



Fairholme Preparatory School

St. Asaph

*For learning, friendship,
ambition and discovery*

www.fairholmeschool.com





Welcome

Welcome to Fairholme, the leading independent preparatory school in North Wales.

Fairholme has an impressive reputation for academic achievement as well as being well known for providing a caring, supportive community.

Fairholme is an exceptional school, where children are nurtured and cared for from the very first day they arrive. During their journey through Fairholme, children discover an enjoyment for learning and gain independence, confidence and maturity.

I hope our prospectus will convey to you our enthusiastic commitment to each child's education, happiness and future.

Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins
MA (Oxon) CEng MICE
Principal



The Fairholme Vision

For Learning, Friendship, Ambition and Discovery

- At Fairholme, we promote a love of learning and strive for high academic achievement within a wide and varied curriculum.
- Fairholme children are part of a close, caring family community which helps them develop into confident, thoughtful and capable young people.
- At Fairholme, each child is encouraged to be ambitious and achieve their full potential. We ensure children enjoy all-inclusive participation in a wide range of activities, both inside and outside the classroom.
- Fairholme children develop the confidence to think for themselves, making independent discoveries, finding individual skills and pursuing ambitious yet achievable targets.

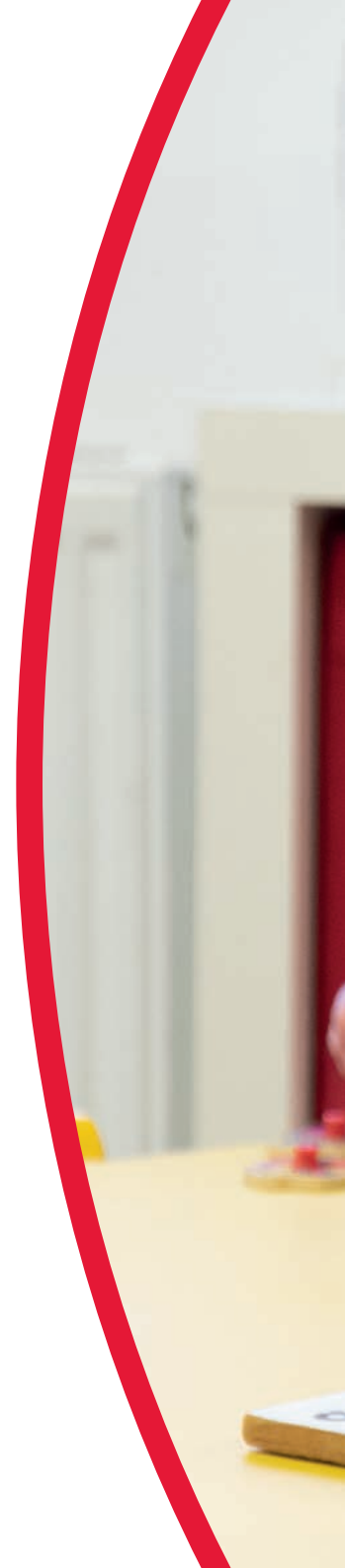


Early Years

Children can join the Kindergarten at Fairholme from three years of age for the start of the Foundation Stage. The classroom is equipped to a high standard and provides a stimulating learning environment.

The children take part in art and craft activities, computing, sport, music, sand and water play, role play and outdoor play. They quickly settle in, make friends and grow in confidence, ready for their next step at Fairholme.

The well-qualified members of staff provide each child with loving care, attention and guidance to ensure a successful start to their life at school. Emphasis is given to establishing an understanding of letter and number concepts and to enhancing personal and social development. From this early age at Fairholme, children develop independence and become confident communicators.





Independent Thinkers

At Fairholme we believe that independent thinkers are more successful learners. Independent thinkers can often remember learning for longer, they tend to have a better understanding of concepts taught, they exude confidence and can link and apply their learning more easily.

With this in mind, we encourage pupils at Fairholme, from an early age, to become as independent as they can be. Pupils are inspired to be active learners, to think through problems, to stay involved and seize opportunities to 'have a go' on their own before seeking help.

Science and technology lessons are the perfect forum for developing independence. Children engage in experimental work, planning, testing and making their own conclusions from results achieved. They create their own designs and investigate relative success.

Pupils develop resilience and self-belief, taking part in problem solving, allowing themselves to make mistakes as part of finding out. They use their own skills and knowledge, and are provided with resources to help research topics, sharing ideas and communicating effectively. Pupils become reflective, able to ask questions and evaluate their own ideas.

The key to success at Fairholme is undoubtedly the guidance and support of an excellent, committed team of academic staff whose teaching is not only tailored to meet the individual needs of each child but also to allow and promote independence.



Promoting Academic Success

Throughout Fairholme, within small class sizes provided, pupils are individually encouraged to reach their full potential. The teachers aim to equip the children with the fundamental skills essential for academic work, while inspiring creativity and helping to develop practical abilities. Extension or advanced activities are provided regularly and enrichment activities are continuously reviewed to ensure that all pupils are constantly challenged.

As children approach the top of the school, they have become independent, mature and rounded students, equipped with the personal and academic skills to allow them to move confidently into the next stage of their education.

Freedom of choice in moving to secondary education is important to reflect the individual needs of each child. Fairholme has the unique advantage of offering the widest possible options for the future. With excellent links to senior schools in North Wales, Cheshire and the Wirral, Fairholme offers assistance tailored to meet all of the various entrance requirements.



Keeping Active

The children at Fairholme take part in a wide range of sporting activities. Participation in sports and games at Fairholme helps to build positive self-esteem in pupils, reducing stress and promoting physical and mental well-being. Our all-inclusive approach to sport ensures that every child keeps active, develops confidence and enjoys working as a team. The school has excellent facilities, including an all-weather multi-purpose sports pitch and well-equipped sports hall, which are used both in lessons and for extra-curricular activities.

Engaging in individual sports and activities at Fairholme such as gymnastics, athletics, tennis, badminton and ballet helps pupils to improve fitness, develop balance and coordination and improve concentration and focus.

Inclusion in team sports, such as football, netball, hockey and cricket, provides a key learning environment for children, as they learn to respect authority, rules, teammates and opponents.

Children can take part in playing competitive sport at various team tournaments during their time at Fairholme. Pupils learn to manage their emotions: to win with class and lose with dignity, preparing them well for their lives ahead.







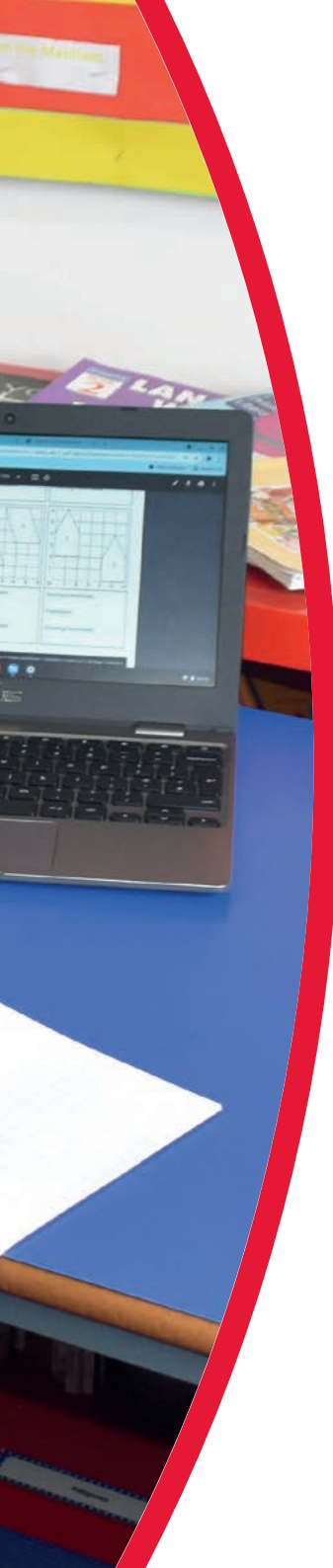
In Touch

Our constantly evolving Digital Framework provides excellent communication of curriculum, information and assessment throughout Fairholme. This effective digital system ensures pupils, parents and teachers have full access to all aspects of life at Fairholme both at school and at home.

In school, all pupils are provided with a desktop computer or Chromebook and therefore use and develop their Information Technology skills on a daily basis. Teachers provide an encouraging and welcoming Form Page on Fairholme's Learning Platform where pupils and parents can access learning assignments across the entire curriculum as well as literacy and numeracy targets for each week of study. Pupils also have online subscription software to help them practise weekly reading, spelling and numeracy skills.

If any pupil is absent from school for any period, they are able to take an active part in school life and continue their studies through Form assignments, with the support of a selection of teacher-prepared videos and video conferencing sessions.

Parents can communicate with Form Teachers easily within Fairholme's Learning Platform and pupils and teachers are able to celebrate achievements through posts and photographs.



Confident Communicators

Communication is one of the most important skills gained by pupils at Fairholme.

Pupils have the opportunity to read aloud every day. Children are encouraged to make sense of what they are reading, to read with expression and try to engage the listener. Pupils are taught to note down new vocabulary and understand its meaning in context. Standardised reading age tests regularly show that Fairholme pupils far surpass their actual age and the targets set for them.

Pupils learn to write effectively across many genres including story-telling, persuasive letter writing, report-writing, playscripts and poetry, learning to adapt their writing style while being conscious of the audience for which they are writing.

Correct grammar and punctuation are established and pupils are encouraged to be creative, to use a wide vocabulary and experiment with various writing techniques. Pupils have the opportunity to demonstrate their writing skills by contributing to a published book during their time at Fairholme; these collections are compiled as mementos of

important events or anniversaries celebrated at school, and demonstrate the efforts pupils put into their writing and the many writing styles covered.

Communication skills are further developed at Fairholme through learning languages. French is taught from Year 3 and children practise their skills through conversation, songs and role play. Clwb Cymraeg allows children to practise the Welsh language and Cybercoach enrichment promotes use of Spanish while keeping fit! All these language skills set Fairholme children apart as they progress on to secondary school, already having basic language skills in place.

Pupils have the opportunity to develop oral communication skills throughout the school both in class and in school assemblies, presenting information, discussing current issues and answering thought provoking questions. The older children take part in balloon debates and mock elections in front of an audience and work towards LAMDA verse and prose or acting examinations. The whole school participates in drama events on site at The Mount Theatre which are great fun and encourage the children to communicate confidently and enjoy working together.







Nurturing Creativity

The school has a strong tradition of music, dance and drama. Impressive musical theatre events involving all the children are held both at The Mount Theatre, within the school premises, and at St. Asaph Cathedral. Drama workshops are organised out of term time, exclusively for Fairholme children, during which they can take part in further creative drama activities.

Pupils can learn to play a variety of musical instruments and children of all ages and abilities have numerous opportunities to make music together. Individual lessons in piano, harp and singing and group guitar lessons are offered, and children can learn recorder together ready to progress to woodwind instruments. Pupils study for both ABRSM exams and Music Theatre exams which are held in school in a familiar environment.

Ballet lessons are offered as part of the curriculum; these help the children to develop confidence and poise. Pupils can study for RAD Ballet exams and also work together towards dances for school musical productions.

The visual arts play a large part in life of Fairholme. Art and design activities can be enjoyed by every child and all pupils play an active part. Pupils are given the opportunity to be creative using a wide variety of materials and techniques throughout Fairholme.

Displays of the children's artwork are evident in all classrooms and parents are regularly invited to special exhibitions of the pupils' work. Pictures are professionally mounted, framed, displayed and catalogued for these special events giving the children great pride and satisfaction in their achievements. Galleries are also available online.



Wellbeing in Action

Fairholme is an inclusive school which promotes, supports and maintains positive mental health and wellbeing. Our pastoral care is key to ensuring and maintaining pupil emotional stability. We value each pupil's individuality, the staff attentive to the varying needs of every child.

Form discussion groups and mixed-age assemblies enable pupils to reflect on both school and nationwide issues within a supportive environment. Pupils consider the importance of developing confidence and responsibility, thinking positively and respecting differences. They discuss the need for rules and honesty as well as learning about keeping healthy and reflecting on their emotions.

Participation in yearly events such as Anti-Bullying Week, One World Week, Fairtrade Fortnight and Harvest Festival encourages children to always consider others and their needs, and inspires them to take an active part in protecting the environment around them.

The caring, family atmosphere at Fairholme inspires children to care for and respect one another. We attach great importance to courtesy and concern for others. Older children will, as a matter of course, look after and help the younger children and the many enrichment clubs encourage pupils to mix outside their own age group.

Some clubs, such as Yoga and Games Club promote social wellbeing and relaxation with friends; some clubs such as Benchball and Tag Rugby keep pupils active and give further opportunities for children to work together as a team. Other enrichment activities, such as Technology and Clwb Cymraeg, allow pupils to be creative and reflective, and promote the continuous learning of new skills.

Helping in the community, both locally and across the world, is very much a part of life at Fairholme, and many events are held in support of a wide range of charities. The School Council allows pupils to take an active part in suggesting and organising fund-raising events.



Sustainability

Sustainability and protecting our environment are key issues for all at Fairholme. Through our curriculum, we aim to enhance sustainability awareness of pupils, and through assemblies and group activities we aim to inspire pupils to take responsibility for their environment and to put sustainable development into practice.

Children study many aspects of human impact on the environment. They learn and understand about their carbon footprint and how to reduce waste produced, and they look at the benefits of renewable energy resources, with reference to our recently installed solar panels on the Sports Hall roof. They have been involved in tree planting activities, part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative, which has encouraged pupils to play their part to enhance our environment at Fairholme.

The School Council is actively involved in suggesting and implementing environmental initiatives at school and they welcome ideas from pupils in all age groups, parents and staff in how we can contribute to an even more sustainable future.

The Council encourages all pupils to 'go-green' with their handy green tips which are included on Form Pages within our Digital Learning Platform. These provide practical, simple and quick ideas to reduce our carbon footprint and live in a more sustainable way.

Overall, our aim is to ensure that Fairholme pupils develop into environmentally conscious adults who are able to contribute and communicate their ideas effectively for a sustainable future for all.





In Summary

Fairholme offers:

- Dedicated and experienced staff
- Small class sizes allowing individual attention
- An excellent academic record
- A close, caring community enhancing wellbeing
- A comprehensive Digital Framework allowing easy pupil access to full curriculum
- State of the art IT facilities for every child establishing independent learning skills
- All-weather sports' pitch and indoor sports' hall allowing wide range of sporting activities
- Inclusive drama and music activities promoting individual confidence
- On-site performance space at The Mount Theatre
- Specialist staff for music, drama, languages, sport and ballet
- Enthusiastic, hands-on management
- Breakfast, After-School and Holiday Clubs offered through The Mount Day Nursery
- Freedom of choice in Secondary Education





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The Next Step

You are warmly invited to visit Fairholme to find out more, meet the staff and see the school in action. We hold open days and taster days as well as encouraging individual visits when the school is at work.

To make an appointment to visit the school, please contact the Principal who will be delighted to speak to you and arrange a visit.

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