

Fyling Hall School

Aims and Ethos



A Family Community

Fyling Hall, founded in 1923, is one of the oldest recognised independent co-educational boarding and day schools in the country. It began, quite simply, with a brilliant young woman, Mab Bradley, who loved to teach, and a small boy who needed sea air and coaching. From this almost unintentional foundation the school gradually grew and by the outbreak of war there were 50 pupils enrolled. When Mab died, suddenly and unexpectedly in 1962, her daughter Clare took over the administration. Under Clare White's leadership the school flourished and expanded. In 1978 the continuity and growth of this small and unfussy school was ensured when it became a Charitable Trust.

The Board of trustees now has responsibility for the education of some 160 boys and girls aged from four to eighteen. Our full and weekly boarders come from many countries and from all over the United Kingdom. We have a large and thriving community of day pupils drawn mainly from Whitby, Scarborough and surrounding areas, many of whom travel by school coach.

No school can exist without the goodwill and support of its parents. We are fortunate in our Parent Teacher Association who arrange many social events throughout the year and donate any profits raised to help fund worthwhile school projects.

A Spectacular Setting

Visitors frequently comment on the friendly and purposeful atmosphere which pervades the whole school. Our spirit is epitomised by the relaxed and cordial staff-pupil relationships based on mutual respect, co-operation and trust. The school's small size ensures that the children are known individually to the staff and to each other. We believe that traditional values such as good manners, pride in appearance and consideration for others are best developed when the parameters are clear and the importance of self-discipline is stressed.

Overlooking the picturesque fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay, the school is spectacularly situated in forty five acres of wooded hillside on a Heritage Coast within the North York Moors National Park. The beautiful coastal and moorland countryside, which plays a key part in creating the distinctive atmosphere, is a wonderful learning resource and affords the pupils a greater degree of freedom than is normally possible elsewhere.

The buildings centre on a Grade 2 listed Georgian country house, dating from 1810, in delightfully landscaped gardens which incorporate an outdoor theatre enjoying a stunning view over the bay. The original stone buildings have been

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adapted to meet modern educational requirements while retaining a non-institutional atmosphere.

Teaching and Learning

There is no entrance examination but an interview and report from the current school are integral parts of the admission process. We accept pupils of all abilities and nationalities who want to learn and could profit from a challenging education. Class sizes are small and the low staff to pupil ratio encourages effective learning, as is evident from the impressive examination results. With such small teaching groups genuine consideration can be given to the individual needs of every child and all have the opportunity to excel. The teaching is unashamedly traditional with the aim of making learning enjoyable and rewarding. The emphasis throughout is on 'doing one's best' and the effort grades of every pupil are carefully monitored. The culture of praise and encouragement best enables all pupils to achieve their academic potential. We believe that all our pupils have the potential to excel at something if they are sufficiently committed and determined. Academic standards and expectations are high with most sixth formers being accepted by their first choice University or College.

The Sixth Form

Entry to the Sixth Form represents a major step in a pupil's development. The vast majority of those capable of coping with the demands of Advanced Level study stay on to join the Sixth Form and new entrants with good GCSE passes are also welcome. Our senior pupils have a considerable influence in setting the general tone of the school. Sixth Formers have both responsibilities and privileges and are expected to show initiative. We aim to provide a relevant preparation for University life with the library having an essential role in the development of our pupils as independent learners. Between three and four A Levels are usually chosen from the many subjects offered at AS/A2 Level.

Faith and Values

Pupils of all faiths are welcome. We do not aim to impose any special view of life. Nonetheless, a firm belief in Christian values underpins our community and provides a clear moral framework. Assemblies normally have a moral theme and are of a broadly Christian nature. Some assemblies are conducted by a Christian Minister based on a Christian theme and conclude with an opportunity for prayer or silent reflection.

Those Pupils who wish are prepared for confirmation by the vicar of St. Stephen's. Boarding pupils attend local churches once a month on a rotating basis. The annual carol service is a highlight at the end of the Autumn Term.

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Religious Education is taught up to Year 9. Those following GCSE have a weekly period of Spiritual, Moral, social and Cultural (Learning for Life).

Accreditation

The school has been accredited to the Independent Schools Association (ISA) which is affiliated to the Independent Schools Council (ISC). ISA membership is confined to schools in which prescribed conditions of efficiency are fulfilled and which reach satisfactory standards of physical welfare as well as of academic education. The school is inspected regularly by ISI.

Ethos - Building the future on the foundations of the past

Fyling Hall School is a distinctive community. It is one of the few small independent schools in the country welcoming boys and girls of all ages, abilities and nationalities. Boarding and day pupils flourish in our spectacular coastal setting. The spirit of our School is based on a belief in the following guiding principles:

- Our small, closely knit community enables us to offer a strongly supportive family atmosphere with caring at the heart of our ethos.
- We are a straightforward, unpretentious and non-institutional School in which there is a welcome absence of pettiness.
- The fundamental spirit of the School is epitomised by the quality of relationships; staff-pupil interaction is based on mutual respect, co-operation and trust.
- We believe that traditional values such as honesty, courtesy, good manners, pride in appearance, integrity and consideration for others are best developed when the parameters are clear and the importance of self-discipline is stressed.
- The beautiful coastal and moorland environment, which plays a key part in creating our special atmosphere, is an important learning resource and affords the pupils a greater degree of freedom than is normally possible elsewhere.
- For many pupils boarding is an ideal way to learn how to be sociable and develop tolerance of others, self-reliance, communal responsibility and life-long friendships
- A belief in traditional values provides us with a moral framework but there is no desire to impose any special view of life.
- We believe that all our pupils have the potential to excel at something if they are sufficiently committed. A culture of praise and encouragement in which achievement in all areas is celebrated, best enables each pupil to develop their unique abilities
- We believe that physical and social development can be promoted through competition in which pupils, working individually or as team members, can

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measure themselves fairly against others, enjoy success and be magnanimous in defeat.

- The environment at Fyling Hall manages to be stimulating but at the same time safe; structured but with a sense of fun. There can be few better preparations than this for a happy, well-adjusted and fulfilled adult life.

Quite simply, we want all of our pupils to be happy and do well. Thus, the words of our founder, Mab Bradley, remain very-relevant to us today: "The Days That Make Us Happy Make Us Wise"

Mission Statement

To provide a quality education which identifies and develops the potential of individual pupils in a variety of areas, provides them with the best achievable qualifications and prepares them to play their part in a rapidly changing world.

We aim to:

- provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- make learning enjoyable and rewarding
- develop the self-confidence of all pupils
- support, monitor and motivate pupils to reach their academic potential
- work in partnership with parents
- consider carefully what is in the best interests of each individual pupil
- encourage older pupils to become self-motivated and independent learners
- give pupils the opportunity to accept responsibility and display initiative
- treat all pupils as individuals without compromising the values of the School
- promote a respect for equal opportunities and human rights
- encourage in pupils a sense of ambition beyond School
- stimulate an awareness of the factors which promote good health
- develop a responsibility for protecting the environment for future generations
- enrich learning through a range of extra-curricular activities
- safeguard and promote the health, safety and welfare of all pupils
- promote fundamental British values

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