



**AIRTHRIE**  
Discovering individual excellence

# Welcome to Airthrie

We are a proprietary, independent day school for children aged 3-11, located in the leafy heart of Cheltenham.

Airthrie is a warm and welcoming school, where staff inspire, encourage and motivate children to achieve their very best.

Our goal from Early Years - Acorn, through to the completion of Year 6 - Oak, is to provide the very best foundations for all our children so that they continue to achieve success at their chosen senior school.

Children at Airthrie are taught in small classes, therefore allowing our teachers to spend more time with each pupil, getting to know their personal strengths and weaknesses, ensuring their individual needs are met.

Indeed, getting to know our children well and putting them at the centre of everything we do, not only enables them to flourish but sets us apart from other schools.

Our aims are rooted in the belief that every child is unique and that it is our responsibility, as teachers and as a school, to identify and nurture individual talents in an environment of pastoral care which promotes the pursuit of excellence.

We hope you enjoy reading this prospectus, which we trust will provide you with a flavour of the culture and values of our happy and flourishing school.

Clearly, a document like this can only be the start of understanding what makes us unique as a school, so please come and see for yourself. We would be delighted to give you a tour, where hopefully you will not only get the chance to ask questions but also meet our staff and, most importantly of all, our children, as they are, our best ambassadors.



Airthrie is a small school with a big personality.

I believe it is essential to provide a nurturing, caring environment which helps every pupil to reach their social, emotional and academic potential and Airthrie does just that!

My extensive experience of teaching and senior leadership has led me to understand how to get the best from each child. I am a firm believer in the creation of an environment where every pupil is treated as an individual, is valued, supported and thrives.

Please visit to find out more about our unique school.

**Mrs Sara Jackson**  
Headteacher



Discovering Individual Excellence



**Foundations in Excellence**

# Nurture with Ambition

Airthrie exists to equip our children with everything they need in their personal development for their next journey of learning beyond prep school and their chosen senior school.

We firmly believe that each child is unique and that every child needs to feel valued and successful .

Pupils of all abilities are nurtured and supported; praise is important. We provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment, which fosters intellectual curiosity and physical, emotional & social development. It is our priority that pupils, on their school journey, gain increasing confidence and fulfil their potential as they move on to their senior schools.

## AIMS

- To value and recognise the uniqueness and achievement of each child
- To inspire intellectual curiosity
- To promote principles which encourage respect
- To nurture and support each child to achieve their potential in all areas of learning
- To provide a safe environment which stimulates and challenges all children
- To promote physical, emotional and social development
- To foster spiritual growth
- To equip children with the resilience and skills to become life-long learners



Praise is important. Every child is unique and needs to feel valued.

# Early Years and Foundation Stage

Acorn and Willow are our Early Years. In this crucial, formative stage, the curriculum is tailored to give the children opportunities to explore, play, be creative, make friends and develop a love of learning.

The children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and are taught in both an indoor and outdoor classroom by highly qualified staff, alongside specialist teachers for French, Music, Drama and Sport.

We understand the importance of strong foundations in numeracy and literacy. From arithmetic and problem solving, to grammar and punctuation, our pupils are well prepared for the next step on their educational journey.

Children at Airthrie are encouraged to develop their own styles of work and learning so that we can help them become independent learners and decision-makers from the earliest age.



At Airthrie, we believe that, 'Mighty Oaks From Little Acorns Grow'. We aim to promote a love of learning and develop intellectual curiosity through exciting experiences both in and out of the classroom.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which follows the (2014) National Curriculum. From the moment a child joins our school, we want them to feel part of the Airthrie family.



Excellence in Teaching  
Leads to a Love of  
Learning

# The Route to Excellence

## Key Stage 1

In Years 1 and 2, we aim to develop secure foundations in all curriculum subjects. Key Stage 1 is a time when good learning habits are developed, a love of learning is nurtured and children begin to recognise their strengths and weaknesses.

At Airthrie, we aim to provide a lively environment and rich programme of teaching where children start to take responsibility for their own learning.



## Key Stage 2

Years 3 to 6 provide the stepping stones to senior school. Lessons are stimulating and meaningful and children are provided with opportunities to develop skills for learning and skills for life. Teachers guide, support and challenge in order to bring out the best in children and encourage them to take an increasingly active role in their learning.

There are opportunities for residential trips and we compete against other schools in most sports. Children at Airthrie are also prepared for the routine of senior school through developing their independence and by giving them positions of responsibility.



Growing in Excellence

# Our Preparatory School

Airthrie is non-selective and prepares children for entry to a wide range of local grammar and independent schools. Our fundamental objective is to realise and develop the full potential of every single child to prepare them for their next school. This starts in earnest in Year 3, where Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning is timetabled.

Preparation continues throughout Year 4 and, in Year 5, children have the opportunity to join specialist clubs to prepare them for specific examinations. We aim to give them the best possible chance of success in achieving a scholarship.

Recognising that some children will need additional support to achieve their goals, the on-site Hillfield Dyslexia Trust provides exceptional support for pupils on a one-to-one arrangement, Hillfield teachers work closely with class and specialist teachers to

ensure that programmes are tailored to the preferred learning styles and needs of individual pupils.

Our four Forests (house system) are the embodiment of our school values. The Forest system promotes friendships between different year groups, encourages teamwork and provides opportunities for responsibility and creativity.

At Airthrie, all our children from Acorn to Oak are encouraged to contribute to the school and the wider community. They work together with their Forest Leaders to achieve common goals and develop a spirit of healthy rivalry, important not just when it comes to competitions and sports day, but throughout the rest of their lives.



Mighty Oaks From  
Little Acorns Grow.



The Perfect Start



Est.1940

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[www.airthrie-school.co.uk](http://www.airthrie-school.co.uk)

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