



F.A.Qs from Open Days

For prospective parents, September 2021

How many classes and children do you have?

- We have seven classes in the school - one per year group - with a maximum of 30 children in each class.
- Every class has at least one teacher and teaching assistant, though some classes have more support depending on the needs of the children in that class.

What sorts of clubs do you run?

- We offer a variety of clubs before and after school, and at lunchtimes.
- These vary but typically include karate, dance, choir, sports, Lego, gardening, cookery, art and others. We often change the clubs we offer in response to what children ask for.
- We run seasonal sports clubs such as cross-country, football, tennis, cricket, hockey and netball, which lead into teams who compete across Dorking or at county level. We are especially well known for our success in gymnastics.
- Most clubs are free of charge, unless run by an external company (such as karate.)

Do you have any school pets?

- We have school chickens and our PAT (Pets As Therapy) reading dog who loves having books read to him!

Do you teach swimming or cycling?

- We make use of the swimming pool in the secondary school next door to ensure all children learn to swim.
- We teach cycling using balanceability in the Early Years, and then courses run by cycling proficiency instructors in years 2, 4 and 6.

Which languages do you teach?

- Children at Powell learn French from Year 2 onwards (the National Curriculum only requires children to learn a language from Year 3 onwards, but we like to get ahead!)

Which secondary school do children from Powell go to?

- Each year, around half of our children go to The Ashcombe and half to The Priory - both excellent secondary schools in Dorking.

- In addition, we usually have a number of children each year going to local private schools such as Manor House, Reigate Grammar or Box Hill, and have been successful in securing scholarships for children, which we've helped to prepare them for.

What trips and experiences do the children do?

- Typically children can look forward to a trip or experience (such as a visiting workshop) each term linked to their learning. These vary greatly, depending on what is available and most relevant to the topics being studied.
- We offer two residential trips - a short one (1 night) in Year 5 and a longer one (4 nights) in Year 6. Children in Year 6 go to an outdoor pursuits centre where they take part in a variety of adventurous activities.
- We take children every year to the Surrey Young Citizens Event where they learn life skills and first aid.
- Each term the FOPCS fund a theatre production for all children, which usually takes place in our school hall from a touring theatre company - these are always hugely popular!

How do you cater for children with additional needs?

- Our Inclusion Leader, Helen Harber, coordinates provision for all children with additional needs. We offer a range of provisions, details of which can be found on the inclusion section of our website. If your child has additional needs, you are most welcome to ring and speak to Helen about how they can be met at Powell.

How do you cater for more able children?

- Our teachers adapt lessons to pitch the challenge appropriately for children at different levels in their class, and introduce more challenge when needed.
- We also take part in a 'Gifted and Talented' programme with other Dorking schools which provides enrichment activities (often led by local secondary schools) for children with a particular strength in specific areas.

Why are you called 'Powell Corderoy'?

- Someone *always* asks this at Open Days! We're named after the two founders of the school - Thomas Powell and Edith Corderoy. You can read about these two inspirational people in our school history book, written and researched by our staff and children!

Do you still do the Summer Festival?

- For anyone who came to Powell as a child, this is the *only* question that really matters... and the answer is yes! We even did a socially distanced, virtual Summer Festival during lockdown. Over 150 years of tradition can't be defeated!