



# Alley's Junior School

## WORKING AT ALLEY'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

January 2023



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## Strengthened by our history and the power of community, we seek to inspire pupils of today to become shapers of tomorrow.

Alley's is one of the country's leading co-educational independent day schools, committed to developing excellence within an ethos of strong pastoral care and a vibrant co-curriculum.

Our holistic approach aims to nurture every pupil, enabling them to develop their potential while making friendships and enjoying life to the full.

We believe that learning together in a supportive environment provides the best framework for boys and girls to excel at school, to discover new ideas, skills and enthusiasms and to prepare for university and the multi-gendered world of work and life in general.

Links with local and overseas schools, universities and charities provide further opportunities to enrich that learning in different contexts and to make new and lasting friends.

Our community is warm, caring and inclusive and we are very proud of our pupils, who leave us with excellent exam results, places at some of the world's top universities and specialist centres of higher education, and with a sense of confidence, mutual respect and social responsibility.

We greatly value our committed and hard-working staff whose dedication makes possible the achievements of our pupils.

### We aim to...

Promote respect, wellbeing and diversity in a caring community where every individual can flourish;

Develop curiosity, wonder, creativity and a love of learning;

Inspire ambition and intellectual rigour through excellent teaching and learning;

Cultivate discovery and opportunity through an outstanding co-curriculum;

Foster awareness, leadership and connection through partnership and enterprise;

Cherish the wide Alley's family and honour our historic commitment to Edward Alley's charitable foundation of God's gift.



*Our Values*

**R**espect

**O**ppportunity

**C**uriosity

**C**ourage

**K**indness



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## The School's Place in Dulwich

Alleyn's is one of three independent Dulwich Senior Schools, the other two being Dulwich College, a boys' school, and James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), each of which has its own linked junior school.

The schools of the Dulwich Foundation educate over 4,000 pupils drawn from a wide catchment area, extending from Wimbledon in the southwest to Bromley in the south and Blackheath in the southeast, with more and more pupils also coming from north of the Thames.

The schools jointly run a coach service, taking pupils to and from most parts of the catchment area.

Although entirely independent of one another, the three Dulwich Schools are part of the wider Dulwich Foundation, which includes the Dulwich Estate, the Chapel, an alms house and four schools outside Dulwich.

The Foundation dates back to 1619, with a bequest from Edward Alleyn, the actor-manager and contemporary of Shakespeare, who left his land in Dulwich and founded Alleyn's College of God's Gift in 1619 'for the education of twelve poor scholars'.

We moved to our own 30-acre site on Townley Road in 1887 and, in 1976, were one of the first independent schools to go fully co-educational.

Alleyn's is committed to sharing its facilities with the local community and has established a standing committee to oversee the use of its premises for the community as a whole.

## Alleyn's Junior School

Alleyn's Junior School is a member of IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) with almost 300 pupils. It is frequently described as a friendly and happy school. It has a distinctive atmosphere that couples academic excellence with breadth of opportunity and respect for variety of achievement. Alleyn's sets out to provide an outstanding pastoral environment where pupils are encouraged to achieve their potential.

The Governors of Alleyn's School purchased a parcel of land adjacent to the Alleyn's School site in 1991 and erected purpose-built accommodation for a co-educational day Junior School for boys and girls aged 5 to 11 years that would feed into the Senior School. The latter's origins stretch back almost 400 years and it has been coeducational since 1976. The Junior School opened in 1992 and was extended in 2000 to include a Reception class to offer education from 4+. In 2021/22 the Junior School was fully redeveloped. This included the construction of the brand new Rose Building with a new school hall at its heart and the complete refurbishment of the Fortune Building. This redevelopment prepared the School for the next chapter of its life and enabled a slight expansion in numbers with the introduction of two form entry in the Infants (Reception to Year 2).

Both the Senior and Junior Schools select on academic ability. Alleyn's Junior School is amongst the top performing co-educational junior schools in London. There is a very healthy demand for places at Alleyn's Junior School with places heavily over-subscribed at the key entry points of 4, 7 and 9+ (i.e. joining Reception, Year 3 and Year 5).

The Junior School has over 60 employees made up of teaching staff and support staff. It also draws upon shared support staff with the Senior School.

## Inclusive Community

We are dedicated to achieving educational excellence through inclusion, and a wide range of means-tested bursaries and scholarships supports this goal. They allow us to offer places to those pupils most able to benefit from an Alleyn's education, irrespective of financial means.





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At the moment, we provide means-tested bursary assistance to just over 10% of our pupils. This means that one in ten of our pupils are able to attend Alleyn's who would otherwise not be able to. Our aim is to double this in the coming years.

## Co-educational Community

Boys and girls at Alleyn's genuinely enjoy learning together and this is a very happy school. Our pupils are encouraged to appreciate each other's achievements and contributions and it is wonderful to see them grow in confidence as our co-ed community offers them a fabulous variety of ways to develop skills and cement lifelong friendships.

## Facilities

The Junior School shares the same campus as the Senior School and some facilities, primarily the dining hall, playing fields, swimming pool, pavilion, sports hall, theatre and all-weather AstroTurf. A MUGA (multi use games area) has recently been constructed next to the Junior School and benefits sport and recreation in both schools. It has its own multi-purpose hall, science laboratory, two music classrooms, computer room, art/DT room, library, adventure and hard play areas.

## Organisation

The School has two forms in each year group from Reception to Year 6. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 form the Infants and Years 3 to 6 form the Juniors. There are approximately 16-18 pupils in each form through the Infants and in the Juniors there are usually 22 pupils in each of the Years 3 and 4 forms and 24 pupils in the Year 5 and 6 classes. The vast majority of pupils transfer to the Senior School at 11+ (where they have an assured place), some having won scholarships or exhibitions.

The Junior School operates as one unit, from Reception to Year 6. Whilst there are organisational differences between the ways in which school life is structured for Infant (especially EYFS) and Junior pupils, there is no physical formal separation of the school into two sections, though there are several discrete play areas that can be used to separate the age groups. The Infants are housed downstairs in the Fortune building under the leadership of a Head of Infants and the Juniors are upstairs with shared classrooms in the heart of the building. This sense of togetherness and the unity of purpose and life across the Junior School are distinctive features of life in the school.

The Junior School's senior management team comprises of the Head, the Deputy Head, the Director of Studies and the Head of Infants.

## The Pupils

Children enter the Junior School at 4+, 7+ and 9+ following assessments carefully designed to identify those who will benefit from the education that Alleyn's offers. It is an aim of the Junior School that all its pupils should be able to proceed to the Senior School and to fulfil this aim, entrants are expected to demonstrate the potential to thrive in an academic environment.

There is no financial support through scholarships or bursary aid for entry to the Junior School while the Senior School does offer both forms of financial support.

Most of the pupils live relatively close to the School while some come from further afield. Active and sustainable forms of transport are encouraged amongst the pupils with the vast majority travelling in such ways. Despite the fact that children are offered places on individual academic merit, many are siblings and a strong family ethos pervades the school.

Pupils are intellectually curious, engage in their learning and enjoy a very rounded school life. Many are articulate and self-assured. They work keenly with their teachers and each other to pursue their many talents to the highest levels.



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## Parents

Parents are warmly welcomed at the school and are very present before and after the school day. The Alleyn's Junior School Association (AJSA), to which all parents automatically belong, offers the formal mechanism through which parents can work with the school, organising parent parties, Holly and Founder's Day fairs, end of term parties for pupils and other social gatherings. The AJSA runs the Uniform Shop, selling second-hand uniform on a regular basis. In addition, there are many informal ways in which parents can become involved: supporting matches and other musical and dramatic events.

There are two formal consultation meetings a year, when parents can discuss their children's progress with their teachers. Outside these times, parents are always welcome to see teachers by appointment or to make contact by email, telephone or through the children's Day Books. Formal written reports are sent electronically twice a year.

## The School Day

The day starts with registration for pupils at 8:30am with pupils able to be dropped off at 8am for Juniors and 8:15am for Infants. Assemblies or tutor times follow registration at 8:40am and lessons after that, with appropriate breaks for play and lunch, until 3.30pm. There are seven 40-minute lessons each day. A rich programme of co-curricular activities runs before school, at lunch and from 3:30pm until 4:30pm or later and After School Care runs from 3.30pm until 6:00pm. There are a number of evening meetings, concerts, plays and other activities and some very occasional Saturday tournaments, rehearsals and open days.

## The Staff

The School enjoys a talented, committed and loyal teaching staff. In addition to class teachers, there are specialist staff for sport, PSHE, dance, drama, computing, music, science, art, DT, MFL and Learning Support. Teachers take on coordinator roles in all subject areas.

A School Chaplain is shared with the Senior School.

Teaching staff meetings are held weekly and are general in nature as well as considering a particular subject or aspect of teaching and learning.

The school employs a school administrator/Head's PA, a registrar, a receptionist, a nurse, an After School Care manager and assistants, a Breakfast Club Manager, two gap students and a graduate assistant.

Six full time teaching assistants work with Reception and Years 1 and 2 classes under the direction of the class teachers. A part time French language assistant supports the teaching of MFL (Modern Foreign Languages). We have a learning support assistant and a speech and language therapist who work with targeted individuals and groups alongside the Head of Learning Support. A part-time librarian staffs the library. A VMT (Visiting Music Teachers) Coordinator supports the provision of individual music lessons.

Other non-teaching staff, such as bursary, HR, maintenance, security, grounds and cleaning staff are shared with the Senior School.

## Commitment to Safeguarding

We are fully committed to providing a safe environment for children, staff and visitors. We promote a climate where anyone in the community can freely share their concerns about themselves, or others, in terms of individual safety and well-being.

We protect the interests of the children at Alleyn's through awareness among all members of staff of the kinds of issues of abuse,



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maltreatment and neglect that would impair a pupil's health or development. In this way, Alleyn's supports its pupils' development in ways that foster security, confidence and independence.

We provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and know how to approach adults if they or those whom they know are in difficulties, with the assurance that they will be listened to.

Everyone in the staff community at Alleyn's takes responsibility for safeguarding, and we always aim to act in the best interests of the child.

## Curriculum

The curriculum embraces a breadth of study in all subjects that exceeds National Curriculum requirements and challenges all.

Scholarships and exhibitions to Alleyn's Senior School are regularly won. Under the guidance of the Director of Studies, there is good liaison between Junior School curriculum coordinators and Senior School Heads of Department and the Head of the Junior School with the Head of the Lower School (Years 7 and 8) work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition from Junior to Senior School. Music is a particular strength of the school and all pupils learn through the Kodaly system with singing at the core of musical development. Musical opportunities abound, whether through choirs, orchestras, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble or smaller chamber groups. All pupils are taught to play a stringed instrument in Years 2 and 3 and a brass or woodwind instrument in Year 5.

Sport is a strength of Alleyn's Junior School and pupils follow a varied programme of activities, which includes football, hockey, cricket and netball in games. PE includes swimming, gymnastics, functional movement sessions, athletics, tennis and basketball. Teams and individuals enjoy significant success both locally and nationally. Regular fixtures are held against neighbouring schools and excellence is fostered, through the Alleyn's Performer Pathway (APP). However, sport is for everyone at Alleyn's, our skills-based Infant curriculum coupled with a late specialisation model ensures every pupil maximises their physical potential and leaves us with an enduring passion for physical activity.

Dance and drama lessons are part of the Year 3 to 5 curriculum with additional co-curricular opportunities in these areas being very popular. The annual Year 6 play, Reception nativity, Year 1 and 2 Christmas Production, comedy revue and talent show are some the dramatic highlights of the year.

Over 100 clubs are on offer each term for children to engage in a broad co-curricular programme.

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at Alleyn's Junior School is strong and underpins the happiness, welfare and learning of the children. It is primarily in the hands of class teachers who are supported by a simple, yet effective, system of rewards and sanctions and by a range of support staff, to include the Deputy Head, the Pastoral Care Coordinator and the School Nurse.





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## Working at Alleyn's

Working at Alleyn's is a rewarding and enriching experience. Our large team of expert and specialist staff is welcoming and friendly. Individual opportunities for personal and professional development are actively encouraged and broader opportunities are provided to the whole staff body at regular intervals through the year.

We have our own very competitive salary scale.

Some fee remission is available for children of permanent members of staff attending Alleyn's Senior and Junior Schools, subject to meeting the admissions criteria, and is a non-taxable benefit. There is also some fee remission available at Dulwich College and James Allen's Girls' School, though the terms and conditions are different, and it is a taxable benefit.

There are also many other staff benefits, not limited to but including

- free lunches
- use of the sports facilities, including the pool and gym
- discounts with various local shops and businesses
- discounted private healthcare
- access to the cycle to work scheme

## Dulwich

Located in South London, we are 20 minutes by train from central London and perfectly located for exploring the city.

Dulwich, however, has managed to remain leafy and green with several great parks and Dulwich Woods all on our doorstep.

East Dulwich and Peckham are exciting and vibrant with lots of independent shops, restaurants and bars, as well as a Picture House cinema and some really useful larger chains, while the pace of life in Dulwich Village is a bit slower but still buzzing with life, especially at weekends.

We are lucky enough to count several excellent state and independent schools close by, as well as Dulwich Picture Gallery and the fabulous Dulwich Festival, showcasing local artists (including writers, actors and musicians) twice a year.





[www.alleyns.org.uk](http://www.alleyns.org.uk)



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