



Established 1896

EASTCOURT

Independent School



PROSPECTUS

Eastcourt Independent School

The school was founded by the Misses Q.M. and C.E.Knight in 1896. It was then known as The London College, the tuition concentrating on “reading, writing and arithmetic”, with the Classics providing the curriculum’s diversity.

The school’s aim was to educate future ladies and gentlemen for Victorian society by preparation for the country’s leading educational establishments. Indeed, the colours of the school uniform - dark blue, light blue, red - alluded to Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities respectively.

In 1945 Mrs A.B.Allen became headteacher on the death of one of the founding sisters, Mrs Q.M.Court (née Knight). It was in her honour, together with the school’s Eastwood Road location, that the school’s present name was derived.



Mr and Mrs F.H.Dunmore became Principals in 1949 until 1962, when Mr and Mrs E.Heath succeeded them as Headteachers. As postwar society changed the school’s aim remained - to prepare pupils for Grammar or Public School entry.

The present owner, Christine Redgrave B.Sc. (Hons), Dip.Ed., M.Ed., became Headmistress in 1986. During the past century the school, which is still on the same site, has undergone extensive expansion and modernisation. The Goodmayes/Seven Kings locality may well have changed from the leafy garden suburb of 1896 to the vibrant urban sprawl of today, but the school’s intention remains the same, to realise the full potential of every one of its pupils.



Eastcourt Independent School is a private day school for boys and girls from 3-11 years old. It has no religious affiliation - we value parents and pupils of all faiths and none.

It is my intention that our school aims to work with parents to help children grow into caring, well-educated individuals who have a good understanding and strong commitment to develop

- *personal qualities that help the society in which we live*
- *an appreciation of others, and*
- *tolerance and compassion to build a positive future.*

Mrs C.Redgrave, Headteacher, 2011



Dear Parents,

Choosing the right school for your child is never easy.

Looking through this prospectus will give you an idea of the facilities we have and the range of opportunities we offer the pupils.

The results sheets will provide you with the facts to judge our academic standards, but choosing a school involves far more than studying the printed word.

Eastcourt is a happy school. Our aim is to produce well-educated, caring, well-mannered individuals. We are known locally for high academic standards but pride ourselves that we offer far more by bringing out and developing the whole person.

Seeing the school on an ordinary working day will enable you to judge us more accurately. If you would like to find out more about Eastcourt please telephone to make an appointment to meet me personally.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Yours sincerely,



Dressed up to travel to the stars! Stepping Stones are astronauts today.

STEPPING STONES

'Stepping Stones' is the name we give to the group of children who come to us to begin their learning.

These three year olds come for one session each day (morning or afternoon).

They look as if they're playing, but in fact their activities are supervised and both teacher-led and child-initiated.

Here they paint pictures, build buildings, do jigsaws, and play let's pretend games.

They are learning to concentrate and work with others. There's a lot of talk and (perhaps even more important) a lot of listening.

Many of the skills they'll need in future years are begun here: the first books, the first practical maths activities.

They soon find out that learning does not begin and end at school: there are things to do and games to play at home as well.

It's an early start to school life, but a valuable one!



RECEPTION

Working together, and following on from the curriculum of Stepping Stones and other nurseries, are our two Reception classes.

It's a full school day. We continue to write and read. Although there is much movement, there are quieter times in class where we sit on the carpet for a more focused activity.

There is emphasis on learning the alphabet phonetically, and we teach our children to form their letters correctly. They hear all sorts of stories and talk about them, too.

Using bricks, blocks and shapes of all sorts, we begin to add and subtract as well as tackle topics such as shape, space and measurement.

There are mental games, and plenty of activities to take home and enjoy with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of the world.

We focus on different topics, including history and geography, and link them with science subjects such as "Myself", "The Seasons", "The Farm", and "Growing".



*Is this where Elmer the Elephant lives?
The Library is where Reception children find out.*

YEAR ONE

This is the middle year of what is often known as “Infant School”. The first textbooks make their appearance: we are well on our way in teaching the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic.

We teach phonics - learning the sounds of letters and letter groups to aid reading and spelling. In this year we hear readers every day, though by now the better ones need less regular attention.

The children progress from looking at and understanding pictures to the decoding of printed text to answer simple questions. Our reading scheme provides plenty of scope for this, as well as the chance to begin writing our own stories.

In Maths we move on from simple counting to the concepts of place value, decomposition, carrying, and simple multiplication.

The other subjects help to accustom the children to using the skills they've learnt in English and Maths. They are beginning to take an interest in the wider world and to ask “when” and “where” questions.

They're becoming used to performing seasonal shows on stage. Talent begins to show through, from football to art or craft.

But the most important task is to pass them on to Year Two (“Top Infants”) with a sound understanding of the basics.



Year 1 pack a case of suitable holiday-wear as Barnaby goes on his travels.

YEAR TWO

The key word in this year is “independence”. As we build and consolidate on their schooling so far, we realise that many Year Two children no longer want teacher intervention at every task or level. With care and supervision, we encourage self reliance and self discipline.

The children are guided from daily heard reading to becoming independent readers responsible for choosing their own books from set lists to read at home each night. They keep track of this in their own record book.

During both Maths and English lessons we encourage the children to express their ideas orally to become confident speakers, and to help with clarity and ordering of thought.

They take their first steps in the all important Reasoning. It's a long way ahead, but this is a deliberately early introduction to the Selection Tests set by the two Redbridge Grammar Schools. Many Eastcourt pupils will sit these Reasoning Tests four years from now.

In practical Science lessons they ask “What will happen?”, “What happened?”, and “Why?” - the basis for real scientific enquiry. The classroom computer is popular, and lessons are taught in the IT Room by a specialist teacher. Artwork grows more complex and displays more elaborate!

Now they are ready for the change from infants to juniors.



About to launch the parachute. Teamwork is essential if Year 2 are to get it in the air.



Weighing up the options in the maths lesson – Year 3 spill not a drop.

YEAR THREE

Year Three marks a change for pupils at Eastcourt. They are now “juniors” and can show independence and responsibility. The big three subjects of the National Curriculum remain in place, but now History and Geography join them for marks and end-of-year exams.

Exciting new subjects make their entry! The French teacher introduces them to their first foreign language; and qualified Sports Staff are now in charge of their Games lessons, which now feature

separate provision for football, cricket, athletics, rounders, and netball. In fine weather, the children enjoy the grassy expanses of the nearby park for this.

At the end of the year, pupils’ marks in the five main subjects are totalled, and their position in class reported to parents.

Topic work supplements the basics; children now find out information for themselves. They may use class or school libraries or, failing that, look things up at home on the internet. Always they are encouraged to sift the information they really want from the mass of data available. It’s a difficult job, but they are juniors now!



YEAR FOUR

All the main strands of Eastcourt school life are now in place. Class teacher-led lessons are supplemented by specialist teachers who take classes in their own rooms; homework is regularly set and communication with parents is frequent and valuable.

English and Maths are becoming more demanding. In English children are taught to write for different types of reader – some write and decorate stories for the Reception Class children. In Maths children learn to acquire and understand data, presenting it in various ways: tables, charts, diagrams.

Many pupils now have their own encyclopedias in CD ROM form at home, and they download information and pictures to help their research. On the internet, we find that many sites are designed with primary school activities in mind.

In Year Four Science we study materials; we also look inside and outside the human body, from skeletons to an Art topic on “The Face”.

History takes us back to the Tudors, whether dissolving monasteries or singeing the King of Spain’s beard! Hampton Court is an obvious and popular visit. Our Music teacher plays some lute music, while Henry’s girth and Elizabeth’s teeth lead us on to “Food” another area of Year Four study!



Wealthy Year 4 Tudors discuss their menu with the cook.

YEAR FIVE

Although our main task is to consolidate and broaden the children's academic skills and abilities, in Year Five we must look ahead to life after Eastcourt! By now we know the potential of each child and can suggest what type of school is best for them. Some will go to the Grammar Schools, others to Public Schools; some will sit many exams, others none at all. Year Five is about preparation.

Pupils concentrate on the techniques needed for Selection Tests to grammar school and other formal exams. They become used to exam conditions: how to work to instructions in a formal manner and under pressure of time.

However, Year Five is not all about tests, and we continue to cover Maths and Language ever more deeply, and topic subjects ever more widely. Art, Drama and Games begin to yield children of genuine talent who will represent both Eastcourt and Redbride in games and swimming teams, and who shine in Arts and Music Festivals.

From the flow of rivers in geography to the flow of electricity in Science, via the mummies and hieroglyphs of Ancient Egypt, Year Five broadens the mind considerably!



*Think information – access information – record information.
Year 5 share the ICT work.*



YEAR SIX

Our final year is dominated by the search for the right secondary school.

In the first term, we focus on exam practice and interview technique. Now it's serious: practice scores matter, as they are included in reports to secondary schools. Even those few pupils not taking exams need to impress: they must be ready to undertake Year Seven work when the time comes.



Collage and clay, paint and plasticine – Year 6 tackle tigerish tasks today!

As early as November, the testing season starts. Children must be on top form in a gruelling series of exams and interviews, eleven-plus tests and public school entrance papers. But they have been well prepared all through their time at Eastcourt - these children can take it! By February it is all over. Now comes the wait: the public schools results are soon in, but not until mid-March do the state schools reveal their decisions. Only then will we know our destination in September. It can be a strain: in class we begin to take the pressure off as we get ready for our own exams at the start of the summer term.

By the end of May, preparations are in hand for both the School Prizegiving and Concert in July and, finally, the traditional Leavers' Assembly, at which Year Six bids farewell after what we hope are seven of the happiest years of their lives.

MUSIC AND DRAMA AT EASTCOURT



Music and drama have for many years been an important feature of education at Eastcourt. It is part of our weekly timetable, where children are encouraged in self expression, imagination, and the disciplines of putting on a show.



Every child takes part in weekly lessons and is introduced to a range of music, from classical European to folk and ethnic. A junior choir is chosen by audition to lead the school on formal occasions, and to represent us in local events or competitions.

A number of children learn to play musical instruments and regularly tell the assembled school of their achievements.

Drama lessons help build confidence. Classes link with classroom themes, exploring stories and situations familiar to the children. Again, a number of pupils take part in extra groups, such as the popular Dance Troupe, to develop their talents further.

The children take their turn to shine on stage throughout the year, from the simple and colourful seasonal assemblies put on by smaller children, to the rumbustious song-and-dance with which the Year 6 children bid goodbye on their last day!



But before that, it is the turn of the whole school to contribute to our magnificent end-of-year Concerts, which form a spectacular part of our Infant and Junior Annual Prizegiving evenings in July.

Eastcourt is fortunate to be able to call on the skills of specialist Music and Drama teachers, whose lessons are hugely enjoyed by everyone - an important counterpart in our curriculum to classroom learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES



At Eastcourt sport is recognised as being central to a child's education – not only from the point of view of health and fitness, but also as a training for teamwork, respect for others, and a proper understanding of social and self-regulation. The quest for success and excellence is part of this, but the ability to make the best of ordinary talent is also important, and enjoyment of physical activity is something we seek to develop in everyone. PE is part of the Eastcourt curriculum at all levels.

During the Infant years emphasis is placed on co-ordination, agility and teamwork, with floor and apparatus exercises in the school Hall and ball games in the playground and in the local park.

All children take part in formal games lessons from the age of seven. A wide range of activities, team and individual, is available to our pupils.



Sports currently taught include athletics, rounders, Kwik Cricket, netball and football. Those with flair and aptitude may represent the school in local competitions, and play matches against other schools.

Additionally, there are a variety of after-school clubs which provide opportunities for pupils to pursue particular interests, and children are encouraged to be active in their spare time.

Parents are welcome to support sporting occasions: inter-school matches and rallies take place throughout the year, and the summer School Sports Day provides an enjoyable and successful reflection of school life at Eastcourt.



Registration and Admission

Early registration is recommended to be sure of consideration for a part time place at 3+. Screenings for full time entry at 4+ take place in December. There is no provision for EAL or SEN pupils at Eastcourt. All applicants are subject to an entry test. Late applications are considered if a vacancy occurs.

A 7+ examination is held in November each year.



Fees

The fees are listed on a separate sheet and are payable in two ways. The selected method of payment will be for the whole year no alterations can take place termly or monthly.

1. Payment can be made by 3.30pm on the first Friday of each term by cash/cheque into the School Office. (Penalties are incurred for late payment).
2. We can arrange Direct Debit to operate from September to June (10 equal instalments).

Parents will be asked to pay bank charges caused by cheque irregularities.

Fees for clubs, school milk, etc., are paid separately.



School Hours

These are from 8.45am to 3.30pm for full time pupils. Children should arrive at school no more than 15 minutes before school begins, and (except in the case of clubs or activities) are expected to be collected no later than 3.45pm.

A decorative diamond separator consisting of a blue horizontal line with a purple diamond in the center.

Reports, Examinations, Parents Days

A detailed written report is sent to parents at the end of the Summer Term, which remains in the pupil's folder throughout the Eastcourt years, and becomes personal property on leaving the school.

Internal examinations in English and Maths are held each half term, the papers being taken home for inspection and further practice during holidays. A fuller examination in all subjects is sat in May. Results appear on junior reports only.

An Open Day is held each winter during which all parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the teacher, and a second more informal opportunity is offered in the Spring. There are two Evening meetings in the Summer Term: for Year Two parents, for the transfer to junior school, and Year Five parents, for transfer to secondary education. Open Mornings are held in November and March for prospective parents.



A copy of the School Rules is available for inspection in the office during school hours, as are all school policies. These cover Behaviour, Equal Opportunities, Complaints, Bullying, Child Protection, Educational Visits, Admissions, Health and Safety, Disability, Emergency, Sex and Relationship Education, and Recruitment and Selection. Also available is information on the number of complaints received in the last 12 months.

Attendance, Absence

Parents agree to abide by the beginning and end of term dates which are always issued well in advance. Please note that the school does not grant any leave of absence for family holidays.

Absence in the case of illness should be notified in writing, and if the period is more than three days a Doctor's Certificate may be required. The Headmistress reports unnecessary or frequent absences to the Local Education Authority.



Children should be provided with a nutritionally sensible packed lunch each day, to be brought to school in a lunchbox. Fizzy drinks are not permitted, nor are sweets and crisps encouraged.

Alternatively they can take part in our healthy lunchbox scheme. This involves them bringing an empty lunchbox to school each day. There are weekly menus which show the choices on offer, including a 'hot option'. Lunchboxes are filled by our catering team. Costs are calculated each half term.

Parents may choose to order daily milk for their children, to drink mid morning.



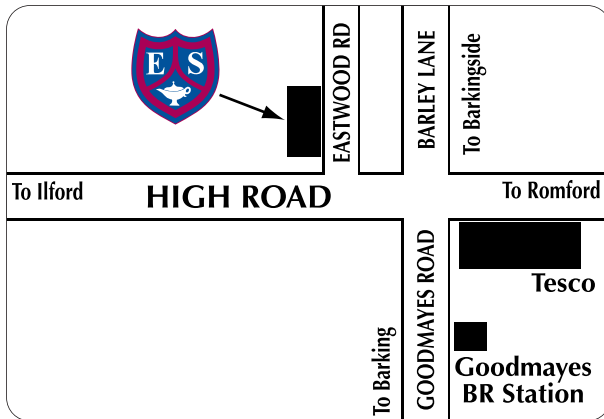
The School's road markings should be observed. It is troublesome to our neighbours if cars are parked across driveways in Eastwood Road, and dangerous if the area in front of the School is used for however brief a period.



We currently have a Summer Uniform, a Winter Uniform and a Games Kit, which each pupil must have and take care of. Items should be marked clearly with the owner's name. An outfitters from whom uniform can be bought makes several visits to the school, generally from 3pm on Mondays. Correct uniform must be worn at school, and while travelling to and from school.



The first point of contact at Eastcourt is the School Administration Officer, who is available in person during school hours to answer queries of all kinds from any parent. The school telephone number is 0208 590 5472, and the out-of-hours number, including weekends and holidays, is the same.



The nearest mainline train station is Goodmayes (5 minutes walk), the 86 bus runs from Stratford to Romford (alight 3 minutes from school) and the 387 down Barley Lane (alight 5 minutes from school)

EASTCOURT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

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