



'THE BEST SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PLACES OF INSPIRATION, CREATIVITY, INTELLECTUAL GROWTH – AND THEY SHOULD BE BRIMMING WITH JOY.'

Founded in 1881, Port Regis is steeped in history yet always forward thinking and innovative in its approach.

Few other prep schools can provide the breadth of experience on offer at Port Regis. We are renowned for our exceptional staff and academic credentials, as well as our first-class facilities set within 150 acres of stunning grounds in rural Dorset. These facilities (that eclipse many at senior schools) enable us to deliver an outstanding holistic education that inspires the head, hand and heart.

Above all, the most powerful education begins with the heart. The best schools do more than just expand intellect, unlock creativity and support wellbeing; they go deeper. They nurture the character and moral values of their pupils. As a preparatory school, not only are we preparing girls and boys for life at senior school, we're preparing them for the great adventure of life itself.

An education such as this should be purposeful and stretching – but also great fun! The best schools should be joyful schools. Delight and wonder are integral parts of childhood – something you can see and hear in every corridor, classroom and playground.

Whether you have just visited or are considering your next steps from afar, I hope all that is unique about Port Regis shines through. Not just in our stunning location, but also the distinctive ethos and tremendous spirit!

Titus Mills







### These are the things that make us, us

Port Regis is one of the country's leading co-educational day and boarding schools for children aged two to thirteen. A school in which tradition and innovation have gone hand in hand for more than a century, we provide a thoughtful, rounded education that enables children to thrive. This education goes well beyond our beautiful buildings and outstanding facilities – it is rooted in our culture and values.



The championing of an unhurried and joyful childhood.



Extraordinary teaching that stretches and supports every child, enabling them to discover the discipline of study and the delight of learning.



Exceptional pastoral care that nurtures pupils and staff, placing their wellbeing at the heart of all we do.



A passion for developing the unique academic, sporting and creative talents of every child – giving equal measure to the head, hand and heart.



Strong moral, social and spiritual values, for those of all faiths or none.



A cohesive and distinctly happy school community that fosters a deep sense of belonging in the children, staff and parents.

### 'If a child could imagine their dream school, it would look a lot like Port Regis' Tatler Schools Guide 2023



A vibrant boarding experience, equipping children with vital skills for senior school and life beyond.



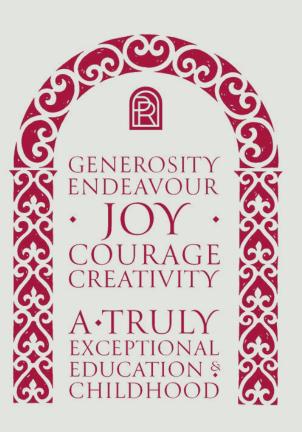
A culture that embeds in every child a sense of wonder for the natural world and a responsibility to preserve it.



A global perspective that celebrates the diversity of our children and the friendships between those of different cultures and backgrounds.



1 Kindness and tolerance, so children leave as capable and compassionate young people, inspired to play their part in making the world a better place.





#### **BREADTH IS BEST**

At Port Regis we believe in giving every child the power to thrive. Nurturing our children's unique talents begins with our experienced teaching staff. Many are specialists in their field with a wealth of knowledge and deep passion for their subject. Add to this small class sizes and careful streaming, and the result is an education that inspires, stretches and supports every individual, wherever they shine. Of course, there is far more to education than academic prowess. So in everything we do, we seek to develop character – we celebrate kindness, instil wonder, and embed a culture of tolerance and good manners. We even give out trophies for it!

Whether it's coding, poetry, nature or engineering, we'll help kindle and nurture your child's passion. We'll also give them the broad and balanced education that they need to flourish in their later education and beyond. It's no coincidence that all Port Regis children secure a place at their senior school of choice, with many achieving scholarships to the UK's leading schools.

#### A SOLID FOUNDATION

We devote plenty of curriculum time to the critical core subjects in all year groups, leading to a challenging Common Entrance or academic scholarship level in Year 8. English and maths are taught by subject specialists from Year 5, while the time dedicated to science increases as children progress through the school. Science lessons – again, delivered by specialists – embrace both the practical and theoretical, and are taught in one of our three dedicated laboratories.

#### WIDER CURRICULUM

We are very proud of our global stance. By engaging our pupils in the humanities, we encourage a wide exploration of cultures and worldviews. From history and geography to religious education and in-depth philosophical discussions, we take a broader view on learning. We also have a Classics Department staffed by four specialist teachers.

#### MODERN LANGUAGES

Learning a foreign language can bring huge benefits, beyond communication. It improves critical thinking, increases creativity, and encourages pupils to become more open-minded. In keeping with our multi-cultural community, children can learn Mandarin, Italian, German and Japanese, as well as French and Spanish.

'This is what we hoped education would be' extols one parent 'a nod to tradition coupled with forward-thinking innovation.'

Good Schools Guide 2022



# Creativity

We are lucky to be based in such an inspiring part of the world. As well as the natural beauty of Dorset, we regularly organise trips to leading art galleries including Hauser & Wirth in nearby Bruton and Messums in Tisbury. In the classroom the children learn the processes of making and develop their creativity using a wide variety of mediums. Through drawing, paint, print and 3D work they learn to develop their own visual language.

Some people have dreams, others ideas. Our Craft, Design and Technology (CDT) department has the expertise and facilities to enable children to realise these ideas (and sometimes dreams) as they learn to use tools and equipment not normally available at prep school level. With laser cutting, steam bending and woodturning facilities available for pupils' use, it's no wonder that many of our boys and girls go on to achieve Design and Technology scholarships to senior schools.

All children 'tread the boards' at least once a year in spectacular productions, performed in our 350-seat theatre. Drama is included in the timetable for Years 3 to 8, as well as the opportunity for Year 5 and above to study for LAMDA exams with visiting specialist drama tutors. The school has an enviable record of scholarships to senior schools, including all-rounder scholarships with drama as a key element.

Our unforgettable productions are made all the more impressive by a 'stage crew' comprised entirely of pupils, who manage each performance including sets, props, costume, make-up, lighting and sound. In fact it is so popular that we've created a dedicated Stage Crew hobby which is always oversubscribed!





Music starts young at Port Regis. All seven year olds learn the recorder and start to read music. At eight, they take up the viola and at nine, we teach them keyboard skills. Our stunning purpose-built music school has a 132-seat recital hall where our choirs, bands and ensembles perform regular classical, rock, pop and jazz concerts. We have several wind, brass and string ensembles, two school orchestras, two senior and four junior choirs, samba band, swing band and many other formal and informal groups.

#### **ENRICHMENT**

PR Plus is our inspiring Saturday morning programme, giving children time to develop valuable new skills through a range of vocational, intellectual and collaborative activities. As our motto proclaims: 'We seek higher things'. And through PR Plus we do just that.

Since its launch PR Plus has offered a tremendous range of learning. From talks about Chaucer, famous works of art, Plato, entrepreneurship, anthropology, film making and managing one's finances; to how to wash your clothes, make a bed and cook a crumble.

There have been workshops on first aid, fire safety, communication skills, Black History month and leadership, alongside creative and environmental projects, orienteering and community work in Motcombe village.

Our hobbies programme is renowned for the breadth that's on offer, every day. And with a choice of over 70 activities, (a mix of free and paid), children can experience anything from soap and jewellery making to beekeeping, campfire cooking and chicken whispering! We also provide extra games practice, maths and language clubs and additional ISEB pretest support.



#### FROM EXPLORATION TO EXCELLENCE

Our number one priority is to help every child enjoy sport. And the sheer variety of what's on offer means they are sure to find something they'll love – whether that's rugby, cricket, hockey, fencing, golf and even quidditch!

From Reception to Year 8, Port Regis children are given the opportunity to take part in sport every day. By making it fun and engaging, we sow the seed for a healthy, lifelong relationship with physical activity.

As they move through the school, children also learn the benefits of competition. We have a busy calendar of competitive fixtures for Years 3 to 8. As well as a great way of improving skills, these matches are an opportunity to socialise with other children, build empathy and sportsmanship.

At the heart of our approach to sport are the Four Es: Explore, Enjoy, Engage, Excel



#### **EXPLORE**

From the moment children join the prep school, they are encouraged to explore the many activities on offer. With more than 30 sports available to try, these early years are a time of rapid physical, social and mental development.

#### **ENJOY**

Port Regis has always been known for the strength of its sports teams. However, we understand that traditional sports are not for everyone. So we take a varied multi-sport approach to the curriculum, offering activities including triathlons, gymnastics, lacrosse, yoga, basketball and dance.

#### ENGAGE

Children who enjoy sport are naturally more engaged, more focused in games sessions and better prepared for taking on new challenges. Our coaches aim to capture that interest, focusing on each child's development so that their individual achievements and successes can be recognised.

#### **EXCEL**

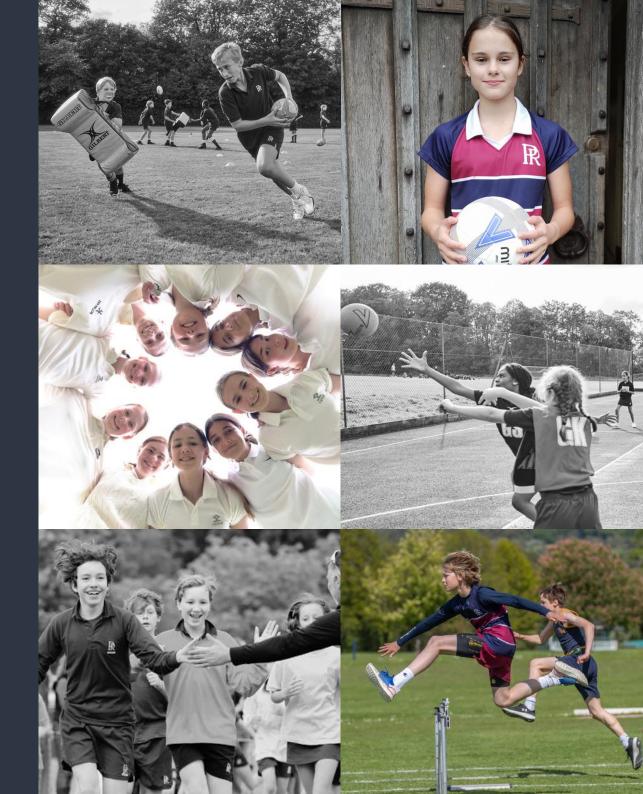
We support each pupil in reaching their fullest potential, whether that means beating their personal best or competing nationally, with many going on to gain Sports Scholarships to senior schools. We offer scholarship preparation including, fitness testing, sports psychology and nutrition.

#### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Our superb facilities include a competition grade gymnasium, 25-metre heated indoor swimming pool, mountain bike and BMX track, assault course and skateboard ramp. We host regular national and international competitions, including IAPS netball, rugby 7s, athletics, gymnastics and swimming galas.

#### A HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

To us, sport is more than PBs and trophies. It's about laying the foundations for children to become healthy, active teenagers and adults. This is why we also teach children about nutrition, show how to stretch and relax through activities like yoga.



# Melbeing

We believe the individual care that boys and girls receive at Port Regis is second to none. Looking after the children and ensuring they feel safe, secure and happy is at the heart of everything we do.

Our dedicated team of staff play an essential role implementing the carefully structured pastoral programme which is an integral part of our school life. Each pupil's well-being and personal progress is carefully monitored and children are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of school life. By doing so they discover their own interests and passions, thus developing their individuality and a healthy self-esteem.

As a school, we work hard to develop children's inter-personal skills and there is strong emphasis placed on good manners, kindness and consideration for others.

'Pupils' discussions demonstrated their healthy appreciation for family, friends, and their school community. They describe the importance of kindness, being happy and the feeling of joy having done well in a sports match or having performed successfully on stage.'

ISI Inspection Report 2022





#### HAPPY

A happy child is a successful child and a good learner. We believe in a good balance between work and play, as well as time to unwind, socialise, and exercise. Our staff encourage self-development in all its forms – from building organisational skills to spending time in nature and making the most of day-to-day life at our school.

Wellbeing at Port Regis is about nurturing mind, body and heart. Inspiring teaching, PRSE and Life Skills lessons are all in place to build the foundations of a healthy mind from positive attitudes to exams to managing home sickness and anxiety. The PRSE curriculum covers many key issues for children in the modern world, including internet safety, gender equality, race, and anti-bullying.

#### HEALTHY

A healthy body is essential for a growing child. Our Corefulness programme puts health at the heart of our teaching, particularly in sports lessons. Exercise builds strength and coordination, and a strong core helps good development of children's neural pathways. As well as improved learning and better posture we ultimately aim to cultivate a lifelong love of sport and exercise.

We nurture the heart through inspirational assemblies, charity work, and thinking of others before ourselves. Our core values of generosity, courage, curiosity, endeavour, and joy are woven in to all that we do, both inside and out of lessons.





#### SAFE

Pastoral care happens all day, every day – from the breakfast table to bedtime. When a child needs to talk there is always an adult available to listen. We have an experienced medical team, and excellent provisions for counselling, mental health and learning support. We believe strong communication with parents is paramount when dealing with all aspects of their child's wellbeing.

All of this is underpinned by creating a welcoming and nurturing environment for all our children. We want them to feel safe with a strong sense of belonging.



Happiness, balance and independence are central to our boarding approach – all girls and boys should expect to leave for senior school with the skills, manners and confidence to thrive. The routine of duties and rewards for tidy dorms encourages the children to take responsibility, and the role of Dorm Captain is a proud achievement for any boarder. We recognise that boarding can be a big change for some students, but children can call home every day, and the staff make good use of the house mobiles to keep regular contact with parents, providing them with lots of photos of boarding life! Parents are warmly invited to all our Saturday assemblies and positively encouraged to stay for lunch afterwards.

Boarding

Boarding is at the heart of a Port Regis childhood and education. Paramount to this is the distinctively strong feeling of home. Boarding houses provide a warm and safe family environment with space and support for children to flourish. Flexible and fun, it is no surprise that most of our pupils try boarding at some point - with almost 100% opting to board by their final year. They want to take advantage of the diverse range of activities on offer, both in the week and at the weekends; not to mention gaining a sense of independence as they get older. Our huge experience in boarding provision means we're experts in discreetly monitoring wellbeing, and getting the balance right between activity and down time, so boarding life runs smoothly.

#### THREE BESPOKE HOUSES

With a house each for juniors, senior girls, and senior boys, children are fully supported through every stage of their educational and personal development. Each house is looked after by dedicated houseparents, house mothers (matrons) and big 'brothers and sisters' (our wonderful gap year students). Working as one team under our Head of Boarding, Dale Woolmer, they make sure children are happy and cared for – not just with practicalities like laundry, heath care and day-to-day issues, but also with activities, organisation, and a friendly face for a chat and a hot chocolate. All our boarding staff are carefully chosen for their ability to engage with the children, at their various ages.

#### BOARDING LIFE FOR BRIGHT FUTURES

The benefits of boarding are well recognised, with children developing personal responsibility and organisation, as well as a strong empathy for one another. This is so valuable in preparation for senior school, as well as helping our pupils grow into kind and responsible young adults. Naturally, this journey is undertaken as a strong partnership, between parent and school, underpinned by excellent communication.

If you would like to discuss boarding and visit the houses, Head of Boarding, Dale Woolmer, would love to meet you, and a warm welcome is guaranteed!

'Boarders described feeling a strong sense of receiving excellent pastoral care ... boarding feels akin to a second family'

ISI Inspection Report 2022





The first steps in a Port Regis education, Pre-Prep is where the foundations are laid for progression to the Prep school. With access to the full range of exceptional school facilities, you're giving your child the very best start, with a formative education like no other.

#### NURSERY

Learning and laughter go hand in hand at Port Regis, and nowhere is this more evident than in our Pre-Prep. The nursery and reception years are a time of discovery, where children start their social journey, develop their own interests and lay down strong foundations in reading, writing, maths, spelling and handwriting.

#### YEARS ONE & TWO

In the older years (aged five to seven), we build on the enjoyment and enthusiasm for learning that we have fostered in Nursery and Reception, giving children a broad, balanced education with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. By the end of Pre-Prep, your child will have received a thorough academic grounding and will have a healthy self-esteem and good social skills that all children need to thrive.

'The atmosphere is one of overriding calm and peaceful activity. Children enjoy their surroundings, complete with a little shepherd's hut to encourage imaginative play and outdoor learning'

Good Schools Guide 2022



#### EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND US

Exploration of our school grounds is a key part of learning in the Pre-Prep, including sessions in our purpose-built forest school. We understand that expression comes in many forms – from gardening and pet care to painting and model making – as well as performing arts. Our Pre-Prep arts curriculum includes dance, music and art, as well as after-school clubs in everything from tap and ballet to chess and golf.

#### **BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS**

All young children need to run around and have space to express themselves. Our sports programme allows them to do this while developing core strength, stability, physical co-ordination and social skills and team building. Our Pre-Prep children receive several sports lessons a week led by specialist sports staff, from swimming and gymnastics to netball, hockey, football, cricket and athletics.

#### FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

No day would be complete at Port Regis without the award-winning food freshly cooked on site by our experienced chefs. Every day, they prepare three delicious and nutritious meals and two snacks, catering for a broad range of dietary and religious requirements. Menus include favourites like pad thai and paella as well as healthy home-made soups, vegetarian curries and a hand carved roast with all the trimmings.

#### HAPPY, HEALTHY, BALANCED

The children's happiness is at the centre of all we do. Our dedicated pastoral staff work alongside other staff to discreetly monitor each child's wellbeing and provide support to them, and to you, where necessary. We encourage children to be their own person and discover their individual interests and passions, building a healthy self-esteem in the process. We also actively promote kindness and generosity so, even at this early age, they're learning the qualities that will help them form healthy adult relationships.

## Our site

'The blend of tradition and modernity rather sums up the Port Regis way; the architecturally beautiful 19th century main school's a mishmash of wood panelling, roaring fires, high ceilings and carved balustrades, and big and bold extensions with gleaming glass walls, spacious classrooms with dogs snoozing in the corner and the beyond impressive STEAM centre bursting with state-of-the-art gadgets.

The stunning Pre-Prep sits in the estate's former stables, with its own driveway and beautiful old courtyard. Pre-Prep pupils use lots of the prep's facilities (they come up for lunch each day in the main dining room), and the lovely outdoor play area has everything a little one could possibly wish for. It's all set in the heart of rolling Dorset countryside, with thumping great 150-acre grounds and world-class facilities to boot. Shaftesbury is two miles away, and it's an hour's drive to the coast.'

Talk Education Review 2022







Last year we launched our new Green Vision: putting sustainability at the heart of all we do, with the ambitious target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030. To achieve this goal, we are dramatically increasing the pace of our green investment programme. Our objective is to treble our solar capacity by installing new panels on Centenary Hall, Upward and the edge of the golf course. We will harness this internally generated solar power by installing new battery storage which will power new ground source heat pumps. This will enable us to replace the carbon-intensive boilers currently used to heat the school.

The children feel these pressing environmental issues deeply. At Port Regis their voice is strong and our work is entirely collaborative. With plans already underway to reduce plastic usage and paper waste, to compost food waste, to rewild the site and integrate nature and environmental protection into our curriculum, the Green Vision is fast becoming one of the school's most important initiatives.

## Admissions

Port Regis is a wonderfully vibrant school made up of children from more than a dozen countries – from Italy to Japan. It's a unique and exciting mix that gives every child a truly global perspective at a very early age.

Choosing a school for your child is a huge decision so we strongly recommend a visit in person, as nothing quite beats being here and experiencing Port Regis for yourself. During your visit you'll get a feel for what makes us so distinctive – the happy faces, academic excellence and creative energy. We hold open mornings every term if you'd like to visit as part of a group and these dates can be found on our website. If you'd prefer a private tour, at a time convenient to you, we operate these all year round. Simply get in touch with our registrar Lally Holme at admissions@portregis.com or O1747 857914.

'As military parents who had been posted to the north of England, and were soon to move abroad, we needed a school that would provide the very best boarding experience for our children - and us!'

Port Regis Parent

#### SETTLING IN TO BOARDING

We provide an exceptionally supportive and welcoming environment which ensures that children settle quickly and make friends. To help every child feel at home, our dedicated Houseparents create a warm, nurturing atmosphere. The diverse array of cultures and traditions are recognised and celebrated – all of which contributes to a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.

#### TRAVELLING HOME OR COMING TO VISIT

Arranging travel home for the holidays is also an area we are very experienced in. Located only 2 hours of London, Heathrow and Gatwick, we have a member of staff who co-ordinates the transport to take children to and from the airport, organises staff to accompany them to passport control if they are travelling unaccompanied, as well as making sure they have their passport with them! If coming through London or visiting the UK we encourage parents to come and visit. We even have two cottages in the school grounds where parents can stay.

See Port Regis come to life in our short film here







#### LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

Our pupils go on to a wide range of leading co-ed, single sex, boarding and day schools. We do not feed to any school in particular and in fact we pride ourselves on the diverse range of schools that our pupils move on to.

We maintain close links with all of the leading public schools, with a view to understanding their culture and entrance requirements, so that we can advise parents accordingly. This also enables us to prepare boys and girls effectively for the relevant schools and we are proud that over the past three years we have placed children at over 40 different senior schools.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Port Regis is renowned for its success in helping pupils achieve scholarships and awards to their chosen schools. In 2021, despite the time spent learning remotely, our pupils achieved 39 separate awards! This was the largest number of 13+ prizes since our records began and was an absolute testament to the resilience and dedication of our pupils and the brilliance of our teaching staff. Each year our pupils continue to achieve high numbers of awards which are hard earned and richly deserved.

'Port Regis is bursting with happy creativity, providing a blend of all that is good about a traditional English Prep School education combined with the best of modern global thinking'

The Good Schools Guide 2022



