



St. Nicholas  
School

## Prospectus September 2020





**St Nicholas School**

Reedham Drive  
Purley  
CR8 4DS

Telephone 020 8660 4861

Fax: 020 8660 8119

Email: [Office@St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:Office@St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)

**Senior Management Team**

Head Teacher:  
School Business Manager  
Deputy Head KS1  
Deputy Head KS2  
Assistant Head Specialist Provision Co-ordinator  
Assistant Head

Mr Nick Dry  
Sue Mellor  
Graham Bolding  
Katie Goodwin  
Gaynor Pilbeam  
Vanessa Bryan

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Amanda Trevitt

*An LEA Maintained Community Primary Special School  
DfE Registration Number: 306 7005*



**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr Nick Dry

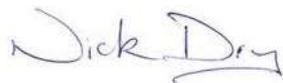
## Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome to St Nicholas School. Our motto is 'Learning Together' as we feel this sums up our approach to helping our special pupils to achieve their full potential regardless of ability or needs.



St Nicholas caters for pupils with a wide range of special educational needs in the wonderfully diverse borough of Croydon, and we pride ourselves on being a popular choice with parents who want their child to develop intellectually, physically, aesthetically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Recently we have been investing in the environment, and we hope that changes to both the inside and outside environment will really enhance the opportunities for pupils to explore and be creative on their personal development and learning journey. We strive to work together with parents and the wider community to develop happy, healthy pupils who place a high value on learning and achieving.



*Nick Dry*

Head Teacher



**Mission Statement:**

*A warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere is always to be found.*

- Children receive every opportunity to develop intellectually, physically, aesthetically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- Children are able to achieve their full potential regardless of ability or needs.
- Work in all areas of the curriculum shows clear continuity and progression, is regularly of a good standard and is often outstanding.
- Children and adults' attitudes towards one another are based on genuine care and mutual respect.
- Children's contributions are valued, they have high self-esteem and feel safe to make mistakes from which they can learn.
- Regular opportunities are taken to celebrate children's achievements.
- Classrooms are attractive, stimulating, well organised and planned in such a way as to encourage curiosity, learning and independence.
- The wider school environment is attractive, well maintained and stimulating and provides areas to accommodate various learning, social and play needs.
- Children behave well because they respect each other and they want to be valued in a positive way.
- The children's education benefits from a successful working partnership between children, parents, staff, governors and the local community.
- Parents perceive a clear sense of purpose, an exciting, challenging and fulfilling education for their child which enables them to flourish, and the opportunity to work in harmony with the school.
- All staff participate in a continuous process of professional development which celebrates successes and which identifies opportunities for further development and improvement.
- Staff and children have access to a wide range of quality resources which are well used to support their learning and personal development.
- The diversity of the community is celebrated.
- Staff from a range of disciplines work closely together to deliver the best strategies to support each child

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**Introduction:**

St Nicholas is a Primary Special School catering for children aged 4 – 11 years with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Speech and Communication Disorders and Autism.

The school has a maximum roll of 140 pupils. Children may be admitted from the age of 4 years up to the age of 10 years if places are available.

The school currently has 14 classrooms and pupils are grouped in small classes of around 10 pupils. Each class has a teacher and 2 teaching assistants.

Additional facilities include a Music Room, Hall, Soft Room, Communication Room, Medical Room, Sensory Room, Practical Room, Hygiene Room and separate outside play Areas for foundation stage and the main school.

All areas are appropriately resourced, and we are redeveloping our main playground to provide exciting new play zones to meet the range of needs in the school.

The school seeks to provide a friendly caring and safe environment in which all children can develop to their full potential by having equal access to quality educational opportunities and experiences.

St Nicholas was judged as 'Good' by Ofsted in 2017.

**Admissions Policy and Procedure**

All pupils must have a Statement of Special Educational Needs as defined in the Code of Practice. Pupils are referred to the school via the Special Needs Department at Bernard Weatherill House (telephone number: 020 8686 4433).

Prospective parents may view the school on designated 'Open Mornings'. Please contact the school on 0208 660 4861 to make an appointment.

The Local Authority will confirm the offer of a place after full consideration of all the information available and in negotiation with the school.

**Ethos and Values**

The school aims to be a centre of excellence, offering quality education to pupils and expertise and support to other schools. The curriculum is modified and differentiated to enable each pupil to access the National Curriculum in an appropriate and meaningful way. St Nicholas operates a policy of inclusion ensuring that all pupils receive a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum. The school aims to develop the whole child intellectually, socially, physically and culturally.

Within an atmosphere of trust and security the children are helped to develop confidence and self esteem and are encouraged to be responsible, independent and to develop an awareness of moral and cultural values and a capacity for enjoyment.

### ***The Curriculum***

All pupils follow The National Curriculum, which is modified in pace and delivery according to the needs of the individual child. All staff are well qualified and committed to effectively meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs. The school recognises the need for continued professional development and positively invests in appropriate and relevant training for all staff.

When appropriate, other professional agencies, including Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, a Physiotherapist and Occupational therapist, work closely with staff to devise and develop individual programmes for pupils. St Nicholas also works closely with other Special and Mainstream schools offering outreach advice, support and staff training.

Pupils are provided with opportunities to take part in a number of extra-curricular activities and a wide range of educational visits are arranged throughout the year.

The school is well resourced for sporting and play activities. All children take part in Physical Education sessions and there are opportunities for swimming for children currently in Year 4. Pupils also benefit from professional coaching for example football, hockey, basketball and lacrosse. Pupils also take part in sporting events run by other schools/colleges. The school has twice received the 'Active Mark'.

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Croydon Agreed Syllabus and recognises the teaching, festivals and practices of major religions.

### ***Assessment and Recording***

Pupil attainments are continually monitored and recorded by Teaching Staff and other Professional Agencies. Each child has a Pupil Passport, reviewed termly. The school sets annual whole school targets which are monitored by governors and by the local authority.

### ***Review of Education, Health and Care Plans***

These are reviewed annually as required by the Code of Practice. Parents and other agencies working with the child are invited to attend. The review aims to discuss pupil progress, appropriateness of placement and set future targets.

### ***Home/School Partnership***

Parental involvement is greatly valued. When pupils are admitted to the school parents are requested to sign our Home/School Agreement which was drawn up after consultation with Staff, Parents and Governors.

Day to day communication is through a Home/School Contact Book, which is vital to ensuring continuity and support for pupils and parents. Half-termly letters inform parents about the class curriculum and other school activities.

General information is given in regular newsletters and there are termly Open Evenings with staff and other professionals working with the children.

### ***Parent Support Group***

Parents are invited to attend workshops and discussion groups throughout the year.

### ***Governing Body***

There are 15 Governors. The membership consists of:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 4 Community Governors
- 3 Authority Governors
- 3 Staff Governors (this includes the Head Teacher)

Information about the role of Governors can be obtained from the Chair, Mrs Amanda Trevitt, via the school.

### ***School Hours***

08.40 – 15.00

### ***Uniform***

Pupils are requested to wear school uniform which should be clearly marked with the child's name. For activities such as Physical Education and Swimming, some special clothing is also essential.

Uniform available from Mapac - our school uniform supplier:

- Royal Blue Sweatshirt / cardigan with school logo
- School Book Bags,
- PE bags,
- Knitted hats
- Baseball caps

Other items of uniform listed below must be purchased elsewhere

- Grey trousers / grey skirt / grey pinafore / blue gingham dress (summer)
- Black school shoes
- White polo shirt

### Physical Education

- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain black/blue shorts
- Plimsolls
- Black/blue tracksuit bottoms
- All PE items should be in a draw string bag. (Bags with school logo available from the school)

### Swimming (Key Stage 2 pupils only)

- Swimming costume and towel

### ***Security of Private Property***

Personal property including money is **not** insured by the school.

### ***Transport to and from school***

Parents are responsible for bringing children to school. In some circumstances, the Local Authority may provide transport. Parents should contact the Special Needs Department at Bernard Weatherill House (telephone number: 020 8686 4433) for further information.

### ***School Attendance***

Should a child need to be absent from school because of ill health or to attend a medical appointment, the school must be advised by telephone (020 8660 4861) on the morning of the first day of absence. On return to school a note must be sent in explaining the reason for absence.

Requests for absence in respect of holidays etc. must be discussed with the Head Teacher. Unauthorised attendance will be reported to the school's Education Welfare Officer.

### ***School Meals***

Lunches are cooked on the premises and cost £2.30 a day or £11.50 per week. We use Squid at school to pay for school lunches. Alternatively, pupils may bring in their own packed lunch.

Free school meals are awarded to children whose parents are in receipt of any of the following support payments:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support from NASS
- Child Tax Credit, provided that the parents do not receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) that does not exceed the financial limit set by Government.

Application for free school meals is using the form from the Local Authority website.

### ***Charging Policy***

Parents may be asked to contribute towards the cost of some extra curricular activities such as cooking and educational visits.

### ***Medical Policy***

Parents are requested to attend medicals with the School Doctor. There will also be routine hearing tests and dental inspections.

Parents must inform the school of any medical conditions a pupil may have.

If pupils need to be given medication for a diagnosed medical condition, this will need to be discussed with the Head Teacher. School staff will not administer general medication such as cough medicine and paracetamol.

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### ***Family Liaison Service at St Nicholas***

Dear Parents/carers

My name is Juliet Bellagambi and I am the Family Liaison officer for St Nicholas school. The Family Liaison service at St Nicholas is additional support for families of the school.

The service works positively with families across a wide range of issues including attendance, inclusion, parenting, accessing community resources and signposting to appropriate services. The Family Liaison officer works in partnership with families and schools to ensure that families get the support they need and children get the best possible outcomes using solution focussed skills and various approaches.

The support varies depending on the family's needs, building on family strengths.

Some examples of work that family liaison officer has done has included:

- Supporting a parent to visit prospective school provision and supporting and advocating in meetings
- Carrying out a family needs assessment and implementing a support plan
- Contributing to the Early Help Assessment and acting as Lead professional for the family
- Liaising with other agencies on behalf of families
- Parenting support

In addition to individual family work, the service will be offering group work to parents/carers during next Academic year.

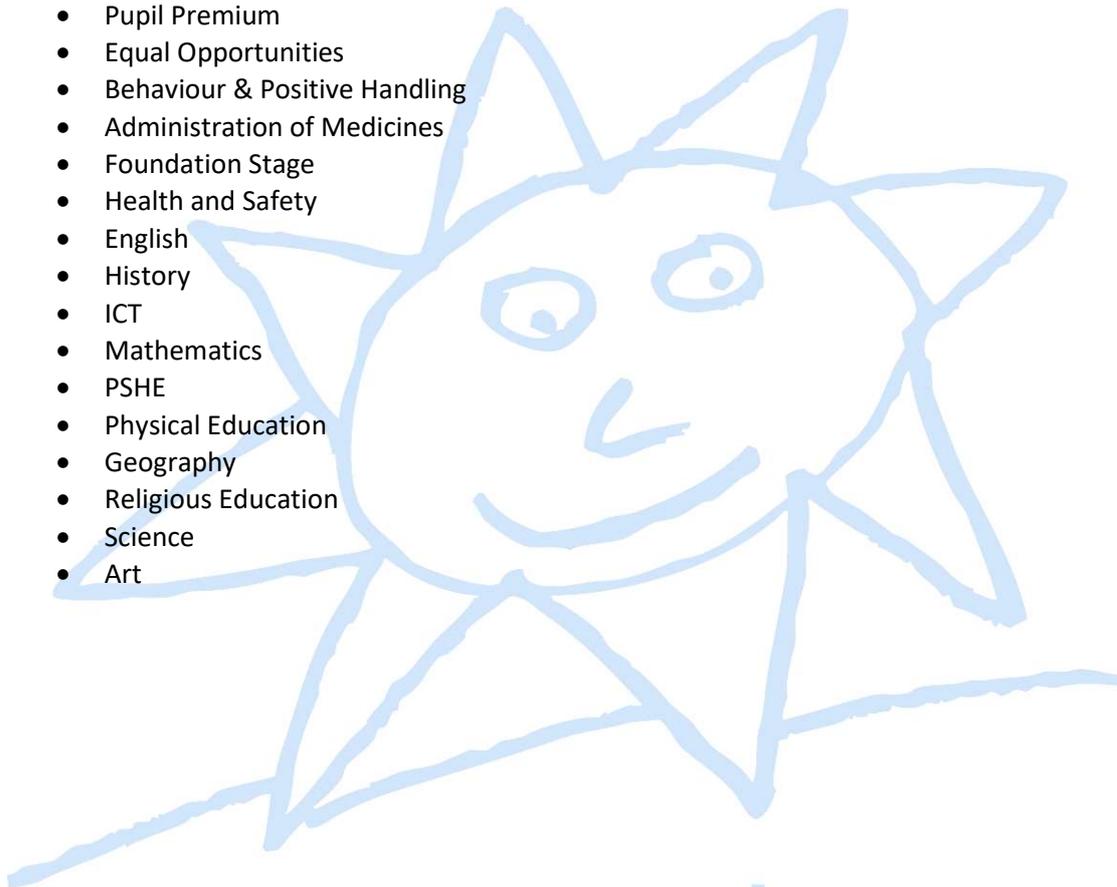
If you have any areas of parenting that you would like more support with, please let the Family Liaison Officer know.

If you'd like to speak to Family Liaison Officer, please let your Class teacher know. You can also contact me by email: [familysupport@st-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@st-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)

### **School Website**

Please visit our website ([www.st-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)) for further information and a full list of our policies, including:

- Teaching & Learning
- Assessment
- Attendance
- Child Protection
- Community Cohesion
- Complaints
- Single Equalities
- Pupil Premium
- Equal Opportunities
- Behaviour & Positive Handling
- Administration of Medicines
- Foundation Stage
- Health and Safety
- English
- History
- ICT
- Mathematics
- PSHE
- Physical Education
- Geography
- Religious Education
- Science
- Art



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### **Office & Premises Team**

Finance Officer:	Faye Soggee
Admin Officer:	Natalie Doherty
Apprentice Admin Assistant	Emily Harran
Site Manager:	Stephen Adamson
Apprentice Premises Assistant	Sinan Djemal

Family Support: Juliet Bellagambi (Familysupport@St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)

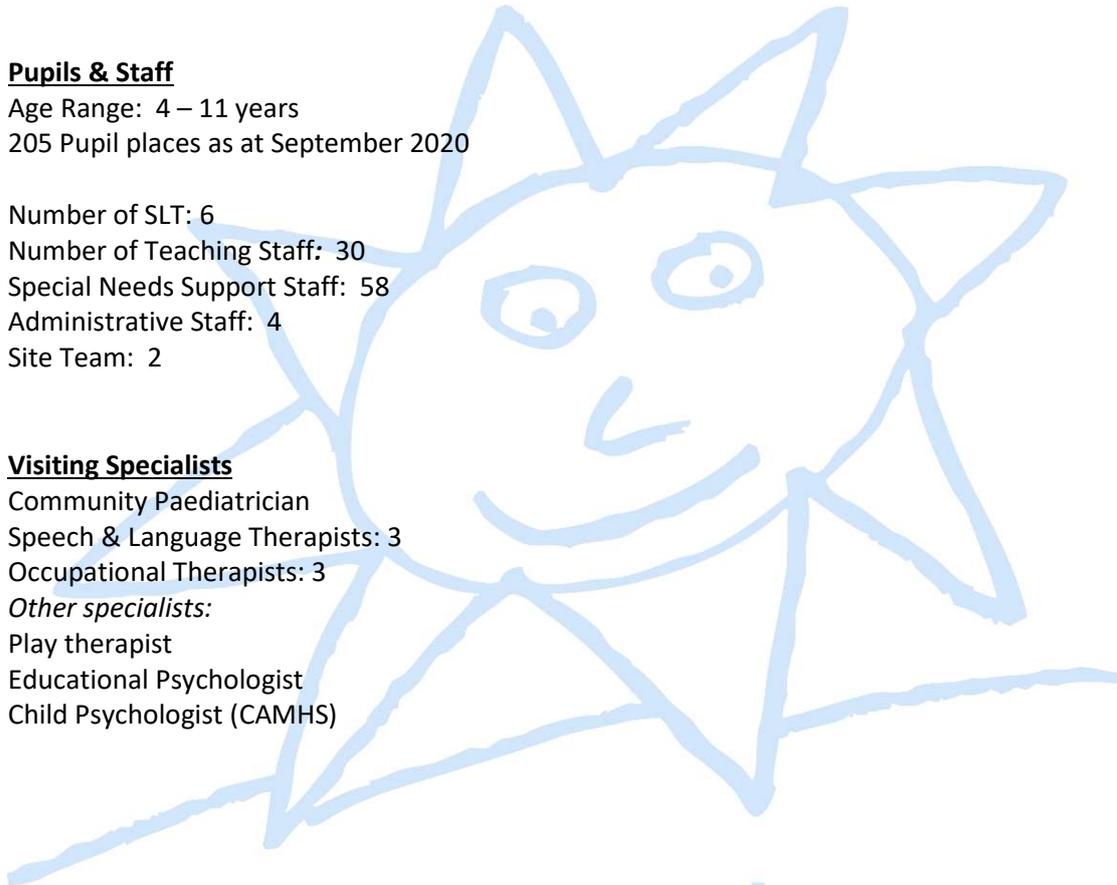
### **Pupils & Staff**

Age Range: 4 – 11 years  
205 Pupil places as at September 2020

Number of SLT: 6  
Number of Teaching Staff: 30  
Special Needs Support Staff: 58  
Administrative Staff: 4  
Site Team: 2

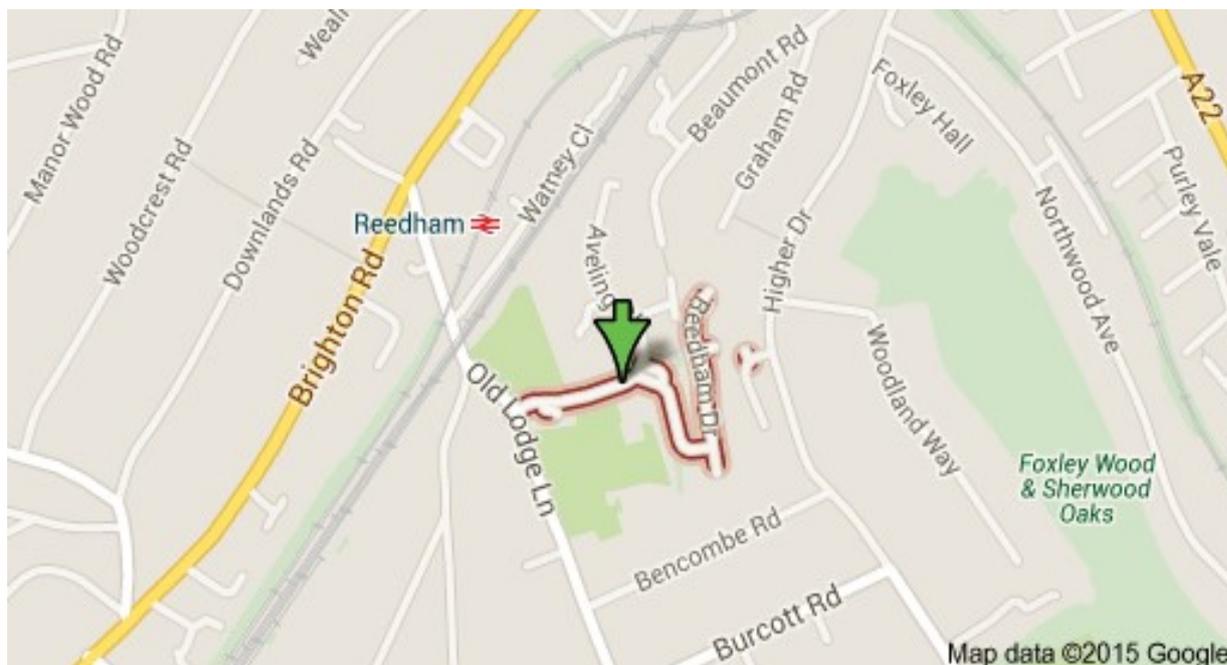
### **Visiting Specialists**

Community Paediatrician  
Speech & Language Therapists: 3  
Occupational Therapists: 3  
*Other specialists:*  
Play therapist  
Educational Psychologist  
Child Psychologist (CAMHS)



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## Where to find us



Nearest train station: Reedham

Nearest buses: Routes 455, 466, 166 & 60

Old Lodge Lane is situated off of the A23 Brighton Road in Purley.

St. Nicholas  
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## A new St Nicholas School

St Nicholas is a popular choice for parents of children with special needs in Croydon.

In order to meet demand and provide the best possible environment for children, Croydon Council have invested in the construction of a brand new purpose built school which opened fully in September 2020.

The completed project will allow for around 230 pupils to be educated in a purpose built, state of the art special school, including on site drop off arrangements and specialist learning areas throughout.

As part of a phased transfer in to the new building, the existing population moved into the new building during lockdown in march/April 2020. This allowed for the demolition of the current building, and the creation of new outdoor learning areas and school playgrounds.

## Our School Website

Please visit our school website for further information about our school.

<http://www.st-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk/>



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