



IPSWICH PREPARATORY SCHOOL



...a secure and caring environment where each pupil is valued and nurtured to become balanced, confident, considerate and fulfilled people.

(ISI inspection report, June 2013)

Our SCHOOL.....

We are delighted that the hard work of pupils, parents, teachers, governors and indeed the wider school community of Ipswich Prep School has been acknowledged in the glowing 2013 Independent Schools Inspectorate Report on our school. This booklet highlights some of the strengths of the school as judged by the inspectors and also gives you an insight into school life.



We have come a very long way since the last inspection in 2008 and this has been acknowledged by the inspectors in their report. The recommendations from the last report have not only been addressed but goals exceeded, meaning a huge improvement in the school as a whole.

The quality of the governance and leadership of the school is deemed as "excellent". With this as the bedrock of the school, we can celebrate the successes in areas such as improved academic and co-curricular provision; greatly enhanced assessment and tracking procedures; better teaching; increased opportunities for children of all abilities; exceptional pastoral care and an extremely safe environment.

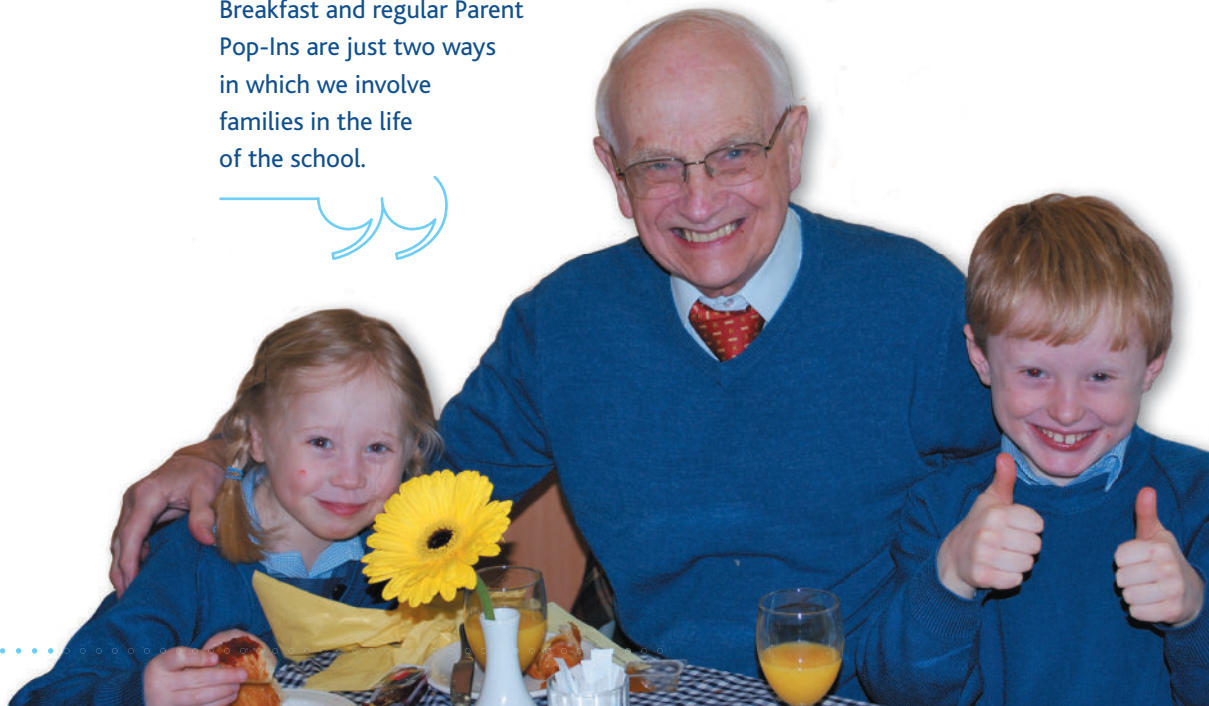
We cannot, however, rest on our laurels and the governors' strategy for continuous improvement is key to the school's success. Our "exemplary" School Development Plan will help us to continue to thrive and succeed in the future.

Amanda Childs, Head of Ipswich Prep



The management team has consistently recruited and retained high quality staff who display considerable passion for their roles.

"The relationship between the school and parents is excellent and strongly supports pupils' achievements and their personal development." Our annual Grandparents' Breakfast and regular Parent Pop-Ins are just two ways in which we involve families in the life of the school.



Our DEVELOPMENT.....

One of the main aims at Ipswich Prep is to ensure that all the children are happy. Our “well thought out, flexible approach to pastoral care” means that the “extremely good relationships pupils enjoy amongst themselves and with staff enhance the community spirit which is notable throughout the school”. We expect our children to be respectful of everyone in our community and look beyond it, which means they “develop a deep empathy for the world beyond their school”. Our pupils’ social awareness is “outstanding”, as is their behaviour where they are “at all times... courteous and polite”. We all value friendship and the inspectors noted this is created in “a relaxed atmosphere and in a school community where relationships are warm and friendly”.



The behaviour of the children in the EYFS (Nursery and Reception) is exemplary... The skills and attitudes they are developing towards each other prepare them effectively for the next stage of their education.

Pupils benefit from regular exercise through physical education and the many sporting opportunities on offer to them through the curriculum and the comprehensive range of clubs.



“The cultural development of pupils is excellent. Their awareness and respect for other cultures is extremely strong as was seen in their support for the African choir which had recently visited the school.” Pupils experienced a day of African themed activities to coincide with the visit from the African Children’s Choir, including drumming workshops, African art, cultural activities and an African themed menu for lunch. The 17-strong Choir gave two performances at the school, inspiring everyone with their enthusiasm for singing – and with their football skills during a lunchtime game with the Prep pupils! The whole day was a phenomenal experience for everyone. The diverse range of activities helped pupils to see that Africa isn’t just about poverty, and our support for the charity helps children to enjoy an education which they wouldn’t otherwise have.



Our LEARNING

At Ipswich Prep we aim to provide the children with outstanding opportunities to develop their skills in a wide range of activities both inside and alongside the curriculum. We call the extra-curricular activities 'co-curricular', as they are as important as the children's academic studies. Their learning in all areas should be, and is, challenging and fun. The inspectors found: *"The school successfully fulfils its' aim to extend the pupils' academic horizons in all areas of school life. Pupils develop their knowledge, understanding and skills well through a broad curriculum and an extensive range of extra-curricular activities... Pupils are articulate, well organised and work well together and individually. The broad, balanced and adaptable curriculum covers all the required areas of learning and is highly effective at meeting the needs of pupils of all ages and abilities."*



The pupils' attitudes to learning are extremely positive. They engage fully in their lessons and are highly supportive of their peers. They are confident and capable learners who enjoy taking on new challenges and exploring new information." Whether it's meeting big bugs and reptiles in the classroom, or learning to light a fire in the outdoor education programme, there's always a new experience on offer for our pupils.



Achievement in music is a strength of the school, with most pupils involved in making music individually and in groups across a wide range of styles... Pupils benefit from particularly strong provision in English, mathematics and science." We encourage our pupils to explore their knowledge and their creativity in every area inside and outside the classroom. For the second year running, Ipswich Prep pupils won the Littlegarth Prep Schools Maths Challenge, beating teams from a number of local schools. Pupils have experienced singing at the O2 arena, and performing on stage at school in the Year 6 play, whilst each year they have the opportunity to take part in workshops led by world class musicians as part of the Ipswich School Festival of Music.



Our FUTURE...



At Ipswich School and Ipswich Preparatory School, each stage is tailored to provide pupils with the best possible preparation for the next phase in their development and their academic life. This includes the transition from Prep to Senior School. Over the course of the last three years, children from the Prep have been awarded an increasing number of scholarships to the Senior School. It is assumed that a pupil in Year 6 at Ipswich Preparatory School will be working at the level required for the Senior School and as a result, all children should continue automatically into the Senior School, unless it is felt that an individual would not benefit from the educational opportunities on offer in a way which would allow them to be both happy and successful there. *“By the time the pupils leave the school they have developed an excellent standard of personal development and are very well prepared for the next stage of their education.”*



We love our school. We love that the children enjoy learning, grow in confidence, acquire a wide range of worthwhile interests and are happy. If you are not yet part of our wonderful community, please come and see us to find out more. We would be delighted to meet you.



“The school’s leadership, with the close involvement of all the staff, has developed an exemplary school development plan for all sections of the school.” These plans include the inspectors’ recommendations to develop the use of our ICT and library facilities to enhance and extend independent learning across the curriculum, and to improve the way in which we develop pupils’ reasoning and thinking skills. We will continue to enhance the already effective communications between staff, pupils and parents as we all have one aim – to ensure we are providing the children here with the best possible start in life.