

# **G O W E R H O U S E S C H O O L**

**Founded 1951**



**A N U R S E R Y , P R I M A R Y  
A N D P R E P A R A T O R Y  
S C H O O L F O R B O Y S A N D G I R L S  
A G E T W O T O E L E V E N**

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Blackbird Hill  
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**Aims:** Gower House seeks to encourage children to develop at their own individual pace both academically, emotionally and socially . Academically, each pupil follows his or her own work programme designed to stimulate the highest possible achievement for that child. Emotionally, children express and develop their own individual personalities through relating to other children, art and games. Socially, children are taught that they have responsibilities to others and have a role to play in their school, at home and in their community. The school seeks to develop happy, well behaved children with enquiring minds, high academic attainment and good general knowledge.

### **CURRICULUM:**

Children in the Under Five classes work to a Qualification Curriculum and Assessment Authority's "Foundation Stage" which divides learning into the six areas of Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Creative Development. Individual records are kept for each child and reports are given to parents covering each of these six areas. Regular meetings are held to discuss progress. Full details of the Foundation stage are available from the school.

**Aged Five to Eleven,** Children largely follow the National Curriculum subjects, learning Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, some Music, Swimming, Games, Art, Design Technology and a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education. Detailed information of the curriculum is available from the Headteacher and the class teachers. All teachers have a wide range of appropriate qualifications and experience.

**Religious Education,** Gower House has no particular religious alignment. It is not a faith school. However, the school believes that children should learn moral responsibility and to respect and care for others, whatever their religion, race or culture. To support this the school celebrates the religious festivals of main religions by discussing each festival's significance to families and staff represented at school

**French,** is taught from the age of five, by games and songs to start with, but more formally in later years. Progress is monitored constantly so that each child may progress to the next stage when ready. More able children can advance more rapidly while the less able or less confident can receive extra tuition, often individually with a staff member. Children complete homework from the age of five.

**Computers,** ITC lessons are available to all children from the age of four taught by specialist teachers. Younger children use specially developed programmes to assist their reading and maths, while older children have access to the latest technology, including, Windows, Spreadsheets and the internet. Years one to four have ITC lessons as part of their weekly timetable. Other academic pressures prevent timetabled ITC lessons for years five and six, but many of these pupils take ITC as an extra subject when they complete part of a nationally recognised QCA adult qualification.

**Music,** Children take part in class singing with percussion for younger children. Individual music tuition on piano is available from the age of six, taught by a specialist teacher. Years one to three receive a weekly class music.

**Games:** A “Fun Fit” scheme of activities and ball skills is used throughout the school taught by specialist primary sports staff. From the age of six children are taken weekly by coach to an indoor pool for swimming where they are taught in small groups. Older children also visit the games pitch near the school for rounders, football and cricket.

**Contact for parents:** Parents of children over five receive a graded report twice a year and are encouraged to visit their child’s class regularly to inspect work and discuss progress with the teacher. Additionally, more formal open evenings are held in the Autumn and Summer terms. The headmaster is available always to discuss progress and a child’s future education.

**Discipline:** Gower House children have a reputation for politeness. Good manners are encouraged and consistently poor behaviour dealt with in a manner appropriate to the child. Children are expected to behave in a considerate way towards others.

**Transfer to Secondary School:** Children leave Gower House at the age of eleven for Secondary education. Most pupils sit competitive entrance examinations to independent day schools in the area. Gower House has an excellent record in obtaining places in these renowned schools and a list of recent successes is enclosed. Parents are advised which schools may be suitable for their child and pupils are specifically prepared for the entrance exams. More able children each year obtain scholarships or other financial assistance at independent schools.

It is equally important that the children entering state secondary schools reach the highest academic standards as the comprehensive schools “set” or group children by ability in many subjects. Again, Gower House advises parents on all aspects of the transfer to Secondary education. Certainly, Gower House children have adapted with confidence to Secondary schools of all types in a variety of societies both here and abroad.

**Lunch:** A cooked lunch is served each day with a choice of menu, including vegetarian choices. Variations in diet for medical or religious reasons are accommodated. Menus meet the Government nutritional standards for school meals. Salad, fresh fruit and vegetables are offered every day.

**Morning and Afterschool Care:** Children may remain at school until 6.00pm. They are given tea, supervised with games and other activities until collected. Children may attend afterschool either on occasional days or on a regular basis at an extra charge. Details are available from the school office. Older children may attend the chess club one evening a week. Children may arrive for morning care by previous

arrangement at 8.am. They are supervised and given breakfast before school begins at 9.00am.

**Holiday Club:** Dependent on demand a Holiday Club operates for part of the school holidays with a wide range of activities. Information is circulated each term and again information is available from the school office.

**Visits:** Most classes make one or more educational visit each year, usually linked to the project work undertaken at school. In addition, there is an annual fun day out during the summer term and a visit to a Christmas Show.

**Security:** Gower House is aware that the school's first responsibility to parents is to keep their child safe. The school car park is supervised by the school caretaker at the beginning and end of the school day and the main school gates remain locked at other times, when access is by a locked gate controlled by a video entry system. Parents are required to advise the school if a child is to be collected by a person unknown to staff. The school premises are covered by a comprehensive CCTV system.

**Child Protection:** Gower House School has a statutory duty to contact the Children's Social Work Service who have a responsibility to make enquiries and , if necessary, investigate any allegations or suspicions of Child Abuse. The school supports Brent Area Child Protection Policy.

**Equal Opportunities:** Gower House School and Nursery believe in equal opportunity for all. Children are accepted at the school from all races and religions. Gower House School is an equal opportunity employer.

**Special Educational Needs:** The existence of a special educational need plays no part in the school's admission policy. Within the school any such special educational need is accessed and discussed with a child's parents. An individual education plan is drawn up by the school's Special Needs teacher who oversees its application by extra attention either in or out of class.

**Uniform:** Details of the school uniform are obtainable from the school or from the school outfitters, Pullens, 48-50 Church Road Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4AH. Tel 020 8954 3850.

**School Hours:** School is unlocked at 8.30 a.m. each morning and lessons begin at 9.00 a.m. classes finish between 3.15 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. in addition, afterschool is available until 6.00p.m. Dance and games lessons take place afterschool.

**Admission:** Parents interested in applying for their child's admission should make an appointment to visit the school where there is an opportunity to talk to staff and children and see lessons in progress, in addition to meeting the headmaster. Children are admitted at any time during the school year depending on their development and their parents wishes. The level of ability of a child or the existence

of any special needs play no part in the school's admission policy. Children who speak English as an additional language are admitted to the school. These children are supported in class under the supervision of a specialist teacher and an Individual Education Plan.

**Complaints:** Any concerns concerning your child's education should be discussed first with the class teacher. If not resolved, concerns should then be discussed with the headmaster. In the rare event of the concern not been resolved at this stage, the school has a formal complaints procedure, details of which are available from the school office. There have been no formal complaints within the last year.

**Exclusions:** The school reserves the right to exclude a child from school. This is done most rarely and then only when the school, in consultation with the parents, has exhausted all other options. Such an exclusion may be a temporary suspension or permanent. Exclusions will normally only be for serious offences such as repeated insubordination or rudeness, theft, bullying or violence endangering the child himself, other children or staff.

**Disability Discrimination Policy:** The school is aware of its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act and has prepared a policy to make Gower House accessible to all children and parents who would wish to attend provided that the child would benefit from the education provided.

**Website:** This information pack is intended to provide basic information about the school and nursery. Much more is available, including photographs on our website at [www.gowerhouseschool.co.uk](http://www.gowerhouseschool.co.uk).

**Further Information:** The following school policies are available on request from the school office:

Anti-Bullying

Safeguarding Children and Child Protection

Health and Safety

Promotion of good behaviour

Sanctions for Misbehaving

Particulars of the curriculum and academic performance in the last year, including public exam results and admissions to secondary schools both independent and maintained.

# GOWER HOUSE NURSERY AND PRE SCHOOL

Gower House began as a nursery school over fifty years ago and the nursery has operated as an integral part of the school ever since. Children are admitted after they are dry usually between the ages of two and three.

The nursery is a proper educational nursery teaching children social awareness and the ability to mix with others in a caring but stimulating atmosphere. Children develop their self-confidence and sense of order and security in an environment that caters for their needs. Every child develops at their own pace. Each child's development is carefully observed so that he/she may be encouraged onto the next step at the right time. A wide range of educational equipment is employed. Water and sand play, free expression through art and more controlled expression using apparatus leading towards the alphabet and writing. Academic work is begun by learning, tracing and colouring numbers and letters as an introduction to the learning schemes used at Gower House. The nursery has its own, secure garden area with large outdoor apparatus and climbing frames.

**Foundation Stage:** Children in the Under Five classes work to the Qualification Curriculum and Assessments Authority's "Foundation Stage" which provides learning in the six areas of Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Creative Development, Knowledge and Understanding of the World and Physical Development. Individual records are kept for each child and reports given to parents covering each of these six areas. Regular meetings are held to discuss progress. Full details of the Foundation Stage are available from the school.

**Government Grants:** The Under Five Dept. is part of the Brent Early Years Partnership. Children aged three and four years receive a substantial grant for two years which is deducted from the school fees. Details are on the fee sheet.

**Lunch:** A hot lunch is cooked and served at school each day. There is always a choice including vegetarian food. Special diets for religious or medical reasons can be incorporated. The children have a snack and drink mid morning and in the afternoon.

**Uniform:** A simple nursery uniform is obtained from the school outfitters, Pullens, 48-50 Church Road, Stanmore Middles HA7 4AH, Tel 020 8954 3850. The uniform consists of trainers with a maroon tracksuit and a gold short sleeved shirt.

**Hours:** Nursery school operates 9.00a.m – 3.15p.m  
Afterschool care is available by arrangement until 6.00p.m.  
Breakfast Club operates 8.00a.m. – 9.00a.m

# GOWER HOUSE SCHOOL UNIFORM LIST

## **Nursery to Mrs Jobe's Class**

School track suit  
Gold school polo shirt  
Maroon shorts in warm weather  
Trainers with velcro fastening  
Maroon anorak (available from school office)

## **Main school (Mrs Jabbal upwards)**

<u>Winter</u>	<b>BOYS</b>	<u>Summer</u> (optional)
School blazer (optional)		Short sleeve white shirt
Gold school polo shirt		Gold school polo shirt
White shirt with school tie		Grey shorts
School pullover		
Grey trousers		
Grey socks		
Black shoes – not trainers		
School anorak		
Trainers with tracksuit for games		
School cap – optional		
School hat and scarf (available from school office in winter)		

<u>Winter</u>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<u>Summer</u>
School blazer (optional)		School anorak
School anorak		School blazer
Grey tunic		School summer dress
White blouse with school tie		White socks
School cardigan		School cardigan
Long grey socks		Sensible black shoes or sandals
Black or grey woollen tights		No slingbacks, or open toed shoes
Sensible black shoes		School straw hat (optional)
No slingbacks, platforms or trainers		
School hat and scarf (available from school office)		

Trainers with tracksuit for games.

### **Options for senior girls in Year 5 and 6**

Grey skirts  
School pullover  
Open necked short sleeved white blouse

**All the above school uniform is available from the school outfitters:**  
Pullens of Stanmore, 48-50 Church Road, Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4AH.  
Telephone: 020 8954 3850

APRIL 2010

## **Transfer to Secondary Schools – 2010**

Jhanvi has won a major award at Peterborough & St Margaret School. Other children have passed competitive entrance exams for the following selective secondary schools:

Aldenham School – 3 places  
Brondesbury College – 2 places  
Buckingham College – 2 places  
Haberdashers' Girls School – 1 place  
Heathfield School – 3 places  
John Lyon School – 4 places  
Merchant Taylor's School – 1 place  
Mill Hill County – 2 places  
Mount School - 1 place  
Northbridge House School – 2 places  
Northwood College – 1 place  
Peterborough & St Margaret School – 1 place  
Queen Elizabeth Boys School – 1 place  
St Margaret's School, Bushey – 1 place  
Swaminarayan School – 3 places

# TERMLY FEES

## Under Fives Termly Fees

Age	Termly Fees	After deduction of Nursery Education Grant (Estimated at £649)	Monthly payments of
Three & Four Year Olds	£1980 inc Lunch	£1331	£332.75

## Main School Fees

Five to Six Years	£1875 not including Lunch
Seven years and Over	£1965 not including Lunch
Lunch	£95.00
Sports	£90.00

As at all independent schools, fees are due in advance at the beginning of each term, but fees may be paid in instalments.

All of the above fees can be divided into four payments per term (see breakdown above)

The sports fee is payable when a child enters a class that swims weekly, usually at age 6.

A discount of 5% is given for children who have an older brother or sister attending the school. There are three terms in one school year.

A registration fee of £110.00 is required before each child is placed on the school roll.

Parents are reminded that one term's notice of withdrawal must be given or a full term's fees paid instead.

**Nursery Education Grants:** The under fives department is part of the Brent Early Years Partnership. Children aged three and four years receive a termly grant for two years. This amount is deducted from the fees (see above). For more information about the Grant please contact the school office.