learning and outdoor discovery.

Beyond our immediate surroundings, London's world-class museums, galleries, and cultural institutions are within easy reach, offering pupils inspiring opportunities to bring their studies to life. At Woodside School, the city itself becomes an extension of the classroom, making every day a new adventure in learning.

Values, Ethos and Vision

At Woodside School, learning is active, dynamic, and hands-on—there’s no sitting in a chair for six hours staring at a whiteboard! We believe in getting pupils up and moving, whether they’re creating and making things around the school, exploring the playground, or engaging with the wider community.

One of our core values is that we are a **smartphone-free school**. While we acknowledge the benefits of digital technology, we prioritize human connection and being fully present. Our approach fosters meaningful interactions and real-world experiences that go beyond the screen. For example, our reading program is designed to spark a true love of books, with physical copies that encourage deep engagement and appreciation for reading.

We are passionate about **nurturing independent learners** who develop a lifelong love of discovery. Inspired by the Montessori approach, we empower pupils with **voice and choice** in their learning journey. Rather than rigid schedules, we embrace flexibility—snack time isn’t dictated, for instance. If a child feels hungry, they can take a break at the snack table before returning to their exploration and learning.

We also believe in the power of **nature and the outdoors**. Through **forest school experiences** and **animal care**, pupils develop a deep appreciation for the natural world, fostering curiosity, responsibility, and a sense of wonder.

Safeguarding

Children with learning disabilities and children in care are some of the most vulnerable in society. Woodside School takes very seriously its duty to report any cases of suspected child abuse to the appropriate agency i.e. the local safeguarding children board, social workers, police and parent/carers where appropriate.

The school's safeguarding policy is available on the schools' website and on request from Woodside School office. The Head of School is Dipa Chandegra and the Head of Curriculum is Zorian Patrick, both have The Designated Safeguarding Lead training.

All staff are trained in how to spot the signs of abuse. Training takes place during induction, and regular follow ups.

The Curriculum

All pupils at Woodside School have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). As many are working below or significantly below their expected age level, our curriculum is carefully adapted to meet their individual needs. We follow a “**stage, not age**” approach, meaning that teaching groups are often mixed age, allowing pupils to learn at the level that best supports their progress and ability.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced to accommodate a wide range of abilities, ensuring that every pupil—aged 8 to 17—receives a meaningful and supportive education that helps them to thrive.

The school is set up with three distinct pathways, adapted and developed from the EQUALS Curriculum;

Pearl for pupils who are working towards the National Curriculum: English, Maths and Science accreditation and working towards preparation for adulthood to include independent life skills and employability with advice from a careers advisor.

Emerald for pupils with moderate - severe learning disabilities and are working below National Curriculum standards and will begin to develop their subject specific skills such as numbers, reading and writing through an active learning approach in the subject areas of communication, thinking and problem solving, independence and creative arts.

Sapphire for pupils with complex learning disabilities (many of whom are non-verbal and require support with independent living skills). We focus on five key areas: communication, physical well-being, independence, outdoor experience and play.

This model of delivery promotes **Five** key skills that are vital for future success in wider society;

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Creativity
5. Citizenship

Provision for pupils with special educational needs

All pupils at Woodside school have special educational needs. All EHCP's are reviewed on an annual basis or as and when required. These reviews normally take the form of a meeting between the funding authority, teachers, parents and other relevant people.

Provision for pupils with English as Additional Language (EAL)

At Woodside School, every pupil is **equally valued** and given **equal opportunities** in all aspects of school life, regardless of background, gender, race, religious belief, or disability. It is our role to find ways to include all. We celebrate **diversity** and strive to build a staff team with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and interests. Translators are available where appropriate.

Careers Guidance

Woodside School works closely with the local **career's information, advice, and guidance team**, arranging careers meetings and interviews for Key Stage 4 pupils, where appropriate. We also have links with colleges in and around the local area, helping to support pupils into further education.

In addition, we **coordinate and monitor work experience placements** for Key Stage 4 pupils, where appropriate, providing valuable hands-on learning experiences.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that every pupil leaves **Year 11 or Year 12** with a **positive next step**, whether that be further education, training, or employment.

Documentation

All of the school's **policies and procedures** are available to view at school and can be sent electronically or by post upon request. Parents can also access Woodside School's **First Aid Policy** by contacting the school office or requesting a copy.

Counter Bullying

Bullying, whether that is in person or online, can seriously affect someone's physical and mental health. Sustained bullying can cause stress, emotional issues, social problems, physical disorders and in some serious cases, self-harm or even death.

Woodside School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils. Through our PHSE and drama lessons, we encourage pupils to recognise and explore the impact of bullying. By doing this, we believe that we can encourage pupils to reflect and take ownership of their actions in order to reduce the likelihood of harm to others.

A copy of the school's policy on bullying is available on request.

Health & Safety

The school has health and safety policies and procedures in place. It is the Head of School's responsibility that the policy is implemented, monitored and reviewed at regular intervals.

A copy of this policy is available on request.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education

From September 2021 it became compulsory for Relationships Education to be taught in primary education and Relationships, Sex Education to be taught in secondary education.

“The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and provide that pupils receiving primary education must be taught Relationships Education, pupils receiving secondary education must be taught RSE and that all primary and secondary pupils in maintained schools must be taught Health Education.”

At Woodside School, RSHE is taught within the PHSE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Education) and is a partnership between Woodside school and parent/carers.

It is particularly important that our vulnerable pupils at Woodside School learn about healthy relationships and healthy lifestyles.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Head of School. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Head of School will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative schoolwork will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Complaints

The Complaints Policy is available on the school website and on request.

Woodside School has had zero complaints in 2023-2024 and there are no on-going investigations.

Exclusions

Exclusion from school can have a significantly negative impact on children, often leading to poor mental health, lowered self-esteem, academic difficulties, increased behavioural issues, and a higher risk of future social and economic disadvantages. Because of this, we only permanently exclude in exceptional circumstances once all other options have been exhausted. Fixed term exclusions are occasionally utilised as a way to provide space and reflection following a significant incident.

Admissions

Our schools can accept referrals for pupils with primary need Autism (ASD) and/or social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs with mild to moderate learning disabilities.

The admissions arrangements to Woodside School are transparent and apply equally to all placing authorities. We do not accept direct referrals from schools and alternative providers and are not an approved provider under section 41 of the Children and Families Act, which means that we are able to choose whether to agree to a placement or not.

Referrals should be sent via email dipa@sevahomes.co.uk

Visiting the School

Woodside School is delighted to welcome visits from pupils, parents, social workers, local authorities and other interested parties. Please call the school office on 0208 050 0735 to make arrangements.

School Term Dates

Woodside School is open for pupils 52 weeks of the year, apart from statutory bank holidays.

Fees

Fees are available on request and will be based on the assessment of each pupils' individual needs.

Should a pupil leave without prior written notice or not as a result of a review, then 6 weeks (half a term) fees in lieu will be required. Notice to leave the school must be in writing and the 6 weeks (half a term) will be charged from the date of the letter of notice.

Exam Results

During academic year 2023-2024 there were five pupils on roll all within key stage 2 and key stage 3. Therefore, there are no exam results to report for the period 2023 - 2024.

General Information

What are the start and finish times?

9am - 3pm daily.

How will I know what progress my child is making?

You will receive an end of term report.

Who should absence be reported to?

Absence should be reported daily to the school office on 020 80500735.

How will my child's attendance be monitored?

Attendance is monitored via an online register in Bromcom Management Information System.

Is there a school uniform?

There is currently no requirement to wear a school uniform, although some pupils choose to wear pale blue polo shirts, navy jumpers and grey trousers.