



Prospectus September 2022





St Nicholas School

Reedham Drive
Purley
CR8 4DS

Telephone 020 8660 4861

Fax: 020 8660 8119

Email: Office@St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk

Website: www.St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk

Senior Management Team

Head Teacher:

School Business Leader

Deputy Head

Assistant Head Specialist Provision Co-ordinator

Assistant Head

Miss Katie Goodwin

Sue Mellor

Vacant

Gaynor Pilbeam

Vanessa Bryan

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Bernie Tetchner
(Acting Chair)

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



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www.croydon.gov.uk

Head Teacher's Welcome

St Nicholas School is a good school that caters for pupils with a wide range of special educational needs in the wonderfully diverse borough of Croydon as well some pupils from neighbouring boroughs if their SEN needs can not be met locally.



We pride ourselves on being a popular choice with parents who want their child to learn in a safe, supportive and inquisitive environment. We currently have 245 students on roll who have moderate learning difficulties, communication needs and autism. We are also seeing more children with complex needs enter the school. All children have an Educational Health and Care Plan.

Our school motto is 'Learning Together' as this encompasses the collaborative approach to helping our special pupils achieve their full potential, regardless of their ability. The children at St Nicholas are given daily learning experiences that enable them to be equipped with the skills, resilience and life experiences to become healthy, active and respectful learners.

Staff, parents and governors facilitate this by being knowledgeable and confident themselves in a wide range of strategies and pedagogy that support our varied learners.

I hope you enjoy looking through our prospectus and finding out more about our wonderful school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katharine'.

Head Teacher

Mission Statement:

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



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. Some of our children also have complex needs.

The school has a maximum roll of 245 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 26 classrooms and pupils are grouped in small classes of around 10 pupils. Each class has a teacher and 2 teaching assistants.



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 an EHCP 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).

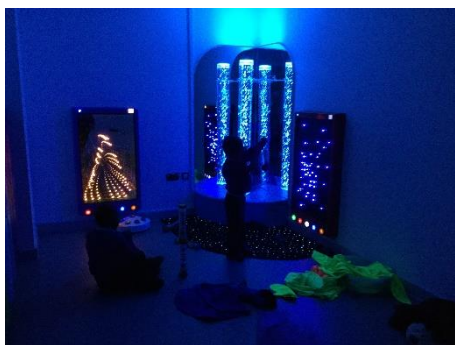
Prospective parents may view the school on designated 'Open Mornings'. Please contact the school on 0208 660 4861 to make an appointment.

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

School aims to be a centre of excellence, offering a high-quality education to pupils and expertise and support to other schools. 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 resilient learners and to develop an awareness of moral and cultural values and capacity for enjoyment. We achieve this by focusing on seven key areas:

School Learning Environment – We are in a state-of-the-art school with learning environments that are accessible to all and tailored to meet the individual sensory and learning needs of the children. These areas include sensory rooms, a cooking room, outside learning classroom, soft play, music room, therapy room, a library and a Learning Resource Centre.



Curriculum – The school promotes a holistic approach to the education of its pupils. Our curriculum is broad and balanced with lessons tailored to the individual needs and interests of the children, inspiring them to reach their full potential academically, socially, emotionally, physically and culturally.

Working Together – The relationships between children and children, children and staff and staff with each other are built on a supportive and nurturing ethos. A climate of honesty allows everyone to feel respected, listened to, safe, valued and inspired to develop.

Working with Parents – Parents play an invaluable role in the work we do with our children. The school draws in the knowledge and expertise of parents and carers and uses this to inform future development.

Behaviour – The school adopts a positive, proactive approach to behaviour, allowing the children to be respected and have a better quality of life. We ensure we create an environment that promotes positive behaviour focusing on calmness, continuity, routine, communication and acceptance.

Diversity – We aim to allow the children to see themselves and their beliefs and cultures reflected within the school community, allowing for their self-esteem to be built upon alongside teaching children to be understanding and tolerant of differences.

Therapies – Our school works in partnership with other professionals to deliver services that meet the needs of children, their families and the local community bringing together the collaborative and 'Learning Together' ethos.



St Nicholas
school

The Curriculum

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, teachers plan and deliver continuous provision ensuring they use child-led resources and setting clear routines. In Key Stage 2, children follow an adapted National Curriculum. Contexts for learning are well considered so that they are meaningful to pupils and are linked to pupil interests. Adults in both key stages use communication aids to support children transitioning from one activity to another and alternative teaching approaches such as TEACCH and Attention Autism allow some of our sensory and non-verbal learners to access the curriculum. Where appropriate, a personalised learning approach is also implemented. All adults ensure that the basic needs of the pupils are met e.g. toileting, food, water and giving them a means to communicate.



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. The school has two of its own Speech and Language Therapists and a private OT therapist who support staff to implement communication and sensory strategies within their day to day teaching. 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 take part in sporting events run by other schools/colleges. The school recently been awarded Gold Status with UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools.

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. Staff assess using the school's own Assessment Booklets and use tracking data to inform future planning. SLT use tracking data to be aware of children who are not making as much progress and discuss class intervention strategies where appropriate. Feedback is given to children in a way that is appropriate to their cognitive ability e.g. immediate verbal feedback is given to younger children to show that they have something well and stickers or certificates are given to celebrate achievements. Older children and those with more cognitive ability are show how to improve their work and develop their skills.

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 web-based app called Weduc, which is vital to ensuring continuity and support for pupils and parents. Weekly class 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 12 Governors. The membership consists of:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 7 Community Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governors
- 2 Staff Governors (this includes the Head Teacher)

Information about the role of Governors can be obtained from the Chair 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. Parents should also send a message to the school office and to the class teacher via Weduc detailing the 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 £2.40 a day or £12 per week. We use Weduc payments at school to pay for school lunches. Alternatively, pupils may bring in their own packed lunch. All Key Stage 1 pupils (Reception – end of year 2) are entitled to Universal Infants Free School Meals. We would encourage parents to put their children in for school lunches even for 1 day a week as it expands their food choices.

Benefits Based Free School Meals are awarded to children whose parents are in receipt of any of the following support payments:

- Income Support (IS)
- Universal Credit (your household allowance must be less than £7400 a year after tax)
- 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.

If parents think they're eligible for benefits based free school meals, please contact the school about applying. We urge parents to apply, as this generates additional funding for our school known as Pupil Premium, which is used to fund valuable support such as Therapies and school activities.

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. Children are also able to have the flu jab at school if parents' consent.

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

School Website

Please visit our website (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



Admin & Premises Team

Finance and GDPR Officer: Faye Soggee
EHCP and Admin: Natalie Doherty
Site Manager: Stephen Adamson

Family Support: Juliet Bellagambi (Familysupport@St-nicholas.croydon.sch.uk)
In school on Tuesday and Thursday

Pupils & Staff

Age Range: 4 – 11 years

Number of Pupils in school: 245 Pupil.

Number of SLT: 4

Number of Teaching Staff: 32 (excluding SLT)

Special Needs Support Staff: 68 (excluding Admin, Site Team and SaLT)

Speech and language Therapist: 2

Administrative Staff: 3

Site Team: 1

Visiting Specialists

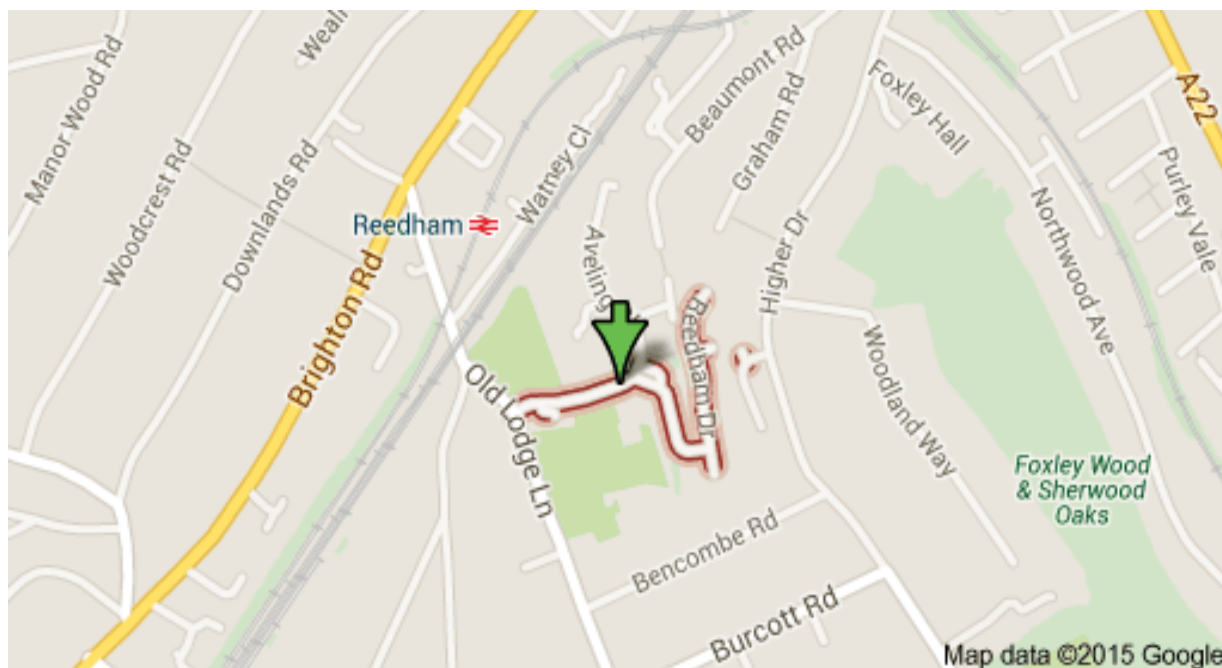
Community Paediatrician
Speech & Language Therapists
Occupational Therapists

Other specialists:

Play therapist
Music Therapist
Drama Therapist
Educational Psychologist
Child Psychologist (CAMHS)



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
School