



NORMANHURST SCHOOL

2 ½ - 16 | CO-EDUCATIONAL | DAY



Prospectus



The school celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023 and has changed remarkably over the years into a high-achieving, academically successful school with a growing reputation for excellence.

Normanhurst School has been an integral part of the history of North Chingford since its foundation in 1923 in the Ridgeway. The School moved to its present site in Station Road soon after.

Normanhurst operated as normally as possible during the Blitz in World War II (one of our specialist rooms was a bomb shelter and held 100 people in a space 20 feet by 12 feet), but due to particularly heavy bombing there was some damage to school buildings. As a consequence certain classes operated from local parents' homes for a short while.

After the localised bombing during the 1944 V1 and V2 attacks, around 60 Normanhurst children and most of the staff were evacuated to the Praa Sands Hotel near Marazion in Cornwall. The crater from a V2 bomb can still be seen half a mile from us next to the Royal Forest Hotel! The return took place early in 1945.

With its convenient location, Normanhurst is on a broad tree-lined suburban street with ample parking. Just opposite the British Rail and bus station, the School is accessible to families coming from areas such as Chingford, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton, Chigwell, Waltham Abbey, and mid-Essex, to Walthamstow, Enfield, and Southgate.

In 1996 Normanhurst became part of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools and under the ownership of the Hagger Family there has been a systematic programme of building over the years that includes a new rear classroom block and subsequent extension, and frequent refurbishments of classrooms. In 2017, we installed three larger dormers onto the main building to increase the space in three of our classrooms and in 2018 we created the new Music Studio and ancillary rooms above the rear car park.

Welcome

Normanhurst is a small school with a big vision. It's a school where pupils of all abilities, aptitudes and social backgrounds thrive and achieve.

Our community is based upon high expectations of learning and behaviour and, underpinned by excellent pastoral care. It is an honour to lead Normanhurst School. The reasons are instantly apparent when you visit and observe school life. Pupils enjoy being part of this school; they want to achieve, aim high and work with endeavour and application.

I have a fantastic team of teachers who bring the best out of the pupils. The imagination of the staff provides pupils with the enthusiasm to go the extra mile, creating an appetite for learning.

Our pupils achieve very well academically, and are kind and thoughtful. They are encouraged to be confident, resilient, caring and responsible citizens who can make a positive difference to the world.

Normanhurst School sees every pupil as an individual with talents, and values the contribution of each one, whether it is in academic excellence, artistic flair, musical ability, sporting prowess or community spirit. Our aim is that every pupil appreciates their value both within the school and in the world beyond. We aim to provide our pupils with a thirst for knowledge and a curiosity for the wider world.

We believe in the value of small classes in which teaching both extends and supports, where the teachers give quality feedback to pupils to help them make progress. We believe in giving a breadth of experience to pupils of all ages allowing their talents to be nurtured and harnessed.

Pupils' personal development is excellent. Each pupil is known as an individual and pupils have many opportunities to lead and to take on responsibilities. This is a school where each individual can participate and they are encouraged to do so.

I would be delighted to welcome you and your family to join one of our school tours or Open Days so you can experience what sets us apart and see the many ways in which your child will



Mrs Jacqueline Job B.Sc. B.Ed.
Headmistress

The Oak-Tree Group of Schools



The three schools in the Oak-Tree Group are located within a 6-mile radius on the South West Essex/North London borders and include Coopersale Hall School in Epping, Normanhurst School in North Chingford and Oaklands School in Loughton.

Owned and managed by the Hagger Family, the Oak-Tree Group is well known in the Epping Forest area for its schools' strong family values and outstanding academic education. Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands are known for their excellent teaching and strong pastoral care. The schools aim to provide their pupils with a well-rounded education and the best possible start to their educational career.

The Oak-Tree Group is family-run, which helps its long-term outlook with greater investment in the staffing, facilities and resources needed for the schools to continue to thrive.

One of the many benefits of joining one of the Oak-Tree Schools is knowing that the owners identify closely with the needs of the pupils and their families. Matthew Hagger, Group Managing Principal, continued the family tradition with three of his children previously attending Oaklands. A qualified teacher and Masters graduate himself, he ensures that the shared vision across the Group includes the pursuit of excellence.



Oaklands School

Loughton

Oaklands School in Loughton provides an excellent education for boys and girls from 2½ to 11 and continues to be a very popular choice for local families.



Normanhurst School

North Chingford

Normanhurst School, North Chingford's leading private primary and secondary school, caters for girls and boys from 2½ to 16.



Coopersale Hall School

Epping

Coopersale Hall School is Epping's leading independent school for girls and boys from 2½ to 16 and now boasts a newly opened senior department.





EARLY YEARS: KINDERGARTEN AND RECEPTION

Our aim is to support children and parents, introducing them to school life with continual guidance and encouraging the youngest to develop a love of learning.

Children in the Early Years are offered caring and stimulating environments that enable them to learn, experiment, play and gain independence. We place emphasis on kindness, helpfulness, sharing, courtesy and respect for others.

The curriculum is based on seven areas of learning: Communication and Language; physical development; Personal, Social and emotional development; Literacy; Mathematics; understanding the World; Expressive Arts and design.

Experienced keyworkers oversee all social, academic and pastoral aspects of development and get to know children and parents very well.

Lower Kindergarten (2½ to 3 years) and Upper Kindergarten (3 to 4 years)

These classes are accommodated in their own well-resourced areas. We have a safe and secure environment that parents find inviting and reassuring. Children in these classes are taught by specialist teachers for Music, Dance and PE/ Games and use the main school facilities such as the Music Studio, ICT Suite, School Hall.

Reception (4 to 5 years)

As the children's education starts to become more formal, the class is assigned a teacher and an assistant who are responsible for monitoring their personal, social and academic progress.

We develop the children's reading and writing skills through a nationally recognised phonics scheme. We encourage creative practical play and number games to help improve numeracy skills.

Pupils are taught by specialist teachers for Computing, French, Music, PE/Games and other subjects. Throughout the academic year they are encouraged to take part in drama performances, school assemblies and whole school events such as World Book Day.

Partnership with Parents

Parents and families are a valued part of the learning process and we try to involve them as much as possible. There is regular daily contact with each keyworker or teacher so that any questions or concerns can be addressed immediately without the need to wait for the more formal parent teacher meetings. Contact can be made via telephone, email, daily link books and, in Reception, reading diaries.

The School Day

Although the school day begins at 8.45am, we have a supervised Breakfast Club from 7.30am to 8.30am each day, and a Tea-Time Club until 6pm.

Tea-Time Club runs to 6pm and is staffed by the same team. Sandwiches and fruit are provided every day and homework can be completed in the quiet area. There are also many activities on offer.

“ *The children behave exceptionally well, learn to share, and show evident happiness and enjoyment in school.* ”

ISI Inspection Report

INFANTS: YEARS 1 TO 2

“Pupils of all abilities make good progress because of well-directed support from their teachers in class.”

In Years 1 and 2 children build on their Foundation Stage skills and follow an exciting and challenging curriculum in which most lessons are taught by the class teacher. These include English (literacy), Maths (numeracy), Humanities and Science.

The core teaching is undertaken by our experienced class teachers, with specialists delivering French, Drama, ICT, Music and PE. Teaching is increasingly formal with more regular assessments built in to monitor progress.

We encourage our Infant pupils to become more responsible and we support them to develop their organisational skills.

Great importance is attached to the acquisition of social skills and we encourage respect and consideration for others.

We invite a number of visitors to school who help the children understand more about the world in which they live.

There is a strong focus on teaching English and Mathematics. In addition children have individual and group reading sessions to help develop their ability to read for meaning. We use various Maths schemes as our core, which we supplement with weekly times tables challenges, mental maths and problem solving.

Assessing your child's progress

We regularly assess children within the class through a variety of formal and informal tests. We level them against the national average ability expected for their age range by using InCas(Interactive Computerised Assessment System), PIRA(Progress in Reading Assessment) and PUMA(Progress in Understanding Mathematics Assessment).

Home-School links

A small amount of homework reinforces the work done in class and helps to involve parents in the children's learning.

There are regular parent coffee mornings, class assemblies, formal parents evenings, written biannual reports and, most important, a drop-in morning whereby parents are welcome to discuss their children's progress and development.

We also run a number of parent workshops to assist parents with helping at home.

Each term parents are provided with a curriculum overview outlining what the focus for the term will be, including the topics being covered and homework routines.

The School Day

The school day starts officially at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. However, children often start from 7.30pm through our popular Breakfast Club and stay later when attending one of our after school clubs, including Teatime Club that finishes at 6pm.

A healthy and nutritious lunch is served daily in the School Hall, with all dishes freshly created by our Chef and their team.

JUNIORS: YEARS 3 TO 6



Curriculum

As well as a strong focus on the academic subjects and a particular focus in English, Mathematics and Science, our pupils in Years 3 to 6 have a creative and rich curriculum with specialist teachers for Languages, Music, Drama, ICT and Art. We motivate our pupils to be innovative and inquisitive; we want them to be engaged as we believe this enables them to make the maximum progress possible.

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator in the Juniors ensures that we stretch and challenge appropriately. Similarly, those pupils who need additional support are given the option of one-to-one tuition, or specialist dyslexia tuition. All work is routinely adapted to meet the range of abilities of our children so that they are all able to access the curriculum.

Year 6

All pupils in Year 6 are expected to move automatically into our Seniors. They take the 11+ examination with external candidates, which provides them with a valuable experience and helps us to place them appropriately when setting. Junior pupils also have the opportunity to apply for senior scholarships, which are awarded for

academic ability, music, sport or creative and performing arts.

Year 6 pupils are given additional responsibilities such as prefects, House Captains, form friends and playground pals. These roles enable them to develop their leadership skills and they relish the extra responsibility.

SENIORS: YEARS 7 to 11



Following our 11+ entrance examinations, pupils join us in Year 7 from other local schools, both independent and state. The same ethos of excellent relationships between teachers and pupils, high quality feedback and a disciplined but happy atmosphere continues.

Our classes are deliberately small with around 16 pupils in each. This enables a more personalised opportunity for teaching and learning. Pupils of all abilities are able to make good progress and receive regular feedback with more individual attention and tailor-made targets for progression.

The School is equipped with two well-equipped Science labs, an ICT suite, Art/ Design Technology rooms, a Music/Drama

and a well-stocked library. Learning support continues to be available both to individuals and groups and there is specialist SEND provision on request for a small number of pupils.

We make the most of excellent local facilities for PE and Games lessons: for example, using the Olympic facilities at Lee Valley Athletics Centre.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

We aim to teach the Key Stage 3 content over a two year time frame for any subjects. This allows students in Year 9 to embark on aspects of the GCSE syllabus early and especially relates to the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

In Year 9 pupils are asked about their GCSE options and these are timetabled to be taught post the May half-term giving pupils an excellent initial grounding in this important examination phase of their educational journey.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

The GCSE curriculum comprises of a group of traditional core subjects and the selection of four other subjects from the optional subject list. GCSEs are demanding and pupils need full attendance and a personal willingness to accept advice from teaching staff if they are to maximise their opportunities. We offer pupils at KS4 a further maths course as an extra qualification.

Homework becomes more challenging to reflect the demands of the GCSE courses. Mymaths, an online homework platform is used for all year groups for GCSE exam focused questions.

The curriculum is differentiated and challenging, with teaching developing explicit thinking skills, fostering a collaborative partnership between teacher and pupil so that pupils talk about their learning, take initiative and progress towards success.

Year 10 pupils are given an Assessment Profile at the end of the autumn term identifying working grades and aspirational grades based on current performances. Parents meetings, further written feedback and target tracking is also used to guide performance.

Appropriate careers and school guidance is delivered to our Year 10 pupils and references for Sixth Form applications to join local independent or state schools, including predicted grades, are prepared early in the autumn term of Year 11. To support Year 11, we track and support pupils with independent learning. Mock GCSE examinations are taken and time is given for revision before the public examination series.

LIFE AFTER NORMANHURST

“Results at the end of Year 11 have been consistently above the national average for maintained schools.”

ISI Inspection Report



Room to be inspired

[TAKE OUR VIRTUAL TOUR](#)

CREATIVE ARTS



Art and Design

In the Art and Design department, pupils develop their imaginative and artistic talents working with a broad range of materials.

Small class sizes mean that our pupils are able to cultivate their own unique forms of self expression in an encouraging and supportive environment.

The standard of Art and Design work in our school is extremely high. In addition to our creative curriculum we celebrate Art and Design through the many displays around the school, entering Art and Design competitions, exhibiting pupils' work in galleries and organising visits to see exhibitions.



Music

Music plays a strong part of our school life at Normanhurst. As a part of our music curriculum visiting staff offer tuition in all the main instruments, while the school choir and vocal performance tutoring enhance many performing opportunities within and outside of school.

Music is taught by specialist teachers to all pupils from Reception upwards. There is a Music Theory extracurricular club and pupils are able to sit Music Theory examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music at school. We take part in the biennial Oak-Tree Schools Festival of Music and Dance, which brings together Normanhurst and our two sister schools enabling us to showcase our junior and senior choirs.

We also take our singers and instrumentalists to a local residential home to entertain the residents. This is always appreciated and offers the school an opportunity to reach out to the local community.



Drama

Drama is taught by a specialist teacher in the Seniors and is very popular.

Through drama the pupils develop self confidence, presentation skills and teamwork. Through the year they have included mime, musical theatre, improvisation, scripts, Theatre in Education and slapstick.

We give our pupils numerous opportunities to perform in front of small and large audiences for Music and/or Drama. These include the annual House Music Competitions, school productions, Festival events and community performances. Parents are often invited to watch their children perform.

As well as timetabled drama lessons and afterschool clubs, we stage annual productions and regularly use drama in our school assemblies. Drama is offered as a GCSE option in Years 10 and 11.

SPORTS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Work within Physical Education is designed to support, contribute to, and complement the aims of the school.

Physical Education at Normanhurst provides an enjoyable, satisfying and balanced approach for all students to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

The curriculum is taught by specialist PE teachers from Kindergarten upwards and is designed to offer a comprehensive range of experiences through which pupils are encouraged to develop the personal qualities of commitment, fairness and enthusiasm.

Normanhurst offers pupils a varied programme of physical activity that is regularly reviewed and updated. The school uses some of the borough's finest sporting facilities, including the Peter May Centre for indoor and outdoor activities, the Chingford Leisure Centre for swimming, The Chingford Tennis Centre at Rolls Park and the indoor and outdoor track and field facilities at Lee Valley Athletics Centre which is also used by UK Athletics to train Olympic athletes.

Pupils at Normanhurst are encouraged to widen their interests beyond the curriculum, and are welcome to attend clubs and after school activities regardless of ability.

All pupils are given the opportunity to represent their House in the numerous

sports competitions that take place throughout the year, in both the junior and senior parts of the school.

Normanhurst successfully participates in sporting events locally, regionally, and nationally. This provides opportunities for pupils to achieve their potential in the competitive field.

However, we also recognise that tolerance, good sportsmanship and the appreciation of one's own and others' strengths and weaknesses are an important part of the learning process. We aim to develop positive attitudes towards sport and encourage our pupils to develop their own initiative, determination and courage whilst stressing the value of exercise and fitness; healthy habits and social cooperation.

Activities include:

- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Running
- Tag rugby
- Swimming
- Football
- Netball
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Rounders
- Fitness circuit
- Cricket

Beyond the classroom





Extracurricular Activities

We have a wide range of extracurricular clubs throughout the term such as Choir, Football, Chess, Speech and Drama, Tennis, Yoga, Art, Cross Country, Boxing, BSL, Advanced Sports, Coding and Crochet. Pupils are able to join clubs from as young as Upper Kindergarten.

Pupils have the opportunity to learn one of the many instruments on offer including clarinet, brass, recorder, flute, guitar, piano, cello or violin or join the school orchestra or choir.

We also offer Speech training and our qualified tutor coaches small groups of pupils in preparation for LAMDA examinations. They find that this builds confidence and develops presentational skills.

Educational Visits

Our younger children enjoy a range of interesting and educational visits such as Willows Farm.

Junior and Senior pupils are taken on a variety of educational visits to enhance their curriculum and GCSE work. These include visits to Whipsnade Zoo and Duxford Air Museum as well as visits to Central London to the Science Museum, The V&A Museum and British Museum.

Outward Bound

Year 3 children camp out overnight and undertake team building activities in the Autumn Term. Years 4 and 5 spend time at an outdoor pursuits centre and Years 6 to 9 participate in adventure trips at a national residential centre. Year 6 pupils can take part in our biennial ski trip.

Events

We give all pupils many opportunities to participate in sport, art, drama, music, charity work, school council, community events, assemblies, the Oak-Tree Award and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are regular whole school events throughout the year including musical performances, drama showcases, Prize Giving, Science Week, Sports Day, Performing Arts Showcases and the Christmas Carol Service.

We celebrate many different annual events such as Christmas activities and Firework Night. We also enjoy taking part in charitable days throughout the year such as World Book Day and Harvest Festival.

PASTORAL CARE



“ My son is coming on leaps and bounds since joining the school and regularly tells me what he has learned. The school feels like a community - caring and friendly.

Year 7 Parent

Social and Emotional Development

We attach great importance to the acquisition of social skills and encourage respect and consideration for others at all times. This helps children to understand the needs of others. Good manners, respect for others and self-discipline are fundamental aspects of the core values we teach.

At the heart of the Normanhursts ethos is the recognition that each child is an individual who deserves a differentiated and more personalised education.

Our excellent team of class teachers is ably supported by experienced support staff who work with different groups of children.

Gifted and Talented

From Upper Kindergarten upwards throughout the school, the Gifted and Talented programme identifies pupils who have a particular flair for a subject and helps them to maximise their full potential.

Topic work, which combines History, Geography, Art and Design Technology, offers opportunities for individual research projects and extended use of computing skills.

Creative talents are also catered for through clubs, music peripatetic lessons, the school orchestra, choir, art competitions and annual dramatic performances.

Sporting talents are encouraged via our broad extracurricular club provision and our entry into netball, football, swimming and athletic competitions individually or in teams.

Dedicated Support

Our team is able to help personalise each child's education so that focused support may be provided in class as well as in extra lessons. This is given individually in or out of the lesson, in pairs or groups or through extra materials.

We also have access to a large number of independent specialists, such as Speech and Language therapists who are able to offer individual programmes to help children's learning and general development.

Skills for Life

Not only do we pride ourselves on our excellent academic achievement but we embed skills for life in the children in our care. These skills such as resilience, confidence, passion and enthusiasm are some of the most important 'skills for life'. These essential, transferable skills we know we teach well.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

At Normanhurst School, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing for our whole school community. We recognise that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable at times, and may need additional emotional support. Our aim as a school is to ensure that our pupils are supported, and are able to access help when they need it.

We teach all pupils from a young age the importance of mental health through a series of PSHE lessons. The scheme enables us to teach about mental health within the curriculum.

The main facility we introduced in 2023 is a room called the 'The Hub'. This is a 'safe space' room full of information. It provides a relaxed environment where pupils and staff can come to talk. We also offer mental health walks. We have talking therapy, and support is available from trained bereavement staff as well as further support beyond the school community.

“ Pupils are able to make strong progress due to small class sizes and generous allocation of teaching assistants ”

ISI Inspection Report

PUPIL RESPONSIBILITY

The School has a flourishing School Council that meets regularly to discuss ways to improve school life further. This develops leadership skills and opportunities for self-expression and public speaking.

House Captains and Prefects are trusted, loyal members of our school. This extra responsibility nurtures their leadership skills and helps with their transition into adulthood. This is an important role as they assist the Headmistress and her staff with a variety of tasks and set an example to younger pupils and their peers.

In the Seniors the House system is an integral part of our school day with House members coming together for assembly once a week. This allows the development of strong relationships amongst pupils of different ages and reinforces the sense of community in our small school.



ADMISSIONS

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you may face as parents, and at Normanhurst we're here to help you get it right first time around.

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 Events or on a pre-arranged, personal tour.

Registration

Parents are invited to tour the School and meet with the Headmistress to discuss their children. In order to secure a place on our waiting list parents will need to complete the Online Registration Form which requires a non-refundable deposit payment of £50.

Entry into Early Years (ages 2½ to 5)

At all points of entry in the Early Years, the School sets its own tests as appropriate through extensive informal observations that take place by one or more members of staff during an extended Taster Session.

Taster Sessions will last for between 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours and will mainly consist of informal play-based activities observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Entry into Years 1 to 6 (ages 5 to 10)

At all points of entry from Year 1 to Year 5, the School sets its own tests as appropriate through informal classroom observations and formal academic assessments.

Children will be invited to spend a day in school at a mutually convenient time. The morning will include formal academic assessments in English, Maths and reasoning, with additional informal classroom observations.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

The School is looking for pupils who show potential as well as those who are academically able.

In all cases there will be a general interview to explore the candidate's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the school community, support available at home and any relevant connection with the School.

Entry into Year 7

Entry into the Seniors from Year 7 upwards is by formal Entrance Examination, with papers in Mathematics and English.

Several part-scholarships may be awarded as a result of the examination and interview process. These may be awarded for ability in Art, Drama, Music and Sport as well as for higher academic ability.





SCHOOL FEES

We recognise that parents make many financial sacrifices when choosing us for their children's education, and we pride ourselves on providing an all-round educational experience that extends well beyond the traditional confines of the classroom.

Tuition Fees For Academic Year September 2024 to August 2025 (Fees per term, of which there are 3 per year)

Please note that the government requires VAT to be added to all independent schools' fee invoices from the Spring Term 2025.

Early Years	
Lower Kindergarten: minimum of 3 half-day sessions per week (inc ams & pms)	
Upper Kindergarten: minimum of 5 half-day sessions per week (inc ams & pms)	
Morning Sessions (including lunch)	£575 per session/term*
Morning Sessions (not including lunch)	£545 per session/term*
Afternoon Sessions	£315 per session/term*
Full Time (5 full days per week)	£4,300 per term*

*Lower and Upper Kindergarten are exempt from VAT

	Autumn Term 2024 Termly Fee pre-VAT	Spring and Summer Terms 2025 Reduced Termly Fee
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	£4,350 per term	£5,040 per term
Years 3 and 4	£4,495 per term	£5,210 per term
Year 5 and 6	£4,525 per term	£5,245 per term
Years 7, 8 and 9	£4,950 per term	£5,740 per term
Year 10* and 11	£5,275 per term	£6,115 per term

The Oak-Tree Group is absorbing a significant amount of VAT on school fees. Our new fees quoted above from the Spring Term 2025 include VAT and are 15.9% above our Autumn Term fees.

*There will be a £100 (inc VAT) book deposit charged in the Autumn Term for all Year 10 pupils. This is to ensure that all school property is returned when the pupils leave in their final term in Year 11.



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