

Great Oaks Small School
Ebbsfleet Farmhouse
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GREAT OAKS

from little acorns grow...

A Limited Company, registered in England, No. 5189339
DfES 886/6093



School Prospectus



Great Oaks Small School is a registered charity
(No. 1105559)



Administration

Great Oaks Small School is a charity registered with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), and governed by a Board of Trustees (Chairman: Mrs. Paula Lewis).

Board of Trustees – Chairperson: Mrs. Paula Lewis

Head of School: Liz Baker BSc (Hons), Cert. Ed., DO, NDT

Core Beliefs

- Holistic Education ensures the well rounded intellectual, moral, social, aesthetic and physical development of each student.
- Staff and students should know each other as individuals, leading to mutual respect.
- We nurture an atmosphere of tolerance, irrespective of the nature and circumstance of each individual.
- Great Oaks is a democratic school. The School Council is a forum of anyone who works or studies at GOSS. It meets regularly and makes decisions about most aspects of school life. This empowers each member to be individually responsible for the organisation of their working environment.
- Self motivation is the strongest of all motivations. At GOSS we nurture the students' own search for this gift and the importance of their personal interests.

Aims

- To educate students aged 11 to 18 of average or above average intelligence, who have completed all or most of their primary education in mainstream, maintained or independent schools, and for those for whom secondary education has so far been unsuccessful.
- To rebuild confidence in those students who have low self-esteem.
- To include time for quiet reflection by the whole group or individually.
- To provide the opportunity for everyone's views to be heard and respected.
- To provide a variety of projects throughout the school year that involve co-operative activity i.e. school camp, project work, development and maintenance of the school environment.
- To prepare students for external examinations appropriate to their needs and aspirations.

Premises

We have moved (September 2006) to a spacious old renovated farmhouse, with extensive out-buildings offering us a great deal of potential development over the next few years. It is set in a rural location in about 1½ acres of grounds, and with easy access from all towns in East Kent.



Entry To The School

Referral by any of the following: Parents/Guardians
Health Professionals
Schools
Local Education Authority

Great Oaks Small School Will Require...

- A letter from the referring body, making a case for entry.
- An informal interview with the prospective student to include a short physical test to assess any neurological, developmental immaturity.
- The prospective student's records from previous schools, any SEN assessments, Educational Psychologist or Medical reports.
- A visit by the prospective student to the school for one full week.
- The commitment to Great Oaks by the prospective student and the referring body.
- Commitment, accepting the prospective student into the school community, by the existing students and staff.

Typical Profiles Prior To Entry

- Neurological development immaturity in one or more areas of life
- Possible Special Educational Needs (SEN) recognition
- Poor social integration
- Poor concentration levels
- Poor co-ordination (fine or gross movements)
- History of bullying by peers/adults in or out of school
- Emotional or physical trauma
- School or other phobia
- Chronic illness

What We Offer

- Relaxed and holistic and cross-curricular education.
- Broad based curriculum
- Small classes (max 8 students)
- Involvement in the wider community at every opportunity, through participation and support of local events.
- Opportunities to take a variety of public examinations i.e. GCSE, AS / A level, subject to appropriate timing for individual students.



Structure Of The Week

- Council meetings twice a week.
- Circle time to consider spiritual, moral or cultural issues.
- Exercise routine every day, sometimes in a group – sometimes individually, that stimulates every part of the brain and helps to promote learning.
- There are up to 5 lessons a day which are non-compulsory, except that a student wishing to withdraw from a lesson must attend at the start and nominate an alternative activity.
- Once a student has embarked on a course of study leading to an external qualification, there is an expectation that they attend lessons. Great Oaks encourages students who have formed their own motivation to undertake these courses at a time that is right for them.
- Breaks during “double” lessons are negotiated between students and staff.

Discipline

Great Oaks follows a model of Non-Violent Communication helping students to practise self control and negotiation skills.

The school council plays a large part in the discipline of the school as does the student “Buddy” system.

Fees

Great Oaks Small School is a non-profit making concern and as such will look to charitable trusts and various fund raising schemes to finance some of the capital costs and day-to-day expenditure of the school. There will be a charge to parents/guardians, schools or Local Education Authorities.

Current fees available on request from the school.

Join Us

Anyone seeking a teaching position at the school will be required to apply through the normal procedure by letter of application, referrals and interview, and also be subject to the usual checks.