

# ELIZABETH COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Prospectus

*ISI Inspection October 2015*

“The strongly pupil-centred college ethos enables pupils of all abilities to achieve high academic standards and develop excellent personal qualities”

Elizabeth College Junior School (ECJS) is an integral part of Elizabeth College but with its own Headteacher, Leadership Team and Staff.

**Acorn House** houses the Pre-School for girls and boys from 2½ to 4 years of age and the Pre-Preparatory department for girls and boys from 4 to 7 years of age

**Beechwood** houses the Preparatory department for girls and boys aged 7-11 years

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The Independent  
Association of  
Prep Schools

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# Headteacher's Welcome

Aim High, Be Kind, Be Brave

I am delighted that you are interested in Elizabeth College Junior School and hope that this prospectus helps to answer some of your questions. If you have not already had the opportunity I would encourage you to book a tour to see our school in operation and allow us to answer any further questions you may have.

Appreciating that happy children achieve, helps us all to focus on what is most important in the early years of the educational experience for all pupils. I could write about the strength of our pastoral care systems or academic excellence, but the truth is that children are happy if they make friends at school and if they are treated and treat each other with kindness and compassion. My message to parents, staff and pupils at the beginning of term is always to aim high, be kind and be brave.

The strongly pupil-centred College ethos enables pupils of all abilities to achieve high academic standards and develop excellent personal qualities

But what do the children learn at Elizabeth College Junior School? In years gone by the 3 Rs were in demand from future employers and universities, yet in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, resilience, teamwork and communication top the list of desirable attributes. These are key skills that we aim to develop at Elizabeth College Junior School alongside a love of learning in all its forms.

In aiming high, we seek to ensure that any future successes or happiness, any achievements where children have exceeded their expectations, are because of their time at Elizabeth College Junior School. The joy of teaching is that all children are different; our challenge is to create an environment in which success for the individual is inevitable.

Jim Walton  
Headteacher



## Academic Life

### "Aim High"

Our academic philosophy is simple – every child is a born learner, designed to absorb knowledge and skills at a fast rate. It is our role, as a school, to foster and encourage this innate curiosity and make sure that all of the children in our care reach their full potential. We are quietly ambitious for every single one of them, encouraging a growth mindset in all pupils and ensuring that they are taught the skills and dispositions that will lead to a lifelong love of learning.

We base our teaching on the National Curriculum, but our learning embraces a much bigger picture. Opportunities abound, both inside the classroom and outside in the wider world. Our school buzzes with engagement; you won't find too many silent rooms, but you will find happy children, enjoying their learning and working hard in the firm belief that determination and practice will enable you to make progress. We stretch those that need a little extra challenge and support those that need a little extra help.

The junior school has a broad and stimulating curriculum, which strongly fulfils its aim of educating the whole child and providing a rich, diverse and exciting experience  
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Our Year 6 children consistently leave us to go on to their first choice of school, taking many happy memories and a sound foundation upon which to build. They are confident, know how to learn and understand that learning is a process rather than an end result. We believe that every child deserves an adult that will never give upon them. Our teachers are that adult.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Outdoor Learning provides exciting opportunities for pupils to enjoy learning outside the classroom. With high levels of engagement and practical activities, pupils make outstanding progress.

A newly built outdoor classroom, firelighting and cookery area is accessible to all pupils and sits at the heart of our school. This is best experienced for yourself .....



We are keen to take children on educational visits, which is why we have a degree of flexibility built into the daily routine, so that trips to places of local interest, concerts, rehearsals, talks and workshops undertaken by visitors to the School, can all be accommodated. These are all considered to be an

integral part of the children's education. Curriculum enrichment days are organised throughout the year to enhance the children's learning experiences.



## LEARNING SUPPORT

Children who need extra support in a specific area are identified as early as possible. Children are screened for difficulties by specially qualified staff if it is felt that a child’s progress is a cause for concern. As a result of this screening, parents may be asked to allow further investigations to take place. At Acorn House, support is given as required for individual children. The appropriate ‘action’ is taken and parents are kept informed about progress and how they may support their child at home. Our Learning Support Programme allows us to offer school-based support for those pupils experiencing difficulties. Children are taught individually or in pairs in our Learning Support Department, the “Launchpad”, and close liaison with the child’s class teacher is seen as an essential element in supporting and monitoring progress.

Pupils, of all ages, have excellent attitudes to learning. They are attentive listeners, work quickly and maintain a clear focus; they work well with their peers, and listen to each other’s views with respect.  
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## Pastoral Care

### “Be Kind”

Excellent pastoral care of all pupils at ECJS underpins everything we do. We understand that the pastoral support of pupils relies on cooperation and communication between school and families.

Pastoral care is excellent. ECJS pupils develop into confident and well-rounded members of the community  
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Class teachers are the first point of contact for parents and pupils in our school. Pupils and parents are clear on the pathway of support both from school and outside agencies. Pupils are aware that they can seek help from any member of staff. The ECJS prefect body also receives training in how to care for pupils who may become upset or need somebody to talk to.

Class teachers are in turn supported by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) and Deputy Headteacher (Acorn House), who have overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the pupils at ECJS and the Headteacher is kept informed of all Pastoral matters.

Pastoral tracking between Acorn House and Beechwood and subsequently Beechwood and the Upper School ensures that the often difficult transition phases for pupils are as smooth as possible. In addition, there is a Welfare Management Team that includes the Designated Safeguarding Leaders from Junior and Upper Schools. The School Nurse and the College Chaplain visit the School weekly.

## HOUSES

All pupils are supported by the House system, with each pupil allocated to a House on joining the school. All staff are also members of the Houses. Our House structure forms a further level of support for pupils who quickly become loyal to their own House. The four Houses are named after eminent Old Elizabethans who were each awarded the Victoria Cross: Halliday, Home, Le Patourel and McCrea.



## PREFECTS

Prefects are chosen from Year 6 by the Headteacher in consultation with ECJS teachers and remain in post for the academic year. Our aim is for all Year 6 pupils to enjoy some leadership opportunities during the course of the year.

A Head Boy, Head Girl and two Deputies are selected for their leadership qualities and sense of responsibility. Year 6 pupils can also become prefects, house captains, games captains, music monitors or librarians. They set an example to the younger pupils in the School and are given tasks to undertake by members of staff in break-times and before School.

## PUPIL VOICE

School Council meets every 2 weeks. It is chaired by a member of Year 6 who is elected by the pupil body at a hustings and supported by class representatives who are elected in a similar manner by their classes. The class representatives change each term. The Council is supported by a member of staff.



## PSHE (PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION)

The pastoral support system is enhanced by a rich and varied PSHE curriculum and a programme of assemblies that sees visiting speakers from charities and church groups meeting the pupils on a regular basis.

The PSHE programme of study also makes pupils aware of outside agencies that provide support to pupils as they tackle the challenges of growing up.





# Physical Education and Activities

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT ECJS

At ECJS, we are proud to offer a rich and diverse PE and Games curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities for all our pupils. Our aim is to instil in our children the love of participating in physical activity, whether this is as an individual or a member of a team, across a range of sports. We encourage all pupils to access the range of opportunities on offer and, Aim High – try their best, Be Kind – show great sportsmanship and Be Brave – try something new or challenging. These values are at the heart of all sessions, including the various ‘Inter House’ and ‘Inter School’ competitions. The excellent facilities, on and off site, and the large number of committed specialist teachers within the department, enable us to deliver a high quality experience for all pupils at the start of their sporting lives.



## P.E. CURRICULUM

During their time at ECJS Beechwood, each pupil receives one PE lesson per week in their class group, from a specialist teacher. The activities include Gymnastics, Dance, Athletics, Multi Skills and Bikeability (Year 6 only).

Multi Skills is a relatively new addition to the curriculum. This programme focuses on developing Agility, Balance and Co-Ordination, which underpin most sports, through warm up, challenge cards, team games and development tasks.

## GAMES CURRICULUM

Each year group has access to two sessions per week. Year groups are differentiated by class and ability. With a number of specialist staff within the teaching team, this allows us to deliver sessions



to smaller groups, giving them a better experience; regular personal feedback and increased participation in activities. As well as the staff of ECJS, the department has developed links through the Guernsey Sports Commission, who support and lead sessions throughout the year. The sports within the curriculum include; Swimming (Michaelmas and Trinity Term), Netball, Football, Hockey, Tag Rugby, Fencing, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities – Bouldering, Orienteering and Problem Solving, Athletics, Cricket (Hardball and Kwik), Rounders and Sailing (Year 6 only.)

## TOURS

Our three UK sports 'tours' are a fantastic experience for the pupils and staff at ECJS. We are fortunate to have developed strong links with three schools in England. Over a two night period, groups travel to the mainland to play our hosts and surrounding schools. Our aim is to ensure all pupils who wish to 'tour' will have at least one opportunity to do so in Year 5 or 6.

UK Tours – Schools and Sports  
 Hampton Prep School – Football  
 Ipswich Prep School – Hockey and Netball  
 Cheltenham College Prep – Cricket and Rounders

This is a reciprocal agreement and we are delighted to host our guests throughout the year for Hockey (Cheltenham) Netball (Cheltenham and Ipswich) Cricket (Ipswich and Hampton) and Rounders (Ipswich.)



If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:  
 Pete Sargent, Head of PE [psargent@ecjs.gg](mailto:psargent@ecjs.gg)

## ACTIVITIES AT ECJS

Extra-curricular clubs are plentiful and varied, offering opportunities for all pupils to find an area of interest. These are popular with the pupils at ECJS. All pupils are encouraged to participate and enjoy these experiences, keeping the school aims at the heart of their learning. Football, Netball, Hockey, Cricket and Rounders Clubs help to ensure our school teams are prepared for their fixtures. We are also able to offer clubs including; Squash, Gymnastics, Dance, Judo, Cross Country and Table Tennis.

ECJS takes every opportunity to enter teams and individual pupils into 'inter-school' competitions. We are proud that these events are inclusive rather than exclusive, with pupils given the opportunity to represent their school during their time at ECJS.



'Inter-House' events are a core part of the academic year. Within each term, pupils are given the opportunity to represent their 'House' and use the skills they have learnt, in competition.

During the summer term, we offer all the children an activity day (Acorn House) and an activity week (Beechwood). The Acorn House children all spend a day on a local beach where

they enjoy a fun-filled day. The Beechwood children in Years 3 & 4 enjoy a week of on Island activities. Children in Year 5 travel to Sark for four days of outdoor education and children in Year 6 travel to an activity centre, Manor Adventure on the mainland.





# Music

## Sharing our love of Music!

Within Elizabeth College Junior School Music Department, we hope to generate an atmosphere where all of our pupils feel enthused and engaged with music. The weekly musical curriculum is taught through one practical lesson and a whole school singing session. We also offer peripatetic instrumental lessons on a variety of instruments within the school day or, if preferred, outside of school hours.



## ACORN HOUSE

Acorn House proudly offers all of their pupils weekly music sessions, where they can experience activities that are imaginative, inspiring, practical and fun. They have first-hand experience of a large range of un-tuned and tuned percussion instruments, working on musical activities on pulse, pitch, duration, timbre and simple musical and pictorial scores. This is in addition to our active role in assembly where we sing, accompany songs with percussion instruments and listen to a variety of music from the past. Our Year 2 pupils are offered peripatetic instrument lessons, a music club and are also involved in the celebrated Eisteddfod musical programme and endeavour to regain The Colleges Cup.

## BEECHWOOD

Beechwood Music aims to build upon the excellent foundations laid at Acorn House. Through classroom music and extra-curricular music, the staff provide the pupils with a comfortable atmosphere where children feel free to experiment with instrumental and vocal sounds. Pupils regularly perform in groups or as a soloist both in class and to wider audiences. There are choirs for everyone who wants to sing from Year 3 to Year 6. For our Year 6 boys, there is also the opportunity to join the College Choir on their annual trip to sing in France or the UK. Our Steel Pans were purchased by the Old Elizabethans and are enjoyed by groups of year 5 and 6 pupils who play them with such enthusiasm and expertise. The younger pupils also enjoy playing the pans and take part in workshops in and out of school time. In Year 3 all pupils sing and learn the violin in classroom music. By providing this unique opportunity, we hope to fill the orchestras and choirs for ECJS and for Elizabeth College in the future. There are so many performing opportunities at ECJS through Acorn House and onto Beechwood. There are Eisteddfods, Nativities, Harvest Festivals, Carol Services, Concerts, Musicals and various public performances for charities. We will continue to grow and introduce all ECJS pupils to music as their new lifelong friend.



Contacts: Acorn House: [jatkinson@ecjs.gg](mailto:jatkinson@ecjs.gg) Beechwood: [rsutton@ecjs.gg](mailto:rsutton@ecjs.gg)

## Daily Routine

The School Day at Acorn House begins when the doors open at 0825 and end from 1440 to 1500, depending on the child's year group.

At Beechwood, pupils may arrive after 0810 ready for the start of school at 0830. The School Day ends at 1530. However, after a short break, after school activity sessions are run by the staff. These are voluntary, but we hope that pupils will attend at least one of the clubs.

### WRAP-AROUND CARE

We recognise the busy lives that many of our parents lead. Wraparound Care allows pupils from Reception to Year 6 to be dropped at School from 0745 for a healthy breakfast and taken safely to their class in time for the start of the day. After School care extends to 1730. There are limited places for this chargeable facility.

### LUNCH

All children at Acorn House have a cooked lunch, which is also available for children at Beechwood at an extra charge. Lunch is eaten in the Dining Room at Acorn House. Beechwood pupils may eat hot lunches once a week, three days a week, all week or in any combination that their parents require. Parents should note that these lunches are charged in arrears to your child's School Fees Account.

Alternatively, Beechwood children may bring a packed lunch to School which is eaten in the Acorn House Dining Room. Sweets, fizzy drinks, food containing nuts or nut products and glass containers are not allowed.

We hope that parents will support the School's quest in teaching our pupils to be healthy by providing wholesome, healthy food for their children.



### ADMINISTRATION

A termly calendar is published. The following year's key term dates are also included. Parents are asked to note these dates carefully. Permission for leave of absence during term-time should be obtained in advance from the Headteacher in writing.





## Assessment & Reporting

Parents receive regular reports throughout the year and there are termly opportunities for parents to meet staff with regard to progress. Informal discussions often take place at other times during the School Year. Children's achievements are continually assessed so that future learning opportunities are appropriately planned.

Relationships between staff and pupils and amongst themselves are particularly harmonious  
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## School Policies

Whole school policies and those specific to the Junior School can be found on our website: [www.elizabethcollege.gg](http://www.elizabethcollege.gg) or are available on request from the Headteacher.

### MEDICATION

Parents of children who suffer from serious medical conditions should confirm these details in writing, preferably before they begin at ECJS. For children who need Epi-pens, parents should provide the School with two Epi-pens on site at all times. Staff receive training in the procedures required to administer Epi-pens in emergency situations.



# The Friends and The Old Elizabethan Association

## THE FRIENDS' ASSOCIATIONS

The Friends of ECJS are volunteers who work together to raise money and create events that give our children the extras to make the most of their day at school. They are a group of parents, carers and teachers from Acorn House Pre-School, Acorn House and Beechwood and are always looking for more members.

Friends of ECJS fund projects that are outside the remit of the school's allocated budget. Teachers and pupils generally propose the projects to fund. The Friends hold two meetings each school term to discuss the organisation of these events and the wish list items.

We hope that you, as parents, will support the work of the Friends while your child is a member of the school.

## THE OLD ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION

The Old Elizabethan Association fully supports the development of ECJS in the belief that a strong Junior School provides a good introduction to the ethos of Elizabeth College and can thus sustain both the long-term membership and values of the OE Association. In recent years the OE Association has provided funding for library shelving at Acorn House and an electronic baby grand pianola, athletics equipment, a sound system for productions and a set of steel pans at Beechwood.

We at ECJS are most grateful for the support we receive from the Friends and the OE Associations. Their support has made a significant impact on the specialised resources available to the children.

All former pupils of Elizabeth College Junior School may join the Old Elizabethan Association when they reach 18 years old irrespective of whether they have attended Elizabeth College Upper School.