

Prospectus 2025-2026



Welcome

The children, staff and governors are delighted that you would like to know more about our school.

Here at Ivydale, the committed and hardworking staff ensure that all children are given every opportunity to become successful, confident and happy learners so that they will look back on their years at the school with pride and a sense of achievement, wherever their talents lie. We have a continued focus on raising standards of all our children whilst continuing to provide a broad, stimulating and engaging curriculum for everyone in our school.

Through art, music, sport and community events, the school takes every opportunity to continue a tradition of family and neighbourhood participation. We work in partnership with our parents and we encourage them to be fully involved in their child's education. We value parental involvement and our community is important to our school. We are very proud to also run Children's Centre services across the Peckham, Peckham Rye and Nunhead area for families in the local community.

Of course the best way to find out about our school is to come and visit us and see what makes Ivydale special for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you.

Judith Lambert
Head of School

Claire Purcell
Executive Headteacher



School Information

Address: Bellwood building (Nursery - Year 3)
Ivydale Road
Nunhead
London
SE15 3BU

Inverton building (Year 4 - 6)
Inverton Road
Nunhead
London
SE15 3DD

Telephone: 020 7639 2702
Email: office@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk
Website: www.ivydaleschool.co.uk
Pupils on roll: 480 + 30 full and part-time nursery
Age range: 3-11
Executive Headteacher: Claire Purcell
Head of School: Judith Lambert
Chair of Governors: Lynne Gravatt



Inspiring all children to have high aspirations and to achieve their best

Encouraging enthusiastic, thoughtful and respectful learners

Providing a creative, caring and safe environment in partnership with the whole school community



About our School

Ivydale Primary School exists on two sites. The Bellwood building, a traditional Victorian building, is home to children in Nursery through to Year 3 while our older children (Years 4, 5 and 6) occupy our new building on Inverton Road. There is ample space in both buildings and as well as classrooms we have libraries, pastoral and inclusion bases including a sensory room, five music rooms and four halls. We have extensive, landscaped playground spaces on both sites.

Organisation

We have 90 places available for reception aged children in September 2025. Other year groups have either two classes (60 places in total) or three classes (90 children). We also have the equivalent of 30 full-time places in our nursery and we offer both part-time (15 hours) or full-time (30 hours) places.

Admissions Policy

Children due to start school in the academic year they turn 5 should apply via the borough of residence. Nursery children and those joining in Years 1-6 at Ivydale are admitted into school in line with the authority's guidelines, taking the following priorities into account:

- Children in public care and children adopted from care,
- If there are already siblings attending the school,
- Children with exceptional medical, social or psychological needs (supporting evidence from professionals),
- Distance to the school from the home address. Distances are measured to both sites and the shortest one is used.

Please note that a Nursery place does not guarantee an automatic Reception place.

Child Protection/Safeguarding Procedures

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, in line with the duty placed on us by section 175 of the Education Act 2002. We strongly believe that all children have the right to feel safe and to be protected from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect. For us, safeguarding encompasses child protection both in school and outside of school, safer recruitment and managing allegations against member of staff. We aim to work well in partnership with parents/ carers and any other appropriate agencies to promote the welfare of our children.

The School Day

We have different start and end times in the two buildings to allow parents who have drop-offs and pick-ups on both sites to be able to walk between the two.

	Bellwood building	Inverton building
Gates open	8.45am	8.50am
School starts	8.55am	9.00am
School ends	3.20pm	3.30pm

Attendance and Punctuality

Coming to school regularly and arriving on time is important to your child's future. For example, children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Children can only benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time. Good attendance and punctuality shows potential employers that your child is reliable. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly are also at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.

Children arriving after the day has started will be marked as late. All absences must be accounted for and we expect parents to inform us of reasons for absence, either by phoning, writing or contacting the school in person. If we do not hear from you we will follow up absences by phone or letter. Holidays taken in term time are not authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Behaviour for Learning

We base all we do on the values that the school community chose to guide our thinking and our behaviour. Our school behaviour policy is based on our three core values:-

- we show **respect** for children, adults and property,
- we take **responsibility** for our actions,
- we have a **positive** attitude.

Our Behaviour for Learning policy aims to ensure that everyone can learn in a safe, supportive and productive environment. We have extremely high expectations of all our pupils in terms of their social interactions, emotional growth and academic attainment.

Our approach to behaviour encourages positive learning behaviours but also recognises that mistakes are made and are part of learning. You can find out more about our current system on the school website.

Special Educational Needs

Ivydale is an inclusive school and we aim to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to engage with the curriculum. The strategies used to support pupils with additional learning needs vary according to the individual circumstances but may, for example, include in-class support from a teaching assistant, an out of class intervention or a behaviour modification programme led by our learning mentors. We have a wide range of specialists and teams who work with us including the educational psychologist, hearing impaired team, autism support and other health professionals. Our speech therapist visits one day a week.

We continually strive to meet the needs of all our pupils and obtain specialist equipment as the need arises. At present the physical limitations of the Bellwood building means that access beyond the ground floor for children and adults in wheelchairs is difficult. The Inverton building is fully accessible. We have an accessibility plan in order to improve access for children and adults with a variety of needs.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

In order for children to learn well, we teach them the skills they need to be emotionally literate, and mentally well. We have a tiered approach to supporting children who may need more help than others. Our team includes teachers, learning mentors and our Pastoral Support Manager. Our team are trained to be able to offer generalised support or more specific support such as bereavement support or to use a specific therapy such as Talking and Drawing.

Our Curriculum

The curriculum at Ivydale encompasses all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experiences of the children. The curriculum, whilst paying due regard to achieving high standards in English and Maths, is also broad, exciting and challenging. We teach in a cross-curricular way using our own creative curriculum as our basis. The starting point for each unit of work is a quality fiction or non-fiction book. Our curriculum enables children to understand their place in the local community and beyond so that they are able to respond to, and shape the world around them. Music and Mandarin are taught by specialist teachers.

We are particularly proud of our reputation for music and the performing arts. There are many opportunities for children to learn a musical instrument from our key stage 2 whole class provision, to small group and individual lessons. Our children perform regularly both locally and further afield. In recent years children have performed at the O2, the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and at Thames' Festival as well as in school.

We promote independent learning with our children and through differentiation ensure that they are challenged appropriately according to their ability. We seek to provide a variety of opportunities for our more able children.

Religious Education

Non-denominational religious education is provided for all children as part of the curriculum. Assembly is an important part of the school day when we meet together as a community. It is a time when we place emphasis on the development of values and attitudes towards each other and the world around us. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the agreed religious education syllabus and collective worship if they so wish, once they have informed the school in writing.

Homework

Homework reinforces or extends work that the children have carried out during the week and consists primarily of English and maths but also includes ideas for children to deepen their knowledge of their topic work. Children are expected to take books home

to read with an adult at least three times a week and we provide a reading record book for parents to record this. Book bags are available to buy from the school office.

Play

We believe play and learning go hand-in-hand and it is crucial to give children high quality playtimes. Children spend 20% of every day in the playground and this provides opportunities for them to learn to a range of skills - socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and negotiation. Our approach to play and playtimes has been recognised with a national platinum OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) award.

Breakfast Club

This runs from 8am until 8.55am on the Bellwood site and is run by Magna (www.magnagroups.com) There is a choice of breakfast food and drink, both hot and cold, as well as a chance to play in a safe environment. We operate a walking bus to the Inverton site.

After School Club

Magna also runs an after school childcare club between 3.30pm and 6pm. There are a wide range of activities suitable for different age groups, catering for the needs of the individual children. There is also the opportunity to complete homework activities. Again, a walking bus is in operation for children on the Inverton site. Holiday play schemes are offered for at least part of every school holiday.

Extra-curricular Activities

We are particularly proud of the wide variety of activities on offer before school, at lunchtime and after school. They are run by members of staff, parents and outside agencies and cover the arts, maths and science, PE and sport as well as languages.

Uniform

We have a compulsory school uniform for all children from reception class upwards. Children are expected to wear Ivydale tops (short sleeved t-shirt and sweatshirt) which are available in a range of colours and smart, plain bottoms in black, navy blue or dark grey. Alternatively, a white polo shirt or a summer dress in green, yellow, red or blue can be worn. Ivydale tops are only available online (www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk)

School Meals

Our tasty school meals are cooked on the premises by an external catering company - Alliance in Partnership. All children receive free school meals through Southwark's healthy meals initiative or through the government's universal free meals programme.

There is a daily choice of vegetarian and meat dishes. Salads and fresh fruit are also available. We have regular special menu days to coincide with events and festivals as well as weekly Meat-free Mondays. You may prefer for your child to bring a packed lunch from home. If you do then we ask that this does not include sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks.

All children are given a piece of fruit to eat during morning break through the government's fruit in schools scheme.

Ivydale League of Friends (ILOF)

Ivydale has a strong tradition of parental involvement and fundraising to help enrich the children's experiences and opportunities. Recently the Ivydale League of Friends has supported author visits, playground provision, school trips and supporting redevelopment of the Bellwood library through successful fundraising events such as the Summer Fair and Christmas event, quiz nights and fun run.

Parent Information Sessions

These are held once every half term and cover a range of topics either suggested by parents or the school. This is an extremely valuable way of sharing information and gaining the views of parents.

The Governing Body

Governing Bodies are comprised of volunteers who care about children and educational standards. Governors work together with the Head and Senior Leadership team to raise standards to ensure all children receive a high quality education.

The Governing Body has established sub-committees and appointed 'link' governors to carry out the detail of their work. The areas generally covered by committees are standards (teaching, learning and inclusion), resources (staffing and finance) and CFC (children, families and community). There are link governor roles for areas such as literacy, numeracy, inclusion, health and safety and safeguarding.

Complaints Procedures

We acknowledge that sometimes things may go wrong at school and we encourage parents who have a problem, concern or complaint to talk to their class teacher in the first instance. If it remains unresolved then the headteacher will become involved. If the parent is still unsatisfied following the head's involvement the matter can be referred to the Governing Body. A summary of our complaints procedure is on the school website.

