

Where young
people are
**known,
valued &
treasured**



Preparatory Prospectus





A very warm welcome

Imagine a place where your child is truly known.

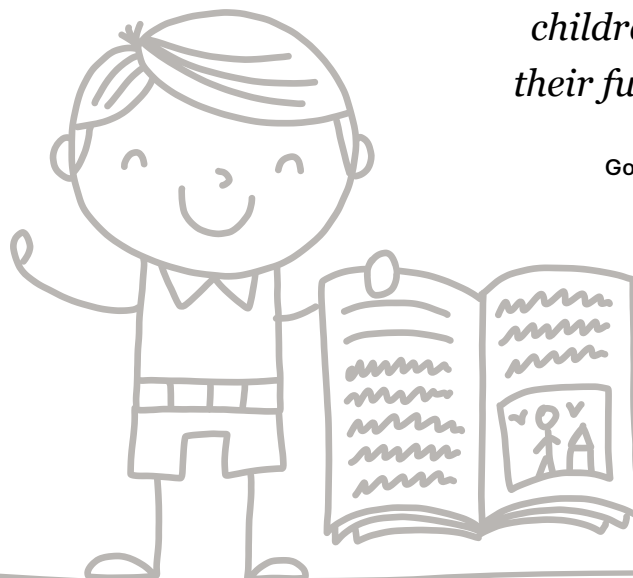
Choosing a school is one of the biggest decisions a family makes. It begins with trust and shared values, and most importantly, confidence that your child will feel happy and supported from their very first day.

St Columba's Prep is a school where children are known as individuals and their childhood is protected. Learning is purposeful, curiosity is encouraged and each day brings new possibilities.



*Exemplary pastoral care +
great teaching + emphasis
on co-curricular = happy
children reaching
their full potential.*

Good Schools Guide



What if learning and belonging went hand in hand?

A place where children settle, smile and start to grow.

For many families, Lower Prep is the very first step into school life. We understand how important it is that this beginning feels warm and reassuring.

With small class sizes, our teachers have the time to really know and understand each child. They notice what makes them light up, offer comfort when it's needed, and provide the right level of challenge.

Being known helps children settle quickly. It gives them the confidence to speak up and have a go, even when something feels difficult. When children feel secure, learning starts to feel natural.

St Columba's Prep is a co-educational community where friendships form easily and children know they belong.



*I was a bit nervous at first, but
then my teacher remembered
what I like and it felt easier.*

Amelia age 5





When curiosity leads the way

What does learning look like when questions are welcomed?

From the very first day, children are encouraged to be curious about the world around them. Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy sit at the heart of the curriculum, supported by specialist teaching as children move through the school.

Science, Music, Art, Computing, RE, Modern Languages, World Cultures and Sport all form part of a broad and balanced experience. Lessons are engaging and purposeful, shaped by conversation and practical activity that encourages creative thinking.

Digital tools are part of everyday learning and are used thoughtfully to support understanding and build confidence in an increasingly digital world.



*I like that we don't
just sit and listen.
We get to try things.*

Theo age 7

More than lessons

Because school life is about more than the classroom.

Beyond lessons, children are given opportunities to discover what they enjoy and where their strengths lie. Through clubs, trips and age-appropriate responsibilities, confidence and self-belief grow naturally over time.

Wraparound care provides flexibility for modern family life and gives children a familiar, nurturing environment from the start of the day through to the end.

These moments matter. They help children feel settled and part of something bigger.



I feel happy when I discover something I'm good at.

Noah age 8







*Hearing the birds
singing is beautiful.*

Christian age 5

What if learning didn't have walls?

Forest School at St Columba's.

Forest School is an important part of life at St Columba's Prep, particularly for younger children who learn so naturally through movement and play.

Outdoor sessions invite children to explore and experiment, solving problems in a real-world setting. Confidence grows as they work together, try things out and learn how to manage challenges.

Learning feels like an adventure, and nature becomes part of the school day.



Growing hearts and minds

66

*If something's bothering
you, there's always
someone to talk to.*

Mille age 7

Wellbeing sits at the centre of school life.

Children learn best when they feel settled and understood. Pastoral care is woven into everyday life at St Columba's, with trusted adults close by and time given to listening.

From day one, children are encouraged to talk about how they feel and reflect on their experiences. They learn that it's okay to ask for help and that their feelings matter.

This is a community where children are known, valued and treasured.





Shaping futures, not fitting moulds



Empowering children for all life brings.

As children move into Upper Prep, independence and self-belief are developed more deliberately. Pupils take part in the Prep School Bacculaureate (PSB), which supports thoughtful learning and personal growth.

In Prep 6, each child completes a PSB Project Qualification. They explore a subject that genuinely interests them and learn how to shape their own ideas.

Transition into Senior School is carefully supported. Senior pupils act as Buddies and role models, helping younger children feel reassured as they take this next step. Familiar faces, shared experiences and a clear pathway into Senior School ensure the move feels smooth rather than daunting.

Pupils who begin their journey at St Columba's Prep arrive in Senior School academically prepared and confident in how they learn. Over time, this strong foundation is reflected in consistently strong GCSE outcomes, alongside the resilience, independence and self-belief needed to perform well at this stage.



*I like choosing
what to learn
about. It makes
me try harder.*

Ayaan age 9



Thinking beyond today

A wider view of the world.

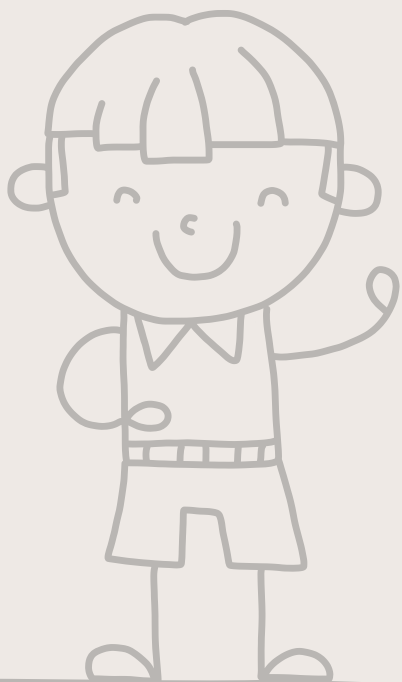
As part of a global network of schools, St Columba's Prep benefits from shared best practice, international connections and a strong sense of global community. This broader outlook gently helps children understand the world beyond their immediate experience.

Children develop curiosity about what lies beyond the classroom, grounded in the security of a close-knit community where they are known, valued and treasured.



*It makes you realise
there's more out there,
but this still feels like home.*

Freddie age 10







I made my best friend here.

Luca age 6

Come and see for yourself

**Some things are best experienced
in person.**

We would love to welcome you and your family to St Columba's Prep. You can meet our teachers, hear from our pupils, and see learning in action.

Because the right school doesn't just educate your child. It helps them become themselves and realise their potential.





Education at St Columba's College is not about fitting our young people into a mould - but rather about creating a new shape around each one of them and then celebrating what they become...in our case, Columbans.

Richard McCann - Head of Prep

We're not here to
fit the mould.
We're here to
shape the future.



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