



FRANCIS HOLLAND
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

INFORMATION 2025/26



WELCOME

Francis Holland Preparatory School is a leading, two-form entry London Prep School for girls aged 4-11. Part of Francis Holland Trust, with sister schools, Francis Holland, Sloane Square, founded in 1881, and Francis Holland, Regent's Park, founded in 1878, the school has an unrivalled reputation for the academic teaching and pastoral care of girls.

The Prep moved to its current site, a 20,000 sq ft Grade II listed Victorian building on Manresa Road, just off the King's Road, in September 2024. The building, which dates back to 1890, combines heritage with modern learning spaces. The wealth of impressive facilities includes the old Chelsea library, a spacious School Hall with staging, a specialist STEAM facility and an extensive outdoor play area.

Francis Holland Prep provides a warm environment where pupils thrive on exciting, rigorous and ambitious learning from inspiring teachers. Our broad and balanced curriculum is complemented by a wealth of sporting, dramatic, musical and artistic opportunities.

OUR VALUES

In keeping with our Christian foundation, we value love, humility, compassion, courage, hope and thankfulness.

OUR VISION

Shaped by our values, we provide:

An inspiring education in a warm, welcoming community where pupils feel truly known, and girls are encouraged to be brave, unearth their natural curiosity, solve problems creatively and develop a lifelong love of learning.

OUR AIMS

We achieve our vision by fostering:

- a love of learning and enquiry
- the curiosity to discover and uncover
- a sense of fun and creativity
- the development of an ever-growing imagination
- respect for others in a friendly, supportive and caring atmosphere
- the ability to reflect on the outside world with empathy
- the development of teamwork, leadership and communication skills
- the courage to be brave, have a go, persevere and succeed.

OUR MOTTO

May our daughters become the cornerstones of the temple
(Psalm 144:12)

CURRICULUM

At Francis Holland Prep, we aim to foster a lifelong love of learning and our girls are taught a broad and balanced curriculum. Our dedicated and experienced teachers ensure continuity within and across Key Stages encouraging curiosity and critical thinking.

The following subjects are taught in the Prep School: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Latin, Music, Art, Physical Education, Religious Education, PSHE, Friendology, Drama and Ballet.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception), the curriculum centres around the seven areas of learning and development, which enables us to to stretch and challenge our pupils to a level beyond the EYFS expectation. The seven areas of learning and development are: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Maths, Literacy, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) English and Maths build on the knowledge acquired in the Early Years. Am emphasis is placed on developing confidence as puils are introduced to different question styles (including problem solving and reasoning) in Maths, deepening their understanding, in addition to extending vocabulary and fluency in reading in English. The practical, hands-on approach to learning Science encourages pupils to discover more about the natural and physical world. The girls study the following Humanities subjects: Geography, History and Religious Education, which are taught by a combination of classroom lessons, trips, workshops and visiting speakers.

At Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6), we aim to grow the girls’ love of English Literature and reading for pleasure. Maths is taught with a strong sense of challenge, in the form of problem solving and reasoning tasks, which allows the girls to apply their skills and show a real depth of knowledge. In Science lessons, pupils enjoy developing the skills needed to carry out practical investigations with great care and precision whilst still having plenty of fun in the process. In addition to Humanities, from Year 3, the girls study French or Spanish, taught by specialist teachers within the school timetable.

Core subjects taught within the Prep School follow National Curriculum guidelines but they are taught beyond the year group levels required by the National Curriculum as many areas of the curriculum are supplemented and enhanced.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Reception and Key Stage 1

8:00	Doors Open
8:15	Form time / Registration
8:30	Assembly
9:00	Lesson 1
9:30	Lesson 2
10:00	Break
10:30	Lesson 3
11:00	Lesson 4
11:30	Lesson 5
12:00	Lunch
12:25	Break / Clubs
12:50	Registration
13:00	Lesson 6
13:30	Lesson 7
14:00	Lesson 8
14:30	Lesson 9
15:00	Lesson 10
15:25	End of the school day

Key Stage 2

8:00	Doors Open
8:15	Form time / Registration
8:30	Assembly
9:00	Lesson 1
9:30	Lesson 2
10:00	Lesson 3
10:30	Break
11:00	Lesson 4
11:30	Lesson 5
12:00	Lesson 6
12:30	Lunch
12:55	Break / Clubs
13:20	Registration
13:30	Lesson 7
14:00	Lesson 8
14:30	Lesson 9
15:00	Lesson 10
15:40	End of the school day



PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

In our supportive community, we recognise and nurture the unique qualities of every girl whilst promoting the values of kindness, respect, and care for one another and the world around us. Francis Holland Prep cultivates a cheerful, supportive atmosphere where girls are encouraged to embrace a growth mindset, fostering a spirit of adventure, sense of curiosity and confidence.

Every girl at Francis Holland is seen and heard, supported by our close-knit structure as a two-form entry school, with dedicated Teachers and Teaching Assistants for each class. Our Class Teachers play a pivotal role in overseeing academic progress as well as pastoral and social needs.

Francis Holland Prep’s counselling team ‘ContemPlace’ caters for the needs of our pupils and is based in our Wellbeing Room, a tranquil and comforting environment. A crucial member of the team is Kanga, our Hungarian Vizsla therapy dog. She is very popular, particularly with our younger girls, and keenly offers the comfort and warmth of physical touch which is universally soothing.

Complementing this dedicated team are our Subject Specialist Teachers, actively engaged in monitoring and supporting individual progress. Our Head, Mrs Dixon, and Senior Deputy Head, Miss Smith, are available during the day and their doors are always open. Moreover, there is first aid provision at all times to provide immediate care for any bumps and bruises. The School Nurse is available three days a week and offers invaluable advice and care. Fundamentally, the girls know they have access to caring adults for a chat or help at any time.



HOUSES

The school is divided vertically into Houses named after famous women: Ashcroft, Fonteyn, Franklin and Woolf. Girls are allocated a House when they join in Reception, with siblings always put the same house.

Throughout the year the girls participate in a variety of House events which include: the House Quiz, Spelling Bee, Singing Competitions, Sports Day, Netball and Swimming Galas, encouraging teamwork, healthy competition and vertical integration between all the year groups. Year 5 and 6 girls develop leadership skills and a level of responsibility as they take on the roles of House Captains.

BUDDIES SYSTEM

At the beginning of the academic year, a pair of Year 6 girls are buddied with a pair of Reception girls. Over the course of this important time for both year groups, girls meet to read, play board games and do puzzles, sharing their learning and work. The buddies system is a valuable, positive force for all. Reception girls have the comfort of friendly faces who can show them around the School and for the Year 6s, it gives them the opportunity to take on responsibility in a leadership role amongst their peers, which is an important skill in preparation for Senior School.

FRIENDOLOGY

Francis Holland has recently adopted ‘Friendology’ lessons in partnership with UR STRONG. Friendology’s progressive learning model teaches pupils how to make friends, how to handle common friendship issues and how to surround themselves with healthy, feel-good friendships. Friendships are arguably the most important relationships to children and social skills are explicitly taught at Francis Holland to contribute to a culture of kindness, happiness and acceptance.

CO-CURRICULUM

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

At Francis Holland Prep, we believe that the development of the girls’ skills and talents outside the classroom is an important dimension of a well-rounded education. Our wonderful range of clubs are always popular and foster a curiosity for learning that extends beyond the curriculum.

There is something for everyone, ensuring that each girl has the opportunity to discover and develop her unique abilities. This personalised approach is crucial in empowering our girls, as it allows them to pursue their passions with confidence and enthusiasm. All girls are able to join various clubs and take part in co-curricular activities, including sport, performing arts, creative pursuits, puzzles and problem solving, modern foreign languages, debating, musical choirs and orchestras and STEAM.

During school time, girls may learn a musical instrument. There are usually ten lessons per term and their cost is charged, in arrears, on the school bill. Ballet is taught to all girls from Reception to Year 3, whilst girls from Year 1 to Year 6 are offered ballet exam. Speech and Drama is also popular.



CHARITIES

Central to our mission as a school is the development of compassionate and community-minded young women.

We encourage our pupils to engage in charitable work in the community to instil a drive to help, and an awareness of the needs of others. Pupils, staff, parents and the Prep School Parents’ Association work hard to raise money for a range of causes including different international charities, as well as responding to the needs of our immediate neighbourhood.

Each September, the School announces a local cause to support at the annual charity launch assembly and organises events throughout the year to raise funds. Recent chosen charities include CW+ and Bees for Refugees. We are also proud to support, along with Francis Holland, Sloane Square, two long standing local charities: In-Deep and the Katherine Low Settlement.

Charity fundraising takes many forms at Francis Holland Prep, from cake sales and parent and pupil breakfasts, enterprise fairs, to selling honey and even the Francis Holland Charity Dog Show!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

Sport at Francis Holland Prep plays an important part in the life of our school; inspiring, challenging and supporting the potential of our athletes.

Our overriding aim is for children to develop skills throughout their time in the Prep School and fondly remember positive experiences which will lead to a life-long love of sport.

We have dedicated outside space and gym facilities for all onsite lessons and fixtures can be played on the netball court at Francis Holland, Sloane Square. We use offsite facilities in Battersea Park for netball, football and athletics lessons for Years 3 – 6, and for swimming lessons we frequent Queen Mother’s Sport Centre in Victoria and Fulham Pools.

We operate a very efficient bus service to transfer girls to and from our various off-site facilities, so that minimal time is lost travelling. Sports Day is held in the Summer Term along with an Inter-House Swimming Gala.



LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

The Learning Enrichment Department provides for girls throughout the school who require some additional input to enable them to achieve their full potential. This could be in the form of supplementary support or extension activities. Our staff use professional skill and experience to identify and provide support for learning needs within the resources of the school.

Most girls follow the same programme of study but some may need additional help, or the opportunity to explore it differently. Groups of girls may work with staff in class or out of class, and the management of this is led by the needs of individual girls. There will be occasions where girls benefit from short term, targeted interventions when parents will be informed.

If we think that we need to find out more about a girl’s learning profile, and gain specialist insight into her specific needs, we will discuss this with a girl’s parents. In some cases we may recommend an external assessment possibly by an educational psychologist, speech and language therapist or an occupational therapist. This helps the school and parents plan support together.

LIFE AFTER FRANCIS HOLLAND PREP

At Francis Holland Prep we will support your family as you navigate the senior school application and assessment process in order to find the school that’s right for your daughter. Our experienced and dedicated teachers ensure the girls are prepared for the next exciting stage in their educational journey. We continue to stretch and challenge our pupils and encourage them to reach their full potential with our 18-month 11+ curriculum. Our small class sizes enable a high level of individual attention, providing the best possible preparation for 11+ entry. Your daughter will be introduced to different tests in Year 5, as well as the 11+ syllabus and interview practice.

By the time the girls leave Francis Holland Prep at the end of Year 6, they are intellectually ready and excited to embrace life in their chosen senior school.

CATERING

All food is prepared and cooked on the premises. The School is renowned for its varied and imaginative menus, seasonal local (or British) produce, free range British meat where possible, delicious vegetarian options, outstanding salad bar and fresh bakery. The weekly menu is displayed on the School website and girls are welcome to give their opinions and suggestions about food. Themed and topical menus feature regularly and the school cookies are legendary. The girls are encouraged to bring a morning snack of suitable size. We suggest a piece of fresh fruit or some crudité’s and a bottle of water.

ENTRANCE PROCEDURES 4+

For entry at 4+, we suggest that you contact us when your daughter is approaching two years of age. We will then invite you to come to one of our Open Mornings where you will have an opportunity to see the School and meet the Head, Mrs Dixon. School visits must be completed before assessments, which take place during the January prior to proposed entry in the Autumn Term.

The 4+ assessment includes meeting and playing with our current Year 6 pupils, reading and talking through a book chosen by our Prep School teachers and also giving your daughter the opportunity to talk about her own object of choice from home for ‘show and tell’. The assessment will last a couple of hours and is arranged specifically to your daughter’s date of birth. Shortly after your daughter has been assessed, you will be advised whether we are able to offer her a place.

Candidates for 4+ entry in September 2026 must be registered by 5th November 2025 ahead of assessments held in January 2026.

Occasional places for other year groups are assessed in February 2026. The assessment includes tasks which are compatible with work that is being done in her year group at Francis Holland Prep. She will also have the opportunity to spend time in that class.

Candidates for Years 1-6 entry in September 2026 must be registered by 26th January 2026 ahead of assessments held in February 2026.

4+ OPEN MORNINGS

These sessions include a pupil-guided tour of the School and an opportunity to speak to the Head of the Prep School, Mrs. Dixon, and other Prep School staff. Booking is required.

Dates of Autumn Term 2025 Open Mornings: Tuesday 23rd September and Wednesday 15th October from 8.45am.

To reserve a place, please book online through our [website](http://www.francishollandprep.org.uk/admissions) (www.francishollandprep.org.uk/admissions)

FHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Old Girls’ Society has existed for over 100 years as a vibrant and supportive alumni community. All those who have attended Francis Holland, whether staff, pupils or parents of former pupils, are members.

When you pay your daughter’s fee deposit, £150 is for her life-time membership of the Old Girls’ Association. After she leaves school, she will be invited to social events at School via our [online alumni network](http://online.alumni.network) (alumni.fhs-sw1.org.uk) and sent regular news updates.

There is an annual general meeting and reunion around the time of the School Birthday in March and a series of other networking and social events for alumni of all ages. Many alumni become Careers Champions, supporting our Sixth Formers and young alumni in their university and career choices.

PARENTS OF FRANCIS HOLLAND PREP

The Parents’ Association or the Prep School represents all parents and staff at Francis Holland Preparatory School. Every new parent automatically becomes a member when their daughter joins Francis Holland Prep and their active participation in the school community is encouraged and warmly welcomed.

Parents can participate in numerous ways from volunteering to organise or help at an event to serving on the Committee. Getting involved is a great way to meet other parents and to get to know Francis Holland better whilst making a valuable contribution to your daughter’s future. More information can be found here: [Prep School Parents’ Association](#).



FEES

REGISTRATION FEE (Including. VAT)

UK Residents	£180
Overseas Residents	£240
Fee Deposit (£3,000 returned on final school bill) and Francis Holland Old Girls’ Life Subscription £150	£3,150

SCHOOL FEES PER TERM 2025-2026 (REVIEWED ANNUALLY)

(Including VAT; Books and Personal Accident insurance)

Reception to Year 4	£9,600
Year 5 to 6	£10, 524
Withdrawal Without Due Notice Fees	£9,600/£10,524

SAMPLE OF FEES FOR EXTRA SUBJECTS PER TERM

(Full List Is Available From School Office)

Music – Instrumental, Singing, Theory	
Individual	£305
Group of Two	£200
Dance – Ballet - Group Lessons.....	£170
Dance – Ballet - Individual Lessons.....	£400
Chess	£115
Pottery	£135
Speech and Drama	
Individual	£210
Group	£105

OTHER OPTIONAL CHARGES PER TERM

(As At September 2024)

School Bills are due for settlement before the start of the term. Fees must be paid by direct debit. New joiners will be sent a direct debit form as part of the admission process. Please contact directdebits@fhst.org.uk for further information.

Fees for Extra Subjects and all other Extras are billed in arrears (thus when a pupil leaves there will be one further bill in respect of Extras for the final term). Extra Subjects may be started only at the beginning of term, and given up only at the end of term. At least half a term’s notice to terminate an Extra Subject must be given in writing to the Head; in default of such notice, a term’s fee is payable.

School Fees and the premiums under the School Fee Refund and AXA PPP Healthcare are payable in advance. Please inform the Bursary BEFORE the first day of term if you wish to withdraw your daughter from these schemes.

A full term’s notice of the intention to withdraw a pupil must be given in writing to the Head; in default of such notice the Withdrawal Without Due Notice fee is payable.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL?

By moving to the new site, Francis Holland Prep becomes a two-form entry school. This enables us to further strengthen the award-winning FHS education we provide, both academically and pastorally, as well as offering greater opportunities for sport, music and other co-curricular activities. By planning for class sizes of 20, our pupils will receive a high level of individual attention and we will continue to offer the nurturing and friendly environment for which Francis Holland is renowned.

HOW MUCH MORE SPACE DOES FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL HAVE?

The new location offers approximately 20,000 sq ft of dedicated space which is more than double the space previously available at the old Junior School site at Sloane Square.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND FRANCIS HOLLAND, SLOANE SQUARE?

Francis Holland Prep maintains its close relationship with Francis Holland, Sloane Square, with specialist staff teaching in both schools. It is a privilege for a Prep School to have such a close relationship with a Senior School of shared ethos. Furthermore, Alexandra Haydon, Head of Francis Holland, Sloane Square, continues to have overall responsibility for the Prep School and plays a significant role in ensuring links with the Senior School continue.

IS THERE TRANSPORT BETWEEN FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND FRANCIS HOLLAND, SLOANE SQUARE SENIOR SCHOOL?

There is a daily minibus service which runs between the two schools. This may be particularly helpful if your daughter has a sibling at Francis Holland, Sloane Square.

IS THERE WRAPAROUND CARE TO SUPPORT PARENTS?

We offer a breakfast club before school which runs from 7.30am.

WHERE DO PUPILS ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES?

Francis Holland Prep has some Church services at St Luke's Church on Sydney Street, a 5-minute walk from Manresa Road.

WHICH SENIOR SCHOOLS DOES FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL PREPARE MY DAUGHTER FOR AT 11+?

Francis Holland Prep provides an outstanding platform for entry to all leading senior schools (day and boarding). This includes Francis Holland, Sloane Square and our sister school at Francis Holland, Regent's Park.

For any further questions, please contact registrar@francishollandprep.org.uk



HOW TO FIND US

Francis Holland Preparatory School is located in the heart of Chelsea, just off the King's Road. The Victorian Grade II listed building is at 15 Manresa Road, SW3 6NB and was formerly the old Chelsea library.

BY TUBE

Approximately 12 minutes' walk from South Kensington tube station, which is on the District, Circle and Picadilly lines.

BY BUS

Easily accessible via bus routes from all parts of London. Bus routes 11, 22, 170, 319 and 328 pass along the Kings' Road.

BY ROAD

Manresa Road is a two-way street and can be approached from either the King's Road or Fulham Road, via Doverhouse Street and Chester Square. Unfortunately we do not have the facility for on-site parking but the neighbouring roads provide both residents' and non-residents' parking bays.

ON FOOT FROM SLOANE SQUARE

Approximately 15 minutes' walk along the King's Road, passing Chelsea Town Hall and turning right on to Manresa Road.



*A Lifelong Love
of Learning*



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020 7352 7077

registrar@francishollandprep.org.uk

www.francishollandprep.org.uk