

Woodbrook Vale School



**Aspire
Enjoy
Succeed**



www.wbvs.co.uk

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Message from the Headteacher

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Woodbrook Vale School, a highly successful and oversubscribed 11-16 academy trust situated in the south of Loughborough.

As Headteacher, I welcome your interest in Woodbrook Vale School.

Please read through the pages of this prospectus and also make a visit to the school either on our open days or open evenings. It is only by doing so, that you will be able to appreciate the special atmosphere in the school and fully experience the genuine care and passion that our staff have for furthering the education of our young people.

The philosophy of the school is centred upon a core ethos that I would encourage you to read in detail. It speaks of working to produce motivated and enthused learners who are proud of their achievements, keen to celebrate the successes of others and willing to make a positive contribution to their community. The school is genuine about putting the child at the heart of everything we do and parents will find a full commitment to promoting good mental health and well-being.

As a result of the excellent teaching on offer, students make progress that is often better than expected in a wide range of subjects including English and Mathematics. We recognise the achievements of every learner, regardless of their ability and take particular pride in the way we cater for students of differing needs and backgrounds.

Here at Woodbrook Vale School, students have the opportunity to discover their unique talents, uncover new passions and aptitudes and develop their social skills alongside their learning.

We will always encourage our students to have the highest aspirations, to enjoy school life to its fullest extent and to experience the success that comes from giving your best. We know achievement is its own reward, but we still make sure that efforts are recognised and celebrated. Rewards and accolades including the Head's Commendation are used regularly, behaviour is exceptionally good and we are extraordinarily proud of our students.

You will find that one of our special qualities is the way in which we foster a sense of belonging and caring for others. Staff know their students well and work hard to develop a strong and productive rapport where everyone feels equally valued. We can therefore succeed whilst enjoying what we do! Prospective parents should be clear that we do have high expectations of our students with respect to work ethic and uniform. We anticipate that our parents and carers will give us their full support in this aspect.

Together with our families and our dedicated governing body, we aim to enable our students to have memorable and life changing experiences here, which they will look back upon with great fondness and happiness as they grow into adulthood.

Rachael Fraser
Headteacher



School Ethos

At Woodbrook Vale School our students are at the heart of everything we do.

Our vision is that Woodbrook Vale School will provide each student with an outstanding education in a caring, calm, safe and supportive environment.

Learning will be engaging, challenging and inspiring so that each student will achieve individual excellence and be the best that they can be.

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We expect our students to be:

- Motivated and enthused by the challenge of learning
- Aspirational and determined to fulfil their individual potential
- Inspired to enjoy and succeed in all aspects of learning
- Proud of their own achievements and to value, respect and celebrate the success of others
- Positive contributors to whole school life and within the local community
- Resilient, life-long learners who are well prepared for their post-16 destination and for life in the modern world
- Mature young people with high self-esteem
- Accountable citizens who are responsible, respectful and tolerant within a diverse and evolving society



To achieve this we will:

- Provide a caring, safe and stimulating learning environment
- Focus on inspiring, creative and effective teaching and learning across a broad and balanced curriculum
- Create personalised and inclusive opportunities that motivate and recognise the potential of each individual
- Have the highest expectations of all staff and provide a supportive environment that will enable them to develop professionally and be valued as one collective staff team
- Develop leadership skills by ensuring that leaders at all levels act as positive role models and lead by example
- Provide enrichment through extra-curricular activities
- Promote equal opportunity in all aspects of school life
- Work in partnership to develop effective communication and collaboration between students, parents/carers, staff, governors and the local community, including primary school and post-16 transition
- Invest in social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of every student
- Deliver effective guidance to prepare students to make appropriate choices in our rapidly changing world
- Ensure that financial resources are used effectively to benefit our current students



Pastoral Care

At Woodbrook Vale School, we place a high priority on ensuring our students are able to thrive. Our pastoral system promotes the welfare and development of every student. It is essential that parents/ carers and staff work together to ensure that the time spent at Woodbrook Vale School is both happy and rewarding. Each year group is led by a Head of Year who is supported by Form Tutors. Form Tutors meet their students every day and take responsibility for students' academic, personal and social progress.

We have a dedicated Student Office and our student support team are available throughout the day to deal with any queries or problems that students might have, as well as offering guidance and advice. We work closely with external services and students have access to a counsellor and School Nurse should this be required.

Student Leaders

Student leaders lead by example. They show a commitment to the ethos of the school and they are role models to all students. Student leaders demonstrate exemplary standards in terms of personal conduct, attendance, punctuality and always contribute positively to the wider life of the school and within the wider community. They wear their uniform with pride, complete work to deadlines and are always committed to achieving their best.





Enrichment

In addition to promoting academic excellence and providing high quality pastoral care, we enrich students with a wide variety of different additional experiences. These opportunities help prepare our young people for life beyond Woodbrook Vale School.

Opportunities are wide and varied and include:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze and Silver
- Rock Club and concerts
- Orchestra
- Debating Club
- Drama & Film Club
- Mindfulness Club

Every year, all students are given the opportunity to take part in a high quality School Production. Trips and visits include an annual ski trip, theatre visits and sports fixtures.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Woodbrook Vale School aims to meet the needs of all students by delivering “Quality First” Teaching. Our Special Educational Needs Faculty is dedicated to making sure that children with learning difficulties are given support and every opportunity to succeed.

We follow the “Assess-Plan-Do-Review” cycle as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice and use this framework to provide a personalised programme to meet these particular needs.

In English and Mathematics, we provide particularly small groups, taught by specialists in learning needs.

Our SEND Information Report, SEND Policy and Accessibility Plan are available on the school website.

Please contact the school directly if your child has an Education Health and Care Plan.

“Disabled students and those who have special educational needs make good progress. This is because teachers and teaching assistants know their students well and work closely together.” OFSTED

Uniform

We have high expectations in terms of our school uniform. As you look through this prospectus, you will notice that our students take great care with their uniform, demonstrating that they are proud to be a student at Woodbrook Vale School. Further information about our uniform can be found on the school website.

Attendance

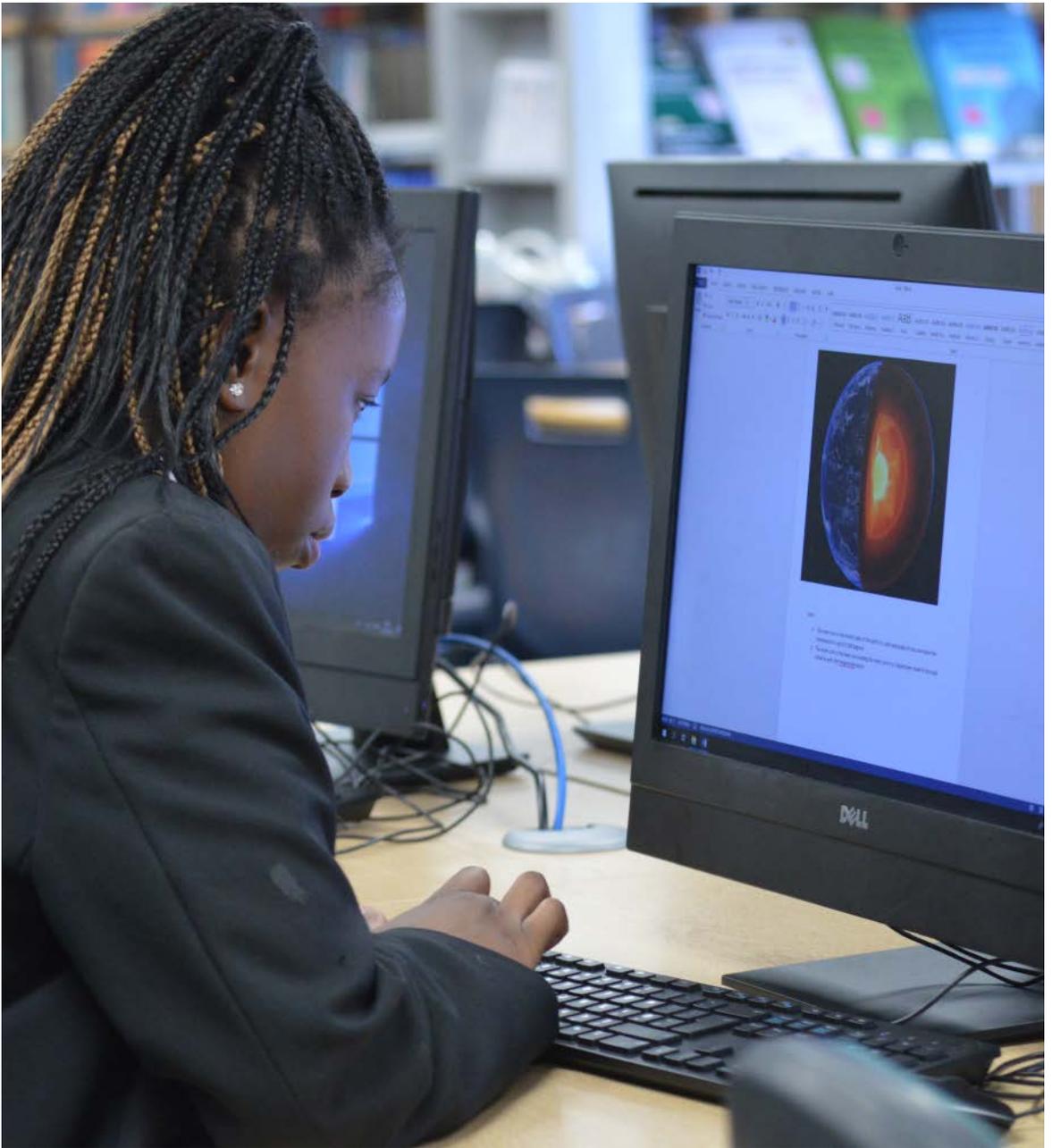
Research shows that even a few days absence can have a negative impact on students’ progress and attainment. The school target for each student is 97% attendance. Form Tutors, Heads of Year and the Attendance Officer work closely with students and parents/carers to make sure that the highest levels of attendance are achieved.

“Attendance is high because students enjoy coming to school.” OFSTED

Behaviour and Rewards

In lessons and around the school, positive behaviour is instantly recognised and positively rewarded. We use a system of rewards called ‘GOALS’ to recognise and congratulate students for commitment, achievement and community spirit. Year Group, Headteacher and Governor Awards are also given. When student behaviour does not meet our high expectations, we have clear procedures in place. When students require extra support, we put in place a range of strategies including work with external professionals to help them.





Teaching and Learning

Our staff deliver active, challenging and innovative lessons using high quality equipment and resources. Learning is personalised to each individual. This enables students to maximise their potential and to be the best that they can be.

Challenge at All Levels

We want every student to be challenged in the classroom. We provide our more able learners specific opportunities to stretch them further. Examples include STEM activities, trips and visits to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Students also have the opportunity to achieve the Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification. We encourage all students to take part in the wide variety of enrichment activities that the school offers to further extend their learning.

Careers Guidance and Support

All students receive careers advice and guidance. This will begin in Year 7 and is a feature of the Personal Development curriculum in all year groups. Students complete work experience in Year 10. They receive personalised support throughout Year 11 in order to make the best choices possible for their post-16 destinations.



Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that students are well prepared for employment or further education once they complete Year 11.

We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and become confident in undertaking research to become independent and self-motivated learners. Structured programmes of study enable students to create high quality work and to revise effectively for their public examinations.

We work closely with primary schools to ensure a seamless transition between Key Stage 2 and 3. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum prepares and equips students with the skills necessary to begin their Key Stage 4 courses.

During Key Stage 4, most students will follow the English Baccalaureate Pathway: English Language; English Literature; Mathematics; Science; a Modern Foreign Language; History or Geography.

Students can also choose from a wide range of option subjects including:

- **Computer Science**
- **Business Studies**
- **Media Studies**
- **Fine Art**
- **Drama**
- **Music**
- **Design Technology**
- **Food Preparation and Nutrition**
- **ICT**
- **GCSE PE or Sport Studies**
- **Sociology**
- **Health and Social Care**

As part of our careers programme, students and parents/carers are given guidance to make sure that GCSE subject choices are personalised and are appropriate to each individual need.

Assessment

At Woodbrook Vale School we regularly assess and monitor progress. In each curriculum area assessments are carried out throughout the year. All teachers, students and parents have access to our data management system 'GO 4 Schools'. Careful tracking enables the school to identify students who may need additional support and intervention. Written reports and parents' evenings also enable us to discuss student progress with parents/carers.



Art, Design and Technology

Key Stage 3

Art

Students will work with a wide variety of high quality materials and experiment with techniques such as print making, painting, digital manipulation and clay work, as well as using more traditional drawing skills in their work.

All students will have their own personal sketchbook in which to work experimentally, and will also produce final high quality pieces for assessment. Students will look at the work of professional artists to develop their analytical skills and provide stimuli for their own art work.

Design Technology

An active approach is taken to help individuals build their confidence with a range of materials and making methods. Whilst doing practical work students will get the opportunity to use equipment and machinery including a laser cutter, cutter plotter, and 3D printer, as well as traditional hand tools.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Students are provided with the opportunity to explore a wide range of skilful recipes, adapting them to suit their tastes and cooking capabilities. Recipes are selected to compliment the structured learning which is interspersed between practical lessons and covers a wide range of topics including diet and health, food science and food provenance.

Key Stage 4

Students can opt to take GCSE Fine Art, Design Technology or Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Students studying GCSE Fine Art will work independently to create personal and individual work exploring a variety of media including painting, sculpture, printmaking, digital manipulation and photography.

GCSE Design and Technology teaches students to develop their own design ideas and have first-hand experience of making their own innovative products. They have the opportunity to work independently using a range of materials, tools and machinery and also learn about sustainability, ergonomics and packaging.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition teaches students about the following sub topics: food preparation skills, food, nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choices and food provenance.



Computing and Business Studies

Key Stage 3

Computing is imperative to all aspects of life in the modern world. At Woodbrook Vale School, we provide students with an understanding of how computers work, as well as how to use them effectively. Through project based activities, students will begin coding, writing their own software and developing their computer-based thinking skills.

Key Stage 4

During Key Stage 4, students will have the option to take Computer Science, Business Studies or a vocational ICT course.

ICT students will be expected to use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace and in further and higher education. They will also develop an understanding of how to select the most appropriate software and to use tools to meet specific business requirements while developing skills to enhance documents of a variety of file types.

Computer Science is an academic qualification. The lessons will have a strong focus on problem solving and logical thinking, with students expected to display their learning using a variety of methods. Students will be able to use computers to aid their studies, but time spent working in groups will prove to be just as valuable.

Business Studies is also an academic qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspired approach to studying business. Theory work, problem solving and working collaboratively in a team are all important parts of the course.



English and Drama

English

Key Stage 3

In English students will learn how to improve their reading and writing by taking part in many different activities. These activities will include group work, presentations, project work, reading aloud, debates, individual written work and private reading. Students will spend time learning how to improve their confidence when speaking and listening.

Students will read a range of stories, novels, plays and poetry, including Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and many modern authors such as Robert Swindells and Malorie Blackman.



They will have the opportunity to develop their own creative writing and even write and perform pieces of drama.

We will encourage students to think for themselves and become independent learners, have confidence in their own ideas and share them with others.

We aim to offer extra-curricular activities for students to enjoy. These include theatre visits, workshops, visiting authors, public speaking competitions and activity days.

Key Stage 4

The GCSE English course consists of both English Language and English Literature, which builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired throughout Key Stage 3. Both GCSEs are linear courses and success in both provides two GCSE qualifications. Students will also have the opportunity to take GCSE Media Studies.

Drama

Key Stage 3

Drama teaches students about co-operation and teamwork, responsibility and self-control. The topics covered in our study units include bullying, family life and relationships, which will help students develop imagination and understanding of social issues. By regularly presenting ideas, students will become more confident and effective in front of others.

Key Stage 4

Students learn about devised theatre (improvisation, physical theatre and theatre in education). Scripts are also studied and a visit to a live production forms part of the course. Drama is assessed through practical performances, a portfolio of evidence and a written exam paper.



Humanities

The Humanities Faculty at Woodbrook Vale School offers Geography, History and Religious Studies during Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 GCSE is offered in History, Geography, Sociology and Religious Studies.

Key Stage 3

Geography combines a balance of physical and human topics with an emphasis on interdependence, environmental interaction and sustainable development. Units of work are used as a scaffold to develop students into independent learners and to equip them for their GCSEs. They complete assessments in a variety of formats ranging from exam style papers, group work activities and mini investigations.

History is taught chronologically, starting with the Medieval Period and moving up to the twentieth century by the end of Key Stage 3. Historical skills are taught in preparation for GCSE, such as using historical sources and writing an analytical essay. Students have the opportunity to complete projects, become independent enquirers and work collaboratively.

Religious Studies involves students learning about and from religion. They develop knowledge and understanding of the world's six major religious beliefs and study many human issues concerning right and wrong. Students are encouraged to express their views openly in discussion and to respect the different views of others.

Key Stage 4

Geography is externally examined at the end of Year 11 and students will sit three papers which will look at geographical issues, problem solving and applied fieldwork enquiry. The themes covered in the course will combine physical, human and environmental Geography as well as cartographical and statistical skills.

History examines the History of medicine, the rise of Hitler, International Relations between the wars and Elizabethan England. The new specification is examined by two exam papers at the end of Key Stage 4.

Sociology is offered as a subject at GCSE and focuses on topics such as Crime and Deviance, Research Methods and Education.

Religious Studies is also offered at Key Stage 4, and includes the study of two World Religions. It is assessed through two exam papers at the end of the course.





Mathematics

At Woodbrook Vale School we teach our students to engage with the world around them using the tools of mathematics. Our aim is to encourage and develop independent thinking and logical problem solving skills, equipping all students with the mathematical skills essential for everyday life.

Key Stage 3

Mathematics in Years 7 and 8 enables every student to reason mathematically and become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics. Students encounter topics from the core areas of Geometry, Data Handling, Number, Proportion and Algebra, and there is also a focus on applying their knowledge to practical situations.

Key Stage 4

GCSE Mathematics begins in Year 9, where students learn how to use and apply mathematics for GCSE and beyond. Throughout the three year period students will have the opportunity to study both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Statistics, and there is an opportunity for the most able mathematicians to also achieve the Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification (FSMQ). This is an excellent boost for those students who will choose to go on to study A-level Mathematics.



Modern Foreign Languages

Key Stage 3

French is the main modern foreign language studied at Key Stage 3. Students will begin by learning how to provide information about themselves, their family and school life. By Year 9 they will be describing their future plans and past holidays, and taking part in unscripted conversations. As well as preparing students for GCSE, the techniques students develop will help them to learn other languages in the future.

In Year 9, students study French and Spanish to give them experience of both languages before choosing options.

Students can draw on their French knowledge to master the basics of Spanish quickly. In Year 9, students learn phonics, numbers, introductions, food, opinions and school subjects.

Key Stage 4

Students will be able to take GCSE French, Spanish or both languages. Topics covered include healthy eating, the world of work, media, family and friends, customs and festivals, free time and travel and tourism. The course covers the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, each of which represents 25% of the final GCSE grade.



Physical Education

Key Stage 3

Woodbrook Vale School has a vibrant and action-packed programme. Lessons are full of energy delivering high quality PE that caters for every student. Every half term there are different sports on offer. We cover a wide variety of topics that include:

Athletics	Badminton	Basketball	Fencing	Volleyball
Gymnastics	Cricket	Dance	Tennis	Rounders
Netball	Football	Healthy Exercise	Outdoor Education	Table Tennis
Orienteering	Handball	Trampolining	Rugby	Boxercise

Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 students will have the opportunity to study either PE at GCSE or a vocational qualification in Sport Studies, as well as continuing to take part in core PE. Both courses include practical and theory lessons. Students who take PE as a GCSE option will study healthy, active lifestyles as well as performance in PE and competitive sport. Topics include health and fitness, anatomy and physiology, history, biomechanics and analysis of performance. The Sport Studies course includes coursework units of Sports Leadership, Practical Sports and Sport and the Media along with one examination unit of Contemporary Issues in Sport.

Extra Curricular

The clubs available vary throughout the year depending on the demand and interest of students. Teams participate in local competitions in a range of sports.

Regular drop-in activities are held in the Sports Centre to encourage the students to be active in sport at Woodbrook Vale School.



Music

Key Stage 3

Making music helps students make sense of the different styles of music around them. Students will compose music for film scores, rap backing tracks and dance sequences. They go from medieval to modern and study the music of Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Students will soon learn how to achieve exciting and professional results from our class network of keyboards linked to computers. Ideas can be recorded and multi-tracked with the GarageBand programme and the Industry Standard Logic Pro software. A popular element in Music lessons at Woodbrook Vale School features the opportunity to try samba drumming, as well as learning about the music of Brazil. Students develop their group working skills in music lessons by forming bands and producing performances of pieces linked to the topic they are studying and use keyboards, guitars, drum kits and singing.

Key Stage 4

GCSE Music allows students to study different styles of music, compose their own pieces and perform as an individual and as part of an ensemble.

If students are especially keen on singing or music they will want to perform in a Production or Concert. Our musicals have quite a reputation, with up to a hundred students taking part as performers, musicians, set designers and technicians.



Science

Key Stage 3

Science is taught in a 'hands-on' way here at Woodbrook Vale School and students will get the chance to experience lots of practical experiments. We talk about how these are relevant to the real world, and discuss important scientific theories. The study of Science covers a broad range of exciting and innovative topics. Practical experience is linked with scientific ideas, and students will be encouraged to think critically and creatively. Students will be taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Key Stage 4

At GCSE, students take Combined Science or choose to take Separate Sciences as one of their options. Students will opt for some common modules, with greater subject knowledge being required for the individual sciences. To enhance the curriculum and to support more-able learners, we work closely with our external partners, including universities, to provide excellent science enrichment opportunities. We offer a Science clinic where students can expand and consolidate their knowledge with subject specialists for Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Whether students have a desire for a career in Science, or just have questions about the world around them, we hope to enthuse them with a life-long passion for Science.



Learning Centre & The HUB

The Learning Centre plays a central role in the curriculum and learning of the school. It includes a library, an ICT suite of 30 computers and a seating area where students can read, complete written homework or borrow a book. Students can also purchase items of stationery in the Learning Centre.

At break and lunchtime, students can use the computers for school work and independent research. Students may borrow two books at a time for three weeks. New books are purchased each term and student suggestions and book recommendations are always welcomed.

Members of staff are always available in the Learning Centre to assist students and provide advice.

For a small charge, we offer an after-school club called The HUB which meets in the Learning Centre. Staff are on hand to support students with their homework using the ICT and library facilities. Application forms are available from the Student Support Office. Students eligible for Pupil Premium are permitted to use The HUB free of charge.



Safeguarding

Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 157), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Parent/carers should know that the law (Children Act 2006) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Staff will seek to discuss concerns with the parent/carer, and where appropriate, seek their consent to make a referral to Social Care.

This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm.

Admission Arrangements

Students will be admitted at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude. Our admissions policy is available on the school website.

Applications should be made using the Leicestershire County Council website for 'first time' entry in August each year. We encourage parents/carers to attend Woodbrook Vale School's Open Day and Evening, or to arrange a visit prior to applying for a place.





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