SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

Portley House, 152 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5ED

- **t.** 01883 342281 / 346502 **f.** 01883 341342
- e. office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Headteacher Mr Paul Jensen B.Ed Grad Dip (SEBD) NPQH





Welcome to Sunnydown School

Prospective Students September 2023 and beyond











February 2023

Dear prospective parents

This booklet is a modified version of that which is given to Year 7 students who have successfully applied for a place at Sunnydown.

This booklet is in addition to our Open Mornings and is aimed at giving you further information about Sunnydown School.

Sunnydown is warm and open and we hold 3 Open Mornings per year (one in each term) where parents can come to school to look around.

In addition to this booklet, there is a short YouTube Virtual Tour of the school, accessible via our website (www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk).

Sunnydown is an oversubscribed school with more applications than there is space available. The admissions process is managed by a team at Surrey County Council as opposed to the school itself, and your current school SENCo and SCC Case Officer should be your first points of contact.

The admissions process for all children with an EHCP has changed over the last couple of years, with more details available from the Surrey admissions website (www.surreycc.gov.uk).

I wish you every success in finding the right school for your son as he transitions to secondary school.

Paul Jensen Headteacher











Introduction

The main building of Sunnydown School is named Portley House. It was built in 1856 for a man called Charles Dingwall. He made his money by being a wealthy wine merchant. Portley House was one of the first large houses to be built in Caterham after the arrival of the railway.

In 1951, the house was turned into a school for deaf children. A classroom and dormitory block were built and then a gym. Sunnydown School moved from a location in Guildford into Portley House in 1983.

In 1992, four classrooms were added and then two more in 1997. A new Science room was added in 1999 when the Art room was made bigger. In 2003, the Design Technology room was extended and we also got a Log Cabin which has been used for Music. We have had an Astroturf installed (which has floodlighting) and also added a purpose built Practical Cooking Room. In September 2015, we got a brand new teaching block with eight classrooms and our dining room was extended with a conservatory.













Growth Mindset - Great Learner Project

Key elements

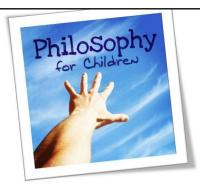




- A growth mind-set sees intelligence as fluid; something, which will increase and flourish through hard work, grit and resilience.
- We promote this through praising practice, effort and strategy rather than achievement.



- The Learning Pit is one way to make challenges more appealing to learners. It gives a frame of reference to talk about learning. It also helps with planning, reviewing and metacognition.
- We incorporate the Pit in lessons and encourage pupils to consider which ladders/strategies they can use to try to climb out of the Pit. This will help to embed the idea that challenge is vital if we are to learn.



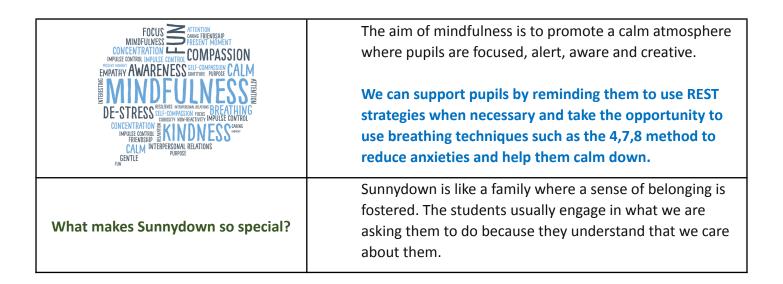
- Philosophy for Children (enquiry based learning) offers a way to open up learning through enquiry and the exploration of ideas. Students learn that their ideas have value, and that the ideas of other students have value too. Through Philosophy for Children, they realise that they do not always have to be right, but they gain the confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion.
- We use Philosophy for Children (P4C) starter activities to develop the pupils questioning and reasoning skills.



Aspects of Metacognition that Sunnydown pupils find difficult.

Recognising task requirements

- We provide explicit instructions
- Cue pupils to analyse tasks
 Selecting and implementing strategies
- We promote planning skills, selecting appropriate strategies, deciding how completion will be achieved Monitoring and adjusting performance
- We incorporate time into a lesson to stop and monitor how task is going





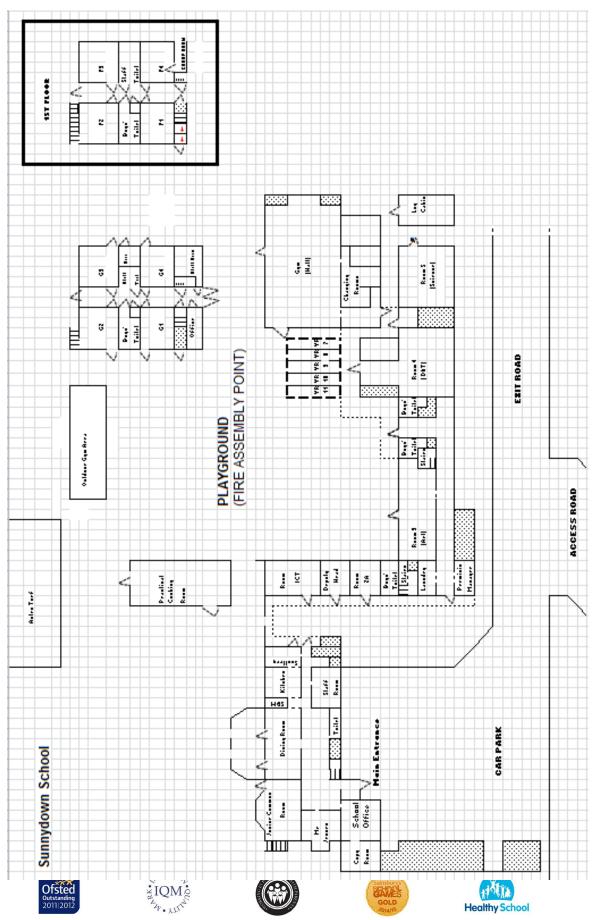








School Layout



Getting to school

Most students at Sunnydown get taxis to and from school. Some boys (usually those who live locally) come with their parents each day.

If you are going to be getting a taxi, there is paperwork for your parents or carers to fill in. Transport is handled by SCC Transport and not Sunnydown School. You will receive a letter from your taxi company (before you start school in September) telling you what time you will be picked up in the morning. It will probably be about 8 a.m.

At the end of the school day, (3.20 p.m), Year 7s go to the front of the school and we will direct you into your taxi. You will probably share a taxi with some other students. This is good because you will get to know some of the older boys! At 3.45p.m. all the other day boys will come out and join taxis too.

Rules of the Taxis

- 1. If you are not well or are not coming to school for any reason, your parent/carer needs to phone the taxi company to cancel.
- 2. You must be ready on time so you don't keep people waiting.
- 3. You are expected to behave sensibly and not distract the driver.
- 4. You must wear a seat belt.







Weekly Overview

You will be given a copy of your timetable by your form tutor on your first day at school.

Here is how the days are divided up:

Monday:

09:00-09:30	Students and taxis can arrive	
09:30-10:00	Registration	
10.00-10.15	School meeting	
10:15-10-45	Lesson 1	
10.45-11:00	Break	
11:00-11.30	Lesson 1 Continued	
11:30-12:30	Lesson 2	
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Meal and play times are different for KS3 and KS4)	
13:30-14:30	Lesson 3	
14:30-15:30	Lesson 4	
15.30	Taxi	

Tuesday – Thursday:

08:30-09:00	Students and taxis can arrive	
09:00-09:15	Registration	
09:15-10:15	Lesson 1	
10:15-10:45	Lesson 2	
10.45-11:00	Break	
11:00-11.30	Lesson 2 Continued	
11:30-12:30	Lesson 3	
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Meal and play times are different for KS3 and KS4)	
13:30-14:30	Lesson 4	
14.30-15.30	Lesson 5	
15.30	Taxi	

On Fridays we have a completely different curriculum. It is a chance to develop lots of other skills. Activities will take place in the morning and over the year you will be able to have a go at activities such as Outdoor Adventurous activities, Food Technology, humanity trips, school projects, getting involved in the school website and enjoying Performing Arts activities.











On Fridays, there is only one lesson in the afternoon, PSHE (1.30pm - 2.30pm), followed by a school meeting and taxi rooms.

Our school bells ring to signal each lesson start/end. If you are worried about the noise of the bells, you can tell a member of staff and they will help you.











What you will need

Every day equipment

2 writing pens	
(blue/ black)	PILOT G-2 (88)
2 pencils	
	NAME CHARGES ON
1 pencil sharpener	
1 rubber	
1 ruler	
6 colouring pencils	Mainten segral arangum
	www.copyclates.org.ab www.copyclates.org.ab www.copyclates.org.ab www.copyclates.org.ab
	www.regeline.org.ch
Planner/diary	Married Married
(This will be given to you on your first day).	The same of the sa











School Diary

The home school diary is an important way that we can tell your parents what has been happening, if you are having a good day, if you need to bring anything special into school as well as what you need to do for homework.

There are a lot of fascinating facts and useful information in there too!













School Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform. Our school colours are dark green, grey and gold. You will need:

CHECK

Have I got it? Dark grey or black trousers Grey or black socks White shirts A green pullover with school motif A school tie A black blazer (optional) A badge for the blazer (optional) A suitable coat **Black** school shoes (NOT TRAINERS OR BOOTS) You should buy the pullover and tie from the school. Prices as at June 2022 and subject to change:

Green V-neck Pullovers 30" £14.00

32" £16.00 34" £16.00 36" £16.00 38" £16.00 40" £19.50 42" £19.50 44" £19.50

School Tie £6.00

Blazer badge £7.50

Cooking Apron £12.00 Cooking Hat £8.50

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY AND PERMANENTLY MARKED WITH YOUR NAME ON <u>EMBROIDERED LABELS</u>











P.E. Uniform

For P.E. and games you will need:

CHECK Have I got it? 2 pairs of black shorts 2 white T-shirts Coloured House T-Shirt (available from office) A pair of sports socks A pair of trainers/astro trainers A pair of swim trunks (not shorts) A towel

In colder weather, you should bring a track suit or sweatshirt.



You will also need a cooking apron and hat for Food Technology. These can be purchased at the Induction Morning or through the school office.











Tutor Time: What to expect

Each morning in Tutor Time, your Form Tutor will go over your timetable for the day and let you know if there are any changes.

On a Monday morning, we do an equipment check. If you have all your equipment with you, you will get a House Point!

Other activities in Tutor Time include:

School Council business - Once you have settled into Sunnydown, your form tutor will ask for any volunteers who would like to be part of School Council. Your form will then vote and the two people with the most votes will represent you at School Council. They will be able to take suggestions from everyone in the form to the School Council meetings each week; they will also let you know what was discussed at the meeting.

Reading Targets - We have an excellent reading programme at Sunnydown and all the boys here read regularly. You get House Points for reading.

We also have a 'Form Page' that is part of Tutor Time each morning. There are lots of things on the page including our 'Thought for the Week', 'Word of the Week', events, reminders and our Friday 5 competition:











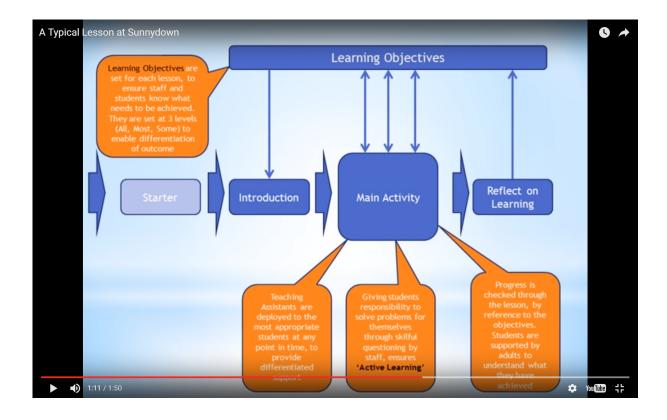


Lessons (mainly for parents)

We strive for excellence and consistency in all our lessons. As such, we have a common structure to which all our lessons conform. There are four key aspects which we call 'The Sunnydown 4':

- 1. Clearly communicated Learning Objectives
- 2. Differentiation according to individual needs
- 3. Active learning
- 4. Review progress against Learning Objectives

A short video can be found on our website, located under 'Learning' then 'A Typical Lesson':













Curriculum

Statement of Intent

The curriculum at Sunnydown is designed to create as bespoke a pathway as possible for every young man with the resources available. It is designed to give each student the best possible opportunities for achieving a successful, independent and happy life after leaving Sunnydown and to create a pathway for learning so that they can access appropriate Post 16 provisions that will continue to meet their needs and support their learning. This is done with consideration for the emotional needs of the boys and an awareness of the impact of academic expectations on young people.

Sunnydown is resourced to provide an education to young men who are cognitively able, likely to achieve at least 5 good GCSE grades and have an EHCP with CoIN identified as a main need. This is often associated with ASD.

Structure

The week is divided into two sections; Monday to Thursday where the boys follow a traditional curriculum and Fridays where an alternative selection of innovative and creative options are available.

Regarding the traditional curriculum, in KS3 students follow a flightpath in each subject which is differentiated learning. In KS4 the boys are given the opportunity to focus their learning with Options and GCSE Pathways for the core subjects.

On Fridays, KS3 work through a rotation of activities over 6 weeks with a focus on developing life skills and giving the boys experiences to develop their Resilience, Independence and Co-operation through Active Learning. These include;

- 1. Outdoor and adventurous activities
- 2. Performing Arts and Music
- 3. RICE
- 4. Challenge (problem solving)
- 5. Food experience
- 6. School Project
- 7. Humanities











Friday for the KS4 boys sees a choice of activities designed to help them [re[are for the next stage in their education after Sunnydown. These include;

- 1. College Link Programme at East Surrey College
- 2. Academic Option (academic qualifications)
- 3. Life Skills











The ReSt Strategy

We expect all our students to engage fully in lessons and try their best. However, if you are finding something difficult, you can ask to use the ReSt strategy and go out of the classroom for 5 minutes.

REST

Take time out and use the REstart STrategy

Remember:

- This is to support you in your learning.
- This is NOT a punishment.
- A member of staff will come out to help you with whatever you are finding difficult.
- Try and take this time to think of a way to make things better.
- Talk to staff who are here to help you.













The Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team here at Sunnydown is the provision the school provides to ensure the physical and emotional welfare of all the boys.

The team consists of 5 Pastoral TAs and a Sports Mentor. Two members of the team are qualified ELSAs and two are trained as Thrive Practitioners. The team works with the boys and their families to make sure that students are safe, happy, involved and able to perform to their potential.

The team supports students with any emotional worries or concerns they may have and helps with any behavioural needs. Interventions include: restorative approaches when issues arise; 1:1 support sessions, including emotional regulation work; friendship groups; bereavement support, etc.

Sensory Room

At Sunnydown School we have a sensory room which is a therapeutic space with a variety of equipment that provides our students with personalised sensory input, helping them calm and focus themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others.

Homework

With the increased demands of the new GCSEs, we believe it is vital that we give our students every opportunity to practise and develop their skills; we also believe that it is imperative that we help our students develop their resilience and their ability to work independently.

At the same time, we recognise that our students work very hard during the day! Therefore we give just one piece of homework per week for years 8 and 9 in KS3. The Year 8 homework task will take just 10-15 minutes and by Year 9 the task will take 15-20 minutes. Year 7 students are not given Homework.











Instructions for the homework task will be clear but, of course, subject teachers will be happy to help during the week and your form tutor can help too. Resilience, Independence, Cooperation, and Effort (having a good go at homework tasks) are rewarded with a House Point!

Break Times

Break is at 10.45am and lasts for 15 minutes so you go back into class at 11.00am. There will always be members of staff on duty in the playground who you can chat to or talk to if you are worried about something. Staff on duty will be wearing a yellow jacket. You will find that lots of the older boys are very helpful too. Some of them act as 'mentors'. This means that there are students who will help you as well as adults.

You can use the Astroturf to play football but to do this you must remember your trainers.

There is a covered area where you can sit or play games and you can use the playground to play your own games. We have some outdoor gym equipment installed too!

At the beginning of morning break, one of the members of staff will bring out the toast, fruit and milk. If you want any of these things, you will be shown where to line up. On some days there are even second helpings!

At lunch time there will also be staff on duty. Year 7 go into lunch at 12.00pm, Years 8 and 9 go into lunch at 12.30pm and Years 10 and 11 go into lunch at 1.00pm. This means that after your morning lessons finish you can have play time before you eat. You can play football on the Astroturf, basketball in the playground, chill out or go to one of the activities that are on offer.











You will be told what clubs and activities are on offer when you join us in September, but to give you an idea we have had:

- Lego Club
- DT Club
- English Skills
- ICT Club
- Spanish Club
- Art Club











School Lunches

At Sunnydown, we provide high quality lunches for all boys. The weekly menu rotates over a three week period. In addition, we have separate winter and summer menus. The upcoming menus can be found on our website.

On the next page, there is an example of the types of meals on our school menu.

Lunch is between 12.30pm and 1.30pm, depending on year level.

When you go in to eat, you will be shown which table to sit on and you will have a member of staff on your lunch table. The food at Sunnydown is delicious! There is always a choice; the main meal and an alternative. You can also choose to get some food from the salad bar. For pudding you can have the main one, yogurt or fruit.

Some boys choose to bring packed lunches instead of having the school meals. Your parent/carer will need to let the school know which you want.

As with everything at Sunnydown, if you have any worries or problems you just need to speak to a member of staff and they will help you!













Sample Menu

PLEASE NOTE! This is likely to be different in September but it gives you an idea of the variety of food on offer at Sunnydown.













School Meetings

We have a school meeting on Monday and Friday each week when the whole school meets in the Gym.

Monday Meeting 10.00am - On Mondays during the meeting, we look forward to the week ahead. We share news and upcoming events and there is a 'Thought for the week' which is introduced by a member of staff or a pupil. A reminder of the Thought of the Week can be found on the tables in the Dining Room.

<u>Friday Meeting 2.45pm</u> - In Friday meetings, we reflect back on the week just gone. We share successes and certificates and house point prizes are awarded. Every student gets given a school newsletter which contains information for you and your parents/carers. This is also sent home by Parentmail.

School Council

The School Council is made up of boys from each class in the school. There are two boys from each class. They are chosen by the class. The School Council meets regularly and brings ideas from the rest of the class to be discussed. School Council meetings take place every Tuesday breaktime (10.45am - 11.00am) in the conservatory (part of the dining room).

There is a suggestion box in school too that anyone can use.













Houses, House Points and Sports Day

The House System is an important part of school life. It gives you a sense of identity and belonging within the larger school community. It enables you to make stronger bonds and connections with other students and increases your 'student voice' and events and activities are built around the interests of the students.

There are four houses. They are called **Whyteleafe**, **Burntwood**, **Buxton** and **Portley**.

House Points

Here is the really exciting part! We literally pay you for your efforts!

House points are awarded to individuals who demonstrate our school's core values. They are known as RICE3 which stands for:

- R = Resilience (overcoming challenges)
- I = Independence (working well on your own)
- C = Cooperation (working well with others)
- E3 = Encourage, enable and empower (this is what the staff try to do for you)

We are a **growth mindset** school which means that we don't mind if you make mistakes or can't do something yet. We believe mistakes are what enables us to learn and grow. We do celebrate **achievement** because it usually means that you have worked hard at something but just as important to us is **effort**.

It's not about being the best, it's about doing your best!

We keep a record of all your house points and every time you get 50, we give you £5.











Sports Day and other events

All of your house points are added up including house competitions and the house with the most at the end of the year wins the Inter-House cup! This is usually awarded on **Sports Day** which is the last day of the year and your parents are invited to enjoy it with you. Staff are also members of houses and join in with all the fun!

We also offer lots of other exciting activities and trips through the year. This is a picture from a previous Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition which consisted of a group of Year 10s canoeing down the River Thames and camping overnight on an island!













Other Certificates and Awards

In addition to awards like the Duke of Edinburgh, we give lots of awards in school too. Each week in the meeting there is a Chef of the Week, a Musician of the Week, an Artist of the Week and a Scientist of the week , plus half-termly certificates for 100% Attendance.

It is a good idea to keep any certificates you get in a folder so you create a portfolio of evidence of all your achievements. It will seem like a long way off but in less than 5 years' time you will be leaving Sunnydown and going into Further Education – and after that you will be moving onto your future career!













Parents' Section

Information for new parents and carers

♦ **DINNER MONEY** (subject to change)

School dinners: £2.45 per day £12.25 per week Parents will be notified of any changes made by Surrey.

You can pay via ParentMail or by cheques (made payable to "S.C.C. Sunnydown School"). If there is any further information you require please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01883 342281 or email: office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

ParentMail

We use ParentMail to communicate with our parents/carers and also for payments. Once your child has joined Sunnydown, you will be sent an email registration which will enable you to access this system. If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01883 342281.

Consumables

We believe in giving our young men every opportunity we can to develop their life skills, and this includes enhancing subjects like DT, Art and Food Technology. These subjects require the purchase of an array of consumable ingredients and items.

To continue to offer these subjects in the interactive and engaging way we do, we ask for a contribution towards consumables. This fee is set at £20 per term (a total of £60 for the year) and is payable via ParentMail.

Please note that this contribution is below the actual cost of the consumable items, but we believe that this is a reasonable amount to ask.

Chromebooks

Sunnydown is a Google School, with students having access to their own Chromebook. This device allows students to engage with an array of learning opportunities at school and at home.

All pupils at Sunnydown are provided with a Chromebook when they join us. However, there is an expectation that this is paid for by families (with the exception of those on Free School Meals). The cost for this device is currently £285 and we ask that the device is paid for via a payment schedule so that the cost of this device can be spread out, if necessary. While your son is a student of Sunnydown, we manage the access and security of the device. As soon as your son graduates, and the device has been paid for, it is theirs (yours) to keep.











If you believe that you may have difficulty in paying this, please do not hesitate in making contact with the school to arrange a meeting in confidence with Paul Jensen.

Contributions to the School Fund

The school fund is an important source of revenue which allows us to maintain our standards of inclusion, delivery of quality experiences for all, and to reward achievement for all young men. Thanks to parental donations we are able to ensure that our House Point system is well funded, prizes and awards are available for sporting events and that all school trips and educational outings are subsidised to some degree.

All contributions are, of course, voluntary. I have been asked by many parents for guidance as to how much per term they should contribute. The suggested figure of £10 per half term may seem surprisingly high but the majority of our parents feel it is very good value for money and some contribute more than the suggested sum.

With your help we can continue to provide the standard and quality of care and education that is presently offered. Sunnydown is unique among Surrey's provision and is a specialist school with an excellent reputation and your child will benefit from the support you give.

Donations to the School Fund can be made via ParentMail.

New Pupils' Evening

During October, you will have a chance to visit the school one evening to talk with staff, giving everyone an opportunity to meet each other. You know your child better than anyone and sharing this knowledge with us will help provide the best teaching and learning environment for him.

It will be an opportunity to meet his form tutor, Pastoral Team, Learning Support teacher, care staff and the SENCo. During the evening we will discuss your son's targets with you for the remainder of the year.











Reports, consultation evenings and annual reviews

Here at Sunnydown we report to parents and carers twice a year. You will receive one report at the end of the autumn term and one report at the end of the summer term. The information contained within these reports include:

- Class teacher's report- teachers comment on your son's level of effort and engagement within lessons and his performance in homework tasks. We also share with you progress information with suggestions about what your son should do in order to make further progress.
- **Form tutor report** your son's form tutor will comment on levels of resilience, cooperation and independence as well as sharing general observations.
- **Head teacher's report-** In some year levels, your son's report finishes with a report from the head teacher with some information about the level of your son's attendance.

Our reporting systems are continually evolving with the aim of sharing the most useful information with families. If you have any suggestions about possible developments, please don't hesitate to contact the school











Staying safe at Sunnydown

The safety and well-being of the pupils in the school is paramount. Staff undergo regular Child Protection and Safeguarding training. People with additional training and responsibility are called Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

SMSC and British/Sunnydown values

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. SMSC is not new in schools and therefore is not new at Sunnydown. It has been part of teaching and learning in schools since 1944. From September 2014, with revisions in the Ofsted inspection handbook, there has been increasing emphasis on the provision and quality of SMSC and British Values.

All subjects taught at Sunnydown have all of the four dimensions of SMSC embedded in them. In addition we actively promote the fundamental British/Sunnydown values of Democracy, the rule of law, Individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Good behaviour is promoted at all times and in all areas of school life and pupils are supported to achieve their highest potential; their lives being transformed in preparation for later life in modern Britain.

E-Safety

E-Safety is an important part of your son's learning at school. Staff and parents get regular updates. Please support us by not allowing your son to come into school with any age inappropriate material.

Our E-Safety Coordinator in school is Mr Cassim.

Friends of Sunnydown (FoS)

The Friends of Sunnydown organise fundraising and social activities on behalf of the school. Parents of pupils are invited to become committee members to help plan and organise the year's activities. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the school early in the Autumn Term and all parents are invited to attend.











Further information and feedback

You can find lots more information on our website, including links to our YouTube videos, explaining more about Sunnydown School (www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk).

Please also consult the SENCo in your current school and your allocated SEN Case Worker.

The SCC Admissions page reflects the new admissions process.

Finally, I wish you and your family every success in finding the right school for your son.

Paul Jensen Headteacher









