



Harrow Way
Community School
Prospectus

+ Be Ready

+ Be Respectful

+ Be your Best

Our mission statement

“Learning for life, success for all”

Our vision

“To be the finest secondary school for miles around.”



+ Be Ready

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+ Be your Best



Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen to find out more about Harrow Way Community School. We are very proud of our school and believe that this prospectus conveys something of the school's many outstanding features. We trust that we have provided the information you require but you are welcome to visit the school before you make the final decision for your child. We are confident that you will like what you see.

If you would like to arrange a visit, or indeed if there is anything else you would like to know about the school, please telephone **01264 364533**, or email us at adminoffice@harrowway.hants.sch.uk.

Alternatively for all our latest news and information please visit our website: harrowway.hants.sch.uk.

Harrow Way students leave with:

- Better qualifications than they would achieve in any other school.
- The skills and attributes needed to live and work in tomorrow's global society.
- The values and morals to be good citizens.

“ You have created a school that is calm and purposeful. Teachers and pupils are proud to be part of the school community.”

OFSTED



“A dedicated group of staff led by an exceptional headteacher.”

OFSTED

Ofsted

OFSTED recognised us as a ‘good school’, a judgement of which we are understandably proud. As a parent you need to have confidence in us that we will deliver a first-class educational experience to your child and provide him or her with the optimum chance to enjoy and to achieve.



Partnerships

We recognise that first and foremost a good school seeks to build a partnership with parents and to sustain this partnership throughout the student’s school career. Our commitment to building quality relationships between parents, students and staff is based upon a shared sense of purpose and a belief in the value of mutual respect, consideration for others and the importance of positive self-esteem.

Putting students first

We want your child to be happy at school, to enjoy learning and ACHIEVE his or her very best. Students come first at Harrow Way. We value every boy and girl and recognise each child’s individual needs and aspirations. We expect and encourage all our students to aim high, work hard and achieve success.

The pursuit of excellence

All our staff are dedicated to constant improvement based on the principle of the pursuit of excellence. Our aim is to continue to develop our already outstanding curriculum, as well as sustain an atmosphere which encourages an enthusiasm for learning and fosters success. Everyone at Harrow Way shares the clear commitment that we will maintain and develop the school as a place of learning worthy of all who come here.

The Governors ensure that our students have access to the most up to date equipment, resources and facilities in order that they are prepared for life and work in the 21st century.

Recognising individuality

We believe in high standards, a learning environment in which the aptitudes and interests of each individual child are recognised, respected and fully developed. We offer a variety of approaches and teaching strategies to develop each student as an independent as well as a cooperative learner .

We seek to match the curriculum to the needs of the individual so that each student develops confidence and a sense of achievement through learning.

Embracing our community

We provide continuous professional development for all staff. We believe in partnership with parents. We consistently seek to develop this further, and to enrich the curriculum through involvement in our community. Harrow Way is a caring school in which we encourage all members to respect themselves, each other, our local community and the environment.

We are confident that Harrow Way Community School will provide your child with an excellent, appropriate and successful education.

Visitors welcome

We would be delighted to hear from you and would be happy to arrange for you to have a tour of the school at your convenience and meet the students, staff and the headteacher to discuss your child's future.

We look forward to you and your family having a positive, fruitful and lasting association with our school.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

The school is well led and managed

98.4% strongly agree/agree

83% national average



“I am writing to you as my final child has left Harrow Way this week. The school has served all my three children so well, and even myself as a former student. It just shows that with the right leadership, staffing and motivation/support for students, everyone, no matter what their ability, has the opportunity to achieve great success at Harrow Way.”

Parent comment



Our school

Awards and recognition

Harrow Way Community School is a 'good school' (OFSTED).

In 2019 we were selected to be part of the Parliamentary Review. This highly regarded publication, which is sent to every secondary school in the UK, features inspirational forewords and best practice articles.

Our commitment to achieving exemplary standards has also been recognised and praised by the Teacher Development Trust, which awarded the school its prestigious Silver Award.

We are also a CAS (Computing at School) Lead School, a Centre of Excellence for Geography and a Music Mark School. We are proud to be at the forefront of curriculum development and whole-school innovation. Harrow Way also has the 'Big Award' which recognises the work we have done around anti-bullying.

Outstanding resources and facilities

There is an excellent Auditorium which is used for assemblies, as well as to present music, dance and drama events. Teaching rooms are accommodated in curriculum suites to provide cohesive units of academic study, allowing for a flexible approach to learning experiences within departments as well as promoting a good departmental team ethos.

The playing fields include pitches for rugby and soccer; courts for netball and tennis; facilities for athletics and summer sports. There is an excellent recently refurbished Sports Hall to accommodate other sports throughout the year as well as providing a first-class resource for local community use.

Our ICT (Information Communication Technology) facilities are excellent with a growing number of ICT suites throughout the school as well as technology used within classrooms. We are a 'Google Workspace' school.



“The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. You are determined to improve standards in your school and have created and shared clear plans to do so.”

OFSTED

Well-qualified, dedicated, specialist staff

The school employs well-qualified, dedicated, specialist staff, all of whom have the ability to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed and exceed expectations, as well as providing all students with a wide range of academic, practical, sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

Record of success

Harrow Way has a good academic tradition. Many of our former students have passed successfully through university into professional roles. Many others have entered further and higher education in a wide variety of fields; supporting our belief that education should be lifelong.

Supporting and challenging students

All our students pursue an exciting and innovative curriculum that will prepare them for life. Our aim is to ensure that all our students are supported and challenged to take advantage of the opportunities that may present themselves in our rapidly changing society.

Serving the community

The school is a thriving establishment serving the needs of the wider community as well as the school population. We offer a comprehensive range of activities and resources for local community use in the evenings, at weekends and during school holiday time. We are continually looking for ways to expand and develop our role in the community.

Harrow Way Community School has an excellent reputation for working collaboratively with a wide range of agencies.



“ The teachers are very knowledgeable and detail-oriented and this has helped me when moving from my primary school.”

Year 7 student

Transfer of students from primary schools

Harrow Way Community School has developed outstanding links with our family of primary schools. There is an extensive programme of events, both academic and social, beginning in Year 5, to introduce students to the school and develop a positive and enduring relationship to ensure high standards are maintained.

We have extremely experienced staff, who manage the transition phase effectively to ensure a trouble-free move to our school. We make it a priority to receive as much information as possible so that we can provide the best start for your child. Information about peer friendships and advice from primary teachers, as well as information and requests from students and parents, will help us to make decisions about appropriate placement in both a tutor group and a class.

Welcome Pack

A Welcome Pack with full information about all aspects of school life will be sent to you during the summer term. Your child will be invited to an Induction Day in early July which provides ‘taster’ lessons and you will be invited to an Induction Evening to meet your child’s tutor and key staff in the school who will support your child’s learning. For some children there may be additional induction opportunities through the last two terms of primary school.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

93.3% strongly agree/agree

86% national average

First term support

At the beginning of your child’s first term with us we will designate Senior Prefects to support the tutors with each Year 7 teaching group. They will guide the students from lesson to lesson, direct them to break and lunch activities and offer advice. They will give them as much support or help as they need. In addition we have a group of Peer Mentors who are on call to help with any aspects of social life, making friends, sustaining friendships and so on.

Student Support Services

Our tutor-group system ensures that each student has a supportive adult, the tutor, as their first contact. Equally we encourage parents to regard the tutor as their link person. We also have a Transition Learning Leader for Year 7 to oversee the whole process from primary school to the end of your child’s first year. This means that if there are more complex issues to be addressed there is another named person to ensure a successful outcome. In addition one of the members of our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) takes special responsibility for the oversight of Year 7 matters.

The Link

We are extremely well equipped to support students with additional needs, whether these be academic, social or behavioural. As the name suggests the Link offers a responsive range of services as well as offering appropriate advice, guidance and support to enable a child to be successful in school.

The school employs a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), a Family Partnership Manager, Pastoral Support Worker and an Educational Welfare Assistant as well as counsellors, all of whom can be referred to if there are specific identified needs.

“ We are so thrilled and proud of what our daughter has achieved – she has had the support of a great school who really did have her best interests at heart.”

Parent comment





Uniform

We place great importance and value on our school uniform as a mark of pride in the school. Uniform creates a positive identification with the school community as well as avoiding conflict at home about what to wear! Provided at close to cost price, the uniform is designed to be relatively inexpensive and durable. The current uniform list can be found on our website at harrowway.hants.sch.uk

The Student Diary

Your child will be issued with a Student Diary at the beginning of each academic year. This important and valuable resource provides a wealth of information for students and parents. It is also vital as a means of recording homework and as a communication for parents with tutors/teachers and vice-versa. There is a comment box at the end of each week for parents and staff to write in if appropriate, and we ask that you look at the diary each week with your child and sign it, even if you have no comment to make.

Home School Agreement

We aim to promote a meaningful partnership between the school, its students and their parents. To this end we have spent considerable time developing a Home School Agreement that incorporates all the core values of the school and makes clear the responsibilities that each partner has in ensuring success for your child.

The Home School Agreement can be found in the Student Diary which is issued to all students on arrival. We expect parents to agree to the terms to confirm their commitment to the partnership between parents, teachers and students.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

The school makes sure it students are well behaved

93.8% strongly agree/agree

83% national average

Communication with parents

Face-to-face meetings

We know how essential it is for parents to receive regular communication about the academic and social progress of students and we therefore provide three formal meeting opportunities in Year 7 to share this important information. The first will be scheduled with the tutor fairly early during the autumn term; followed by a formal target-setting meeting and subsequently a review meeting as part of our whole-school parent consultation cycle. It is important that you attend these meetings with your child to build a meaningful partnership. Naturally we will be pleased to hold informal discussions by arrangement at any other times in the year if you feel there is a particular issue.

Reports

Progress reviews, detailing academic and non-academic progress are completed and sent to all parents once a term. Once a year there is a subject-based parents' evening. Progress Reviews enabling us to identify students who are making excellent individual progress, as well as giving an early warning of potential areas of concern.



Student Diary

Comments from the tutor and subject teachers may be recorded at any time during the school week in the Student Diary. Academic success, marks and targets are also recorded in the Student Diary for parents to refer to during the year. We would encourage you to discuss any aspect of your child's education with him/her and with us.

School website

Harrow Way Community School website (harrowway.hants.sch.uk) is updated regularly and provides information about all aspects of school life. In addition there is a termly newsletter from the headteacher to update all parents with current events as well as providing advance notice of important dates for the diary.

“As parents, we would like to thank all the staff at Harrow Way for providing an excellent education and helping all three of our sons to become such well-adjusted young adults.”

Parent comment



Rewards

The school has adopted a reward system that involves the award of a teacher's 'stamp' at the end of each lesson if all aspects of work, behaviour and uniform have been good. There are opportunities for receiving additional stamps for exceptional work, effort or service. Successful achievement of stamps leads to increasingly valuable rewards, including a Headteacher's Commendation for exceptional achievement. Students are encouraged to work hard to achieve these rewards.

As part of the overall rewards policy, individual departments may also recognise success in their subject. These will be explained to the students by subject teachers. Achievements are publicised on our website. We also celebrate the achievements of our students at formal presentation evenings in both Key Stages.

Behaviour and sanctions

We all share a responsibility to ensure that students are actively engaged in their own learning in an appropriate, purposeful environment. To this end we will not tolerate behaviour which detracts from the learning experience or diminishes students' access to the curriculum, or that is disrespectful or inconsiderate. We have a strict code of conduct which is communicated to all students in the context of learning: not discipline for its own sake but for the sake of the learning community.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and ensure that they consider the right of others to learn. If individual students do not conform to these expectations there is an agreed range of sanctions, from detentions to withdrawal from normal classes, to reinforce our core values and enable those who wish to learn to do so. We expect parents to support us to this end.

Student attendance and punctuality

Parents have a well-defined legal obligation to ensure students attend school regularly. As a school we positively encourage parents to fulfil this requirement to ensure that their child receives a full educational experience which will provide opportunities for the future.

Additionally we regard school as a training ground for future employment: good routines of both attendance and punctuality, established early, will be excellent preparation for a successful working life.

School absence

Where an absence from school is unavoidable, we ask that this is communicated at the earliest opportunity using our dedicated absence telephone line and followed by a note in the Student Diary on the student's return to school. Other than illness or necessary medical appointments, or a family bereavement, we expect full attendance in order to avoid disruption to the educational progress of the student. The school operates a system of first day calling where parents of absent children are contacted to ensure that the absence is genuine.



“Harrow Way has made such a big difference to my child and the understanding and support he has received has never wavered.”

Parent comment

“ The best community of teachers that I could ever have hoped for. The patience, care, loyalty and commitment of a group of people who have walked alongside my son through the tribulations, challenges and successes in his time at the school.”

Parent comment

Break and lunchtime

At the beginning of Year 7 we ensure that new students have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with our break and lunchtime arrangements.

A cashless cafeteria service is available and the menu is varied each day. Students are encouraged to select from a range of healthy options and we subscribe to the Healthy Schools initiative. There is a ‘meal deal’ option available each day which comprises a nutritionally balanced plated main meal and dessert. If you wish, your child may bring a packed lunch. Lunches are paid for using a biometric identification system which will be explained to parents and students in the Welcome Pack.

Student voice

Students’ views and ideas are important and these are formally expressed through our Year-based School Councils and two representatives from each tutor group are elected each year. The Student Council play an active part in all aspects of school life, including the staff appointment process, and actively engage in discussions about important developments in school.



ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

My child is well taught

94.2% strongly agree/agree

88% national average

An outstanding curriculum

‘The school’s curriculum is carefully tailored to meet the needs of all students with a range of academic and vocational pathways on offer, including courses in conjunction with neighbouring schools. The curriculum is broad and balanced, with a strong focus on developing students’ literacy skills and many extra-curricular opportunities covering sporting activities and performing arts. Equality of opportunity and esteem are strongly promoted throughout the curriculum.’ (OFSTED 2017)

The National Curriculum

The foundation of the education we provide is the National Curriculum. For some subjects this is delivered through dedicated timetabled lessons across two years during Key Stage 3, but for curriculum areas with more detailed briefs and expectations, this commitment continues throughout Year 9.

History and Geography

Although the prescribed content for History and Geography are covered by our commitment to each subject throughout Years 7 and 8, all students continue with History and Geography study into Year 9. This allows teachers to explore the important moral, cultural and spiritual themes that these subjects



provide in even more detail (and building on our previous requirement that students continued to study at least one of these subjects throughout their time at Harrow Way).

Modern Foreign Language

The majority of students continue with a Modern Foreign Language subject into Year 9 and core subjects continue to build on the knowledge of skills for these subjects rather than focusing explicitly on the texts and styles of questions examined at Key Stage 4.

Planned programmes

Other lessons deliver a programme of carefully planned religious education, computing, careers, personal development and relationship and sex education. All year groups receive a double lesson dedicated to non-academic Physical Education .

We are ambitious for all students and ensure that the whole school curriculum and that of each subject is sequenced so that the new knowledge and skills of each unit or topic build on what has been taught before to support the progress of all.





Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 the school embraces the requirements of the National Curriculum. All students follow courses in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Design Technology
- Food Technology
- Computer Science/ICT
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Art and Design
- Dance
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religious Education (RE)
- Personal Development (PSHE, Careers, Citizenship and Character Education, SRE)



Key Stage 4

Examinations and accreditation

We have an exciting Curriculum in Year 9. At the end of Year 8 students will be provided with advice and guidance, in consultation with their parents, to choose from a wide range of subjects, allowing them to continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. This is in order not to restrict later learning or future career choices. This menu of choices includes the subjects the student has studied in Years 7 and 8 but in addition they can also choose from a new menu of Media Studies, Spanish, Health and Social Care, Citizenship, Information Technologies, Health and Fitness, Engineering and Catering.

At the end of Year 9 students will make further choices to reduce the number of subjects to be studied to examination level.

Most students will be entered for the maximum amount of accreditation available to them in GCSE, vocational/technical or other Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications.

It is our aim to ensure that all students have appropriate advice and guidance to enable them to access an appropriate progression route through college, apprenticeship or employment with training.

“ Teachers have high expectations of pupils to work hard and achieve the best that they can. Pupils appreciate that teachers make lessons enjoyable and plan work to challenge all pupils in the class.”

Ofsted



Inside the Classroom

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

My child makes good progress

93.1% strongly agree/agree

88% national average

Teaching groups

Students are grouped according to ability in most areas of the curriculum. Some curriculum areas choose to have mixed ability groups to encourage a diversity which suits the needs of that particular area.

Class sizes

We take pride in managing the school population in small groups to optimise progress. We aim to keep our classes below the national average. Our teacher pupil ratio is 1.16.

Assessment

Students are assessed regularly to ensure progress is being made. Routine feedback is given to students as well as formal assessments each term in all subjects which measure student achievement and provide information to set challenging but realistic targets.



The Assessment for Learning initiative provides a whole range of strategies for allowing students to be more actively engaged in their own learning and assessment in addition to formal testing and examinations. Formal assessments provide valuable information, as well as preparing students for the rigour of public examinations.

Homework/extended study

Homework is set across the school using SMHW (Show my homework). It is a constructive part of the course a student is following, as well as a means of developing self-discipline and independent learning.

Homework is not intended to make excessive demands upon your child's leisure time but your co-operation is essential in ensuring that it is completed conscientiously, and we ask that a positive learning environment is provided for its completion. Every week in every subject, students will be directed to learn specific parts of their knowledge organisers by heart. Students are also expected to continually revise previously-learned knowledge.

A knowledge organiser is a set of key facts or information that students need to know and be able to recall in order to master a unit or topic. Typically, an organiser fits onto one page of A4 or A3 – this helps students to visualise the layout of the page which in turn helps them to memorise the information better.

Google Workspace

We use Google Workspace for Education – a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more which are used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. Students will use their Google Workspace accounts to complete assignments and communicate with their teachers.



Enrichment and the wider curriculum

We offer excellent provision for enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities particularly in the fields of Sport and the Arts. These areas are central parts of the school's character and its success. In this wider context these areas help students to develop performance skills, build self-esteem and confidence. We believe the skills and knowledge they gain from these areas are key in preparing our students for their chosen routes, whether it is university, college, apprenticeships or work-based training after they leave Harrow Way.

Educational visits

Opportunities are provided for students to participate in a wide variety of educational visits. These include trips to places of interest, arranged in conjunction with normal subject courses, field-work in the local area and visits planned for members of school clubs and societies. Theatre and concert outings and opportunities to see exhibitions of various kinds are also regularly provided.

Calshot Activities Centre provides an exciting mixture of pursuits for our Year 8 students who sample activities such as sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, cycling, skiing, climbing and shooting, all of which are very popular with our students.

This is great fun as well as developing self-esteem and self-confidence as youngsters face completely new challenges and overcome personal fears in a supportive environment.

Trips abroad have previously included New York, Naples, Barcelona, Ardeche, Paris, Krakow, and an annual ski trip. Closer to home students have enjoyed trips to Calshot, Marwell, London, Swanage and Bath.





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Headteacher: Mr M Serridge, MA
Harrow Way | Andover | Hampshire | SP10 3RH
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