

# HATHEROP CASTLE INSPECTION REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



# INSPECTION REPORT RATES HATHEROP CASTLE EXCELLENT IN ALL NINE CATEGORIES

In April 2016, Hatherop Castle received its latest Independent School Inspectorate (ISI) report. The ISI is the independent school equivalent of Ofsted and reports to the DfE.

We are absolutely delighted with the inspection findings, which were universally positive. They strongly affirm that Hatherop Castle is a happy and extremely successful school, where children are supported and encouraged, and meet the high aspirations staff have for them. Hatherop Castle was rated 'Excellent' in all nine categories.

- Pupils' achievements and learning
- Curricular and extra-curricular provision
- Teaching
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils
- Pastoral care
- Welfare, health and safety
- Boarding
- Governance
- Leadership and management



## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The school is highly successful in achieving its aims to provide a stimulating secure and safe environment with a wide-ranging curriculum that promotes learning so as to successfully prepare children for transfer to their senior school.

The quality of the pupils' achievements and learning is excellent. Pupils of all ages demonstrate excellent knowledge, skills and understanding across the curriculum in response to excellent teaching and a broad curriculum.

The school places a strong emphasis on ensuring that there is a positive and genuine family atmosphere and that every individual pupil feels cared for and valued.

High aspirations are strongly encouraged and all pupils, whatever their needs and abilities... achieve extremely well.

## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

Teachers (in EYFS) have high expectations and know the children extremely well, readily adapting activities to their interest and abilities. As a result the children are motivated and engaged in all aspects of their work.

Across Years 1 to 8, the quality of teaching is excellent with a significant proportion of the teaching being of the highest quality.

Teachers have strong subject knowledge and they teach with confidence using a range of methods that allow different learning styles to be accommodated.

Relationships between staff and pupils and amongst pupils themselves are excellent. This accounts for the warm relationships which exist between pupils.

## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT OUR PUPILS

Pupils' attitudes to learning are exemplary. They are well motivated, focused and engaged in the activities provided and display a love for learning.

Pupils' excellent progress across the year is particularly evident in the amount of work produced and in the quality of their written work. Pupils are keen to learn and their participation in lessons is excellent. Respect within the classroom is striking and pupils show a very mature approach to their learning.

Pupils have many opportunities to organise their own activities and develop leadership and organisational skills as well as specific personal interests to develop individual talents, be they musical, sporting or creative.

Pupils are confident, very socially aware and emotionally mature for their age, thereby helping to develop their self-esteem. Pupils relish opportunities for responsibility, are proud of the success of their peers and they are welcoming and courteous to visitors.



## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE EYFS

In the EYFS children are happy and confident and are willing to share and work co-operatively.

In EYFS, children thoroughly enjoy all aspects of their learning. Those very few children whose writing and numeracy skills are still emerging are quickly identified and helped to make excellent progress.

Children in EYFS are very keen to make a positive contribution and readily take on responsibility, even in the Nursery... Excellent relationships within the setting give the children the confidence to try new things and to develop their skills for the future.

There are many examples where the pupils' strong social awareness of each other's individual differences and a celebration of pupils' personal achievement takes place.



## WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BOARDING

The quality of boarding is excellent in terms of both accommodation and the provision of care.

Boarders develop confidence and flourish in a lively and safe environment where their individual welfare and wellbeing needs are identified and fully met.

Boarders are confident, articulate and well mannered. They are at their ease in boarding and show off their accommodation with pride. Relationships are friendly among boarders and with staff. They enjoy their boarding experience and talk about it with enthusiasm.

The variety of trips in the weekend programme is well conceived and particularly appreciated by the boarders. They also look forward to the lighter evenings and more frequent opportunities for playing games outside in the extensive grounds.

## HATHEROP CASTLE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Hatherop Castle is a member of the Wishford Group of independent prep schools. [www.wishford.co.uk](http://www.wishford.co.uk)