



PARK SCHOOL

Information About Our Provision for Under-Fives

Welcome to Hedgehogs Group, Our Group for 3 - 5 Year Olds

Hedgehogs Group is our very special provision for three to five years olds. It is an integral part of our lively human-scale primary school. Children in Hedgehogs share space with our Squirrels Group, the class for 5 - 7 year old children. In this way, the children experience being part of the wider school whilst at the same time, enjoying an environment where they can feel safe and nurtured.

The children enjoy a play-based experience which makes the most of the amazing natural environment around Park School. Children are introduced to literacy and numeracy, very gently, through play, song, exploration and experiential discovery.

Learning about ourselves, each other, and the world around us, is at the heart of the children's experience. The school has three very simple principles; 'to look after yourself, to look after each other and to look after the place that you are in'. These three simple principles underpin everything about our community and the way we teach children

Our Early Years provision is ideal for children intending to continue their education through the school. Sometimes, however, places are available for those who have other plans for their children at five years old.

we imagine... we create.... we discover



Staff

The team is led by Emmy Horman, supported by Hayley Maskery (qualified Early Years teacher) and Lisa Tomlinson (NVQ3) who are all very experienced in early years childcare education.

Age Range

Children can start in Hedgehogs following their third birthday and can stay in the group until the end of the school year following their fifth birthday. A child may stay in Hedgehogs for up to another year, and this decision is taken after full discussions with parents and with regard to the social, emotional, intellectual and academic needs of the child and the group as a whole.

Early Years Funding ("Early Years Free Entitlement")

The school meets all the requirements for Early Years Funding. The Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) allows up to 15 hours of provision per week free of charge, to be used over a minimum of 3 days, for up to 38 weeks a year during the published term dates. EYFE funding commences at the start of the term after a child has reached the age of three. Additional hours, over and above the free entitlement, are charged by invoice, at £12.15* per hour, payable in advance.

*2019-20 rate, subject to revision for 2020-21

Example 1: A child eligible for EYFE attends 3 mornings per week (9am-12pm) = 9 hours. EYFE paperwork completed termly and no fees are payable.

Example 2: A child eligible for EYFE attends 3 mornings plus lunchtime per week (9am-1pm) = 12 hours. EYFE paperwork completed termly and no fees are payable.

Example 3: A child eligible for EYFE attends 3 days per week (9am-3pm) = 18 hours. EYFE paperwork completed termly to receive 15 funded hours. An invoice is raised for the additional 3 hours per week, payable in advance. The first invoice will also include an enrolment fee of £25 and a refundable deposit of £614.00.

Example 4: A child eligible for EYFE attends 5 days per week (9am-3pm) = 30 hours. EYFE paperwork completed termly to receive 15 funded hours. An invoice is raised for the additional 15 hours per week, payable in advance.

To comply with the requirements of Early Years Free Entitlement funding, a Children's Information Form must be completed and date of birth evidence provided when the child joins us. In addition, a termly contract and claim form is completed by us and signed by you.

When the child is no longer eligible for Early Years funding, from the start of the term following their fifth birthday, main school fees will apply. Fees for the main school are organised on sliding scale fee bands (see "Fees for academic year"). Part-time fees are charged pro-rata.



we laugh.... we love... we learn...

Attendance and Fees / Charging Policy

Fees for full-time Early Years children (9am-3pm, Monday – Friday, term time only) are normally paid by 12 monthly standing orders. Children attending part-time have a regular schedule of fixed sessions each week and these are paid for termly in advance, or by monthly standing order, on receipt of invoice.

It is unfortunately not possible to swap days around to make up for any lost time through illness, etc, but it may occasionally be possible to attend for an unscheduled day, which will be invoiced in arrears; this should be arranged with the class teacher.

Children start with a minimum of three sessions a week (9am-12pm) and gradually increase their hours by adding lunch times, then including afternoons. Between the ages of 4 and 4½, children are encouraged to attend full-time, dependent on emotional, social and academic needs and abilities and following discussions between staff and parents. By the start of the term after the fifth birthday, all children should attend full-time.

Enrolment Procedure

Following an initial visit to the school and completion of an Admissions Form, when a place is available we will invite you to bring your child into school for Practice Sessions.

Your child, with one adult, can attend for three morning sessions (or more by mutual agreement if necessary). This allows staff and parents to be sure that this is the right provision for your child. At this stage, the confirmed offer of a place is made and a start date agreed. Occasionally, a start date can be deferred if it is agreed that a child is not quite ready to start.

Settling In

Parents are welcome to stay with their children for the first few sessions if this is needed to help the child to settle in. Most children settle quickly, whilst some need a little longer and the class teacher will keep in close contact with parents in working out the most effective arrangements to settle each individual child. Facilities are available for parents to stay on site, within the school building however we do encourage parents to be brave and to make the break. Children most often settle in more quickly when they see their parents show trust and confidence by being able to say goodbye in a positive and happy way!

For more information, contact the school office:

Park School, Park Road, Dartington, Totnes TQ9 6EQ

Email: park@parkschoolonline.com **Tel:** 01803 864588

The Hedgehogs Group of 2020 exploring the Dartington Deer Park



Park School is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity.

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