

Your Journey Awaits!



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Written by

Leicester Grammar Junior School

Children, staff and parents have helped to put together our school prospectus. You will see our children in action, making happy progress through busy days of learning and growing. You will read about our school values and how they bring our school family together.

We love our school and look forward to welcoming you at one of our Open Morning events where you will be able to experience for yourselves what makes it special.

This prospectus will take you and your child on a storybook journey from the very first days in our Kindergarten, right through to becoming a school leader in Year 6.

Welcome to Leicester Grammar Junior School.

Let's begin our journey



An introduction

Heritage, tradition and a bright future

Founded in 1992, Leicester Grammar Junior School moved on to the purpose-built site in Great Glen in 2008. Our formula for success is steeped in academic tradition and is wrapped up in outstanding pastoral care. To love learning for a whole lifetime is our mission for each of our pupils and their all-round wellness and self belief is at our heart.

Nestled within the Leicester Grammar School campus and surrounded by fields and farmland, it is hard to believe that we are so close to the city. With direct access from parking to playground, our parents find it easy dropping off and collecting their child every day.

Leicester Grammar School facilities are second-to-none. Academic subjects are enhanced by science laboratories, art studio and a truly magical library, just for Juniors. Extra-curricular activities and interests catered for on site too. A 25metre indoor swimming pool, dance studio, drama theatre, Astroturf and acres of sports fields mean that taking up everything from Indian dancing, cricket or cheerleading is child's play!





"LGJS staff are wonderful and completely dedicated to pupils' well-being; my children have thrived during their time here in their care."

Getting to know us

Working at Leicester Grammar Junior School is a privilege and a pleasure. We attract and retain excellent practitioners who demonstrate care and passion for the first years in school along with an understanding of working with bright children.

The teaching and learning team at LGJS are proud to model the best in classroom practice, even when that classroom is in our Forest School, on the climbing frame or at the pavilion. With high aspirations for each child, we provide opportunities for every one of them to shine. Superb staff to child ratios exist across our school with groups and ability sets enabling optimum progress in reading, writing and maths. Working beyond national expectations, many of our children enjoy extension activities enabling them to reach their potential.

We hold regular sessions for parents to work with us in supporting children on their journey through Junior School. Parents Evenings – online and in person – take place twice a year along with additional detailed written reports. The personal touch is vital during this phase and, by arrangement, staff are available to meet to discuss any aspect of your child's progress.







A school full of heart

A handful of values

Everyone in our school abides by our school values: teachers, parents, children and visitors. Everyone is treated fairly and feels safe and cherished in our setting. You will see and sense our five key values in all corners of our school.

Even our youngest pupils understand how to treat other people and to live a fulfilling life. They helped us to write our school values, after all!

We understand how fortunate we are to live and learn in such a safe setting in a beautiful part of the world. We teach children to appreciate difference and diversity by supporting local and global charities. Most importantly, they learn how each of them has the potential to make a positive impact.



Wellbeing and pastoral care

Putting your child first

There are lots of us working together at Leicester Grammar Junior School. We have special roles and responsibilities in the school, but we have one thing in common. We work to make LGJS a happy place so that the children are safe and supported to thrive. Our staff are dedicated and experienced: they care about each other, about each of our families and, most importantly, about the happiness of your child.

Making your child feel valued, secure and included is the mainstay of our approach and forms every decision we make. Skilled class teachers work with school nurses, counsellors and wellbeing leaders, making sure that individual needs are met and that children feel fulfilled and able to flourish.

With a gamut of resources at our fingertips, it is possible for every pupil to find their place of 'wellness'. For some it is in a quiet corner of the library, sharing stories. For others it might be getting lost in the music during an orchestra practice. Creating paintings in our sunny art room is a great way to express feelings. Little groups are able to share chatter in our 'Nest', snuggled in the beanbags or watering our houseplants. And many, of course, are at their most grounded charging around our school fields – the more mud, the merrier!

Everyone feels welcome at our school and 'Pupil Voice' is resounding – our young people have so much to say and there are lots of us ready and able to listen.



Leicester Grammar Junior School
Kinders is first choice

A first step

Taking the first step towards school is a big step - for parents. We make sure that our open doors provide lots of opportunities for visits to our Early Years setting so that you get a chance to meet the teachers and nursery nurses who will be caring for your child when they join.

Your child is unique so we welcome getting to know you and to be able to hear and answer the questions that you have.

Our assessment days are timetabled when your youngster is around three years old and takes place in our delightful, purpose-built Kinders rooms. I will be there to meet you on the day and our Early Years team will get to know what your child can do and learn about their interests and individual personality as they play and share stories during the session.

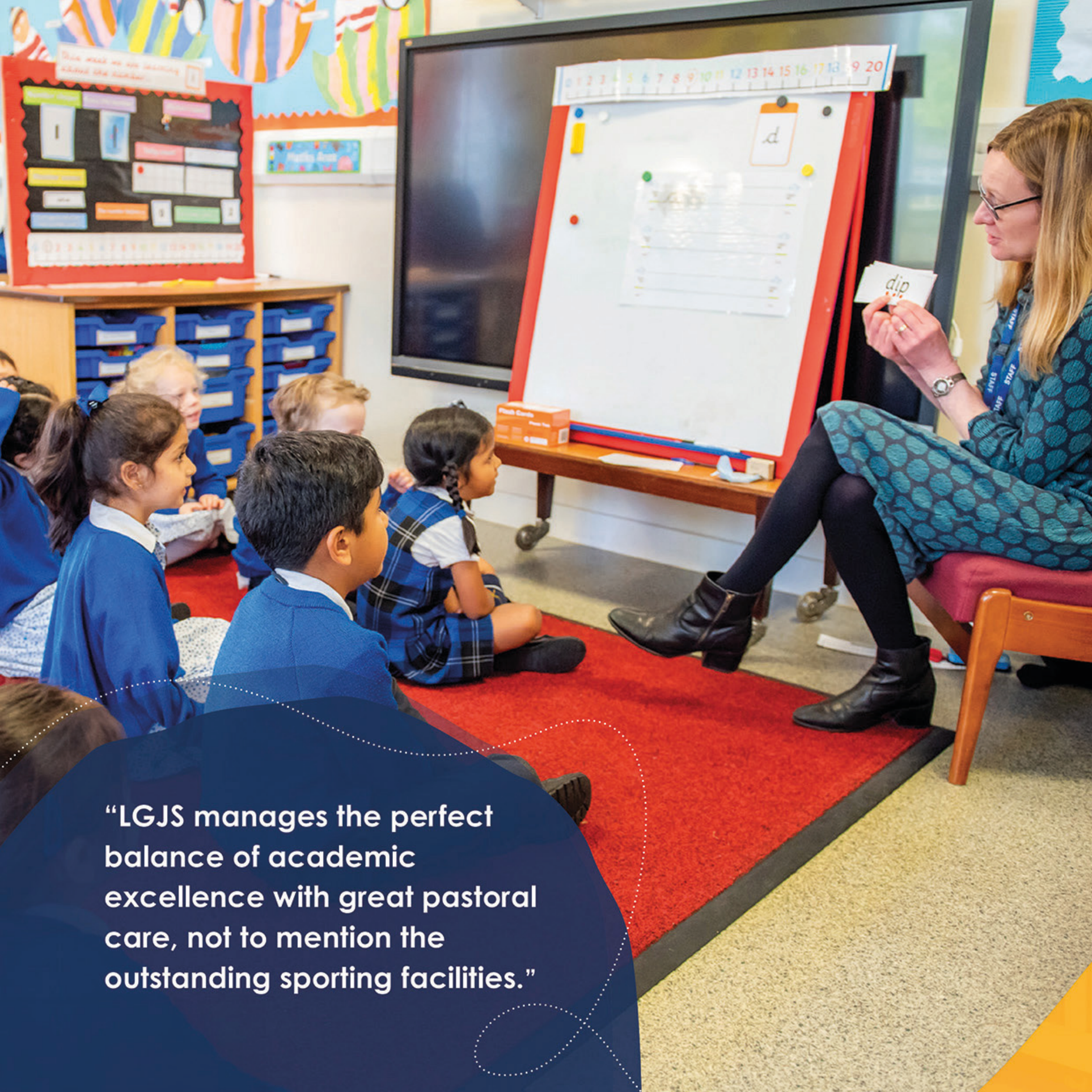
We are looking for children who show readiness for our busy school-based setting.

- Are they engaged in an activity in the sandpit?
- Can they use their imagination in the dressing up corner?
- Is their spoken language and understanding clear?

Offers are made in the spring, for children who are ready for entry in September. Some children may be offered a second assessment session for the following year, for entry into Reception.




STAFF
STAFF
STAFF
STAFF



"LGJS manages the perfect balance of academic excellence with great pastoral care, not to mention the outstanding sporting facilities."





Finding their feet

Reception classrooms are small and cosy to provide a home-from-home atmosphere for our school starters. Your child's teacher will meet you each morning and after school to hand over your child. There is always time for a quick catch-up to make sure these moments are happy and reassuring. With child-inspired topics on the tabletops, dazzling displays on the walls and beautiful hands-on resources, you will wish you could stay and join in too!

Nurturing each child's curiosity at this stage in a hands-on, purposeful approach, our expert practitioners ensure that learning is fun and exciting. The enthusiasm and wonder of Key Stage at Leicester Grammar Junior School is something impossible to miss!

Reception pupils are very much part of our whole school, participating in the rich calendar of events and school celebrations. They begin to be taught by specialist teachers, learning French and spend noisy time in the music room. Enjoying a meal every day at school is a highlight. The children have the whole dining room to themselves and, with supervision, they are encouraged to make choices about what they eat and to feed themselves independently.

Our youngest children learn about the good behaviour expected at our school. They show excellent manners and kindness, so they naturally begin to make lots of friends at the same time.

And so will you!



Years 1 and 2

Risk taking and routines

Class sizes in Years 1 and 2 are kept small, around 18. Work is constantly monitored and marked and feedback is given directly to the children so that they can easily understand what to do to next and how to improve. Groups for phonics and spellings are formed and are kept fluid to allow children to move up and across as necessary. No children are left behind in their learning, and no children are held back.

Getting used to the school routines is important, so our Teaching Assistants work across the year group to support the children. With a growth mindset and a can-do attitude, the children soon learn that trying new things and taking risks can be rewarding. When things don't work out, the staff are always on hand to help them pick themselves up and try again. Resilience and self-belief are formed in these years, and are honed across a lifetime.

Children are taught about emotional literacy through our Personal and Social Education. We spend time and great care listening to the children and we actively introduce lots of ways for them to explore their feelings and to express themselves. Emotional literacy leads to the development of high emotional intelligence which is the backbone of important human traits like empathy and compassion.


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Transition to Year 3 and 4

Finding their flow

Somewhere between challenge and comfort lies 'flow'. Moving into Year 3 is an important transition. Children learn how to navigate their timetable, organise their lockers and make it to their various clubs and activities. There is so much going on!

Our open door classrooms on the 'top corridor' demonstrate the exemplary conduct of our pupils in lessons. Promoting and maintaining a calm and productive atmosphere is vital so that children are able to concentrate on their learning and teachers are able to focus on teaching. Asking questions, problem solving and cooperation form some of the best bits during this year. Naturally, at this stage, children will be developing a sense of competition. We keep this centred around 'team' with good work and effort rewarded by House Points.

LGJS hosts a formal entrance examination at this stage for children wishing to join us from other schools. These assessments and formal interview will measure a child's ability in maths and English and will test their natural aptitude in verbal and non-verbal reasoning. A number of additional places are available, although class sizes remain small at around 21.







"I wholeheartedly recommend LGJS to anyone looking for a first-class education for their child. Both of my children have loved every minute of their time here."



Happy children making happy progress

Filling their days

After lessons finish for the day, children are given a small amount of homework and reading to complete. This gives parents the chance to see how much they are learning in school and to become a key part of their progress. When parents have long days at work, all of our pupils have the chance to stay at school until 6pm. Our younger pupils take part in creative activities, play outside and relax until they are collected. Pupils in Year 3 to 6 go to clubs and activities or attend a supervised homework session. The amount of homework increases, of course, but so does the level of independence. These self-study skills will be put into good use as they continue through school.

Sports, music and art are essential elements in a well-rounded primary education. Giving all children the occasion to try and test their talents and grow their interests beyond the curriculum is a joy to behold. Our weekly timetable is buzzing and our co-curricular and clubs programmes are burgeoning.

Leicester Grammar Junior School comes into its own as a large and flourishing community. Our junior school teachers are joined by coaches to offer a vast range of activities. There is so much on offer and so many opportunities children to get involved, we just wish were a few more days in the week!



Being a Good Sport and Being Good at Sport

Competitive sport exists alongside a 'Sport for All' philosophy. It's important that the children are fit and healthy and the key element of our sports teaching is about looking after, nourishing and exercising their body. As they grow and get stronger and more skilful, they will start to challenge themselves and perhaps their fellow athletes!

Representing themselves, their team and their school, all pupils are given the chance to play in competitions. Whether playing in the A team, the C team or a 'friendly', our inspirational, specialist sports teachers, coaches and Sports Captains are looking at effort and teamplay and the desirable traits of good sportsmanship.

- Can they work together?
- Do they make sure everyone is included?
- Are they keen to congratulate others?
- Is their attitude getting the best out of their teammates?

List the sports

All results are shared in our weekly newsletters and assemblies, and everyone shares the applause.




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"The school offers fantastic opportunities for pupils to excel in whatever areas they are good at, whilst offering support and encouragement in areas when needed."





Performing Arts and Music

We know that a musical school is a healthy school. LGJS children love to sing and raise our roof in assemblies! Music is known to positively affect mood and motivation, so at LGJS we make sure our children are surrounded by it. Music helps concentration and focus and a little bit of Mozart can help us with our maths.

All the way through our school, we relish the chance to perform. Parents will have a chance to come to our Nativity plays, choral services at the cathedral and many concerts and soirees along the way. Your child will have you tapping your feet and clapping your hands. Older pupils are actively encouraged to take up an instrument and to become a member of our various ensembles and choirs. We are exceptional in having access to a large team of inspiring experts with an orchestra-full of instruments to choose from, even though some children stick with the recorder!

Drama and public speaking are elements covered through English and as stand-alone subjects in junior school. From Kinders to Year 6, children build the confidence to speak in front of their peers and the whole school community. Whether it is debating or acting that excites them, we will find a stage big enough for their dreams.







Your child at the top of the tree

All children will have taken the LGS transfer test during the summer term of Year 5. Our pupils are well prepared and most of our pupils are offered a place with the majority of moving on to Leicester Grammar School at Year 7.

Year 6 is a chance for the pupils to really show their newest and truest colours when taking on leadership roles. Many wish to take on responsibilities in Sport or Music. Others are enthusiastic about the vibrant House system, leading by encouraging others to 'do their best'. Some are keen to organise the library and assist budding readers with their next book selection. Eco Warriors and Charity monitors lead the way with their own passions. Being a 'Playground Pal' and interacting with the youngest children is very popular, and provides a chance for our Year 6 children to get back on the little climbing frames!

National and overseas school trips and excursions are a highlight and an all-round enriching experience whether camping with the wildlife in Boughton Woods or exploring the markets in France.

Having experienced junior school life to the full, they feel ready and prepared for the next stage of their learning journey. They will take their friends with them through the double doors into senior school, but more importantly they will take a fabulous set of skills to enable them to embrace new challenges and some very special memories.





Thank you for your interest in our school

You will have a flavour of what is on offer and how your child will flourish under our roof and in our care.

A number of Open Days are published online as part of our interactive website. You will also be able to read our weekly newsletter, see our busy school calendar and catch up with the latest news about Leicester Grammar Junior School. We have a lively social media presence too.

As soon as you submit your registration details, we will be in touch to organise an individual tour of the school where you can see us 'in action'. Every day is an 'Open Doors Day' at LGJS! I meet every prospective family and I am looking forward to hearing about your child.

Entry assessments usually take place in the spring term and the specific details will be discussed with you when we meet. Like you, we are looking for all-round 'fit', and are keen to see the child's academic abilities, as well as their attitude to learning and engagement. I will personally meet all pupils during their assessment day and individual feedback will be given via letter.

Occasional places, or mid-year assessments are also possible, please do get in touch and we will do our best to help. With warmest wishes and, on behalf of our staff and children, I look forward to welcoming you in person.



Leicester Grammar Junior School,
London Road, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9FL

Tel +44 (0)116 259 1950
www.lgs-junior.org.uk

/LGS_Junior

/LeicesterGrammarJuniorSchool

/LGS_Junior