



WHERE GIRLS SHINE





WITHINGTON GIRLS' JUNIOR SCHOOL

WHERE GIRLS SHINE

WELCOME TO WITHINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

We are a small friendly school that encourages excellence, independent creative thinking and where girls are guided individually to reach their potential.

We are proud that our Junior School is so involved with the life of the Senior School; the girls benefit enormously from contact with Senior girls, who act as Peer Supporters, lead assemblies and help look after the younger girls on the buses. Our girls also enjoy all the benefits of the whole school's facilities and specialist teachers.

Most Junior girls progress to Year 7 at WGS and are ready to meet the challenges of our Senior School.

Our excellent staff are always willing to give extra time to girls with specific queries and are supportive and caring.

The special needs of any individual can be recognised and provided for in our small, close-knit school. Girls finding difficulties in any area are given the appropriate support and all are further stimulated and challenged. Information is passed to the Senior School to enable staff to have a full picture of every girl at each stage of development.

“Withington Girls’ School is a pleasure to be in. My favourite thing about school is the kindness! Everyone is so kind!”

Anjali LIIX

The curriculum is broad and rounded: there are daily PE lessons; music lessons twice weekly; Art, Modern Language lessons and Design Technology take place for all Forms. There is a continuous programme of PSHCE where girls are encouraged to join in and lead discussions and value others’ opinions.

There is a lively programme of events for parents to attend throughout the year, ranging from informal breakfast clubs to music, drama and sport. Regular parents’ evenings and written reports keep you in touch with your daughter’s progress but parents are welcome in school, by appointment, at any time should they have any concerns.



Ms Bridget Howard Head of Junior School



ABOUT WITHINGTON

Withington Girls' School was founded in 1890 by a group of eminent and far-sighted Manchester families who wanted the same educational opportunities for their daughters as were already available for their sons. They stipulated that:

- the School should remain small, to allow for the individual development of each girl;
- all girls should be taught the Natural Sciences, as an excellent intellectual training;
- there should be more physical exercise and practical work than usual in girls' schools;
- no prizes should be awarded, as the pleasure of academic work should be its own reward.

Despite much development academically and physically over the years, the School has remained true in essence to these forward-looking principles.

With about 160 girls in the Junior School and 570 in the Senior School, Withington provides an impressively wide range of experience which goes well beyond the classroom, yet retains a friendly, responsive environment which best encourages each girl to fulfil her whole potential. This stimulates a high standard of achievement.

The School benefits greatly from the cosmopolitan background which the City and University of Manchester have always provided. There is much to motivate and to inspire in such influences.

Withington remains at the forefront of girls' education in the way its founders intended, offering an exceptional quality of opportunity, academic, cultural, sporting and social, and encouraging independence of mind and high aspirations.

“When I walk into Withington,
I always feel welcome”

Zaynab UIIX



STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

WHOLE SCHOOL CONTACTS

Headmistress:	Mrs S Haslam
Head of Junior School:	Ms B Howard
Deputy Head of Junior School:	Mrs H Stallard
Junior School Secretary:	Mrs L Eugene
Headmistress's PA:	Mrs A Adams
Admissions Officer:	Ms J Ellis
Office Manager:	Mrs V Brickhill
Head of PE:	Mrs L O'Neal
Director of Music:	Mrs G Sargent
School Nurse:	Mrs J Lees
Bursar:	Mrs S Senn
Chair of Governors:	Mr M Pike
PTA Chair:	Dr R Dev-Jairath

FORM TEACHERS

Transition (Year 3)	Mrs S Birch & Mrs B Lowe
Form I (Year 4)	Miss L Gorman & Mrs A Harris
Lower II (Year 5)	Miss J Arschavir & Mrs L Cordrey
Upper II (Year 6)	Mr M Dunn & Mr J Lazenby

Each Form has a class teacher who takes lessons in the core subjects, Mathematics and English, as well as teaching some of the lessons in History, Geography, RS, PSHCE and Art. Specialist staff take PE, Music, Design Technology/Art, Languages, Computing and Science. These lessons make full use of the Senior School's superb facilities.

"I like all the exciting lessons we have"

Ava LIY

WITHINGTON GIRLS' JUNIOR SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL DAY

The School day begins with registration at 8.50am.

Assemblies take place at 9.05am every day except Wednesday. Friday assemblies are non-religious or multi-faith and may involve visiting speakers.

There are optional weekly assemblies for girls of Christian, Hindu, Muslim or Jewish faith; these are organised by Sixth Form girls, overseen by staff.

LESSON TIMES

Registration	8.50am	Lunchtime	12.05pm - 1.10pm
Assembly	9.00am	Registration	1.10pm - 1.15pm
Period 1	9.25am - 10.00am	Period 5	1.15pm - 1.55pm
Period 2	10.00am - 10.35am	Period 6	1.55pm - 2.30pm
Break	10.35am - 10.55am	Break	2.30pm - 2.35pm
Period 3	10.55am - 11.30am	Period 7	2.35pm - 3.10pm
Period 4	11.30am - 12.05pm	Period 8	3.10pm - 3.40pm

The Juniors play outside, in a designated area, whenever the weather is suitable, unless they are attending club meetings.

Lunch is served at 12.35pm and all food is prepared on site by our caterers, Holroyd Howe.



WHERE GIRLS SHINE

STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum has been designed to incorporate the provisions of the National Curriculum. We use the best aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy Guidelines and then extend and enhance them so that our girls are working beyond their expected level.

It can be expected that each day the children will have lessons in Mathematics, English and PE. Science, Geography, History, Art, RS, Computing, Thinking and Learning Skills, PSHCE, Drama, Design, Languages and Music are also timetabled.

Homework is set as appropriate: Transition have approximately 20 minutes daily; Form I, 25 minutes; Lower II, 30 - 35 minutes and Upper II, 35 - 40 minutes. Each Form will have a little extra at the weekend.

REMOTE & BLENDED LEARNING

The existing Mobile Learning strategy in Withington's Senior School was extended to pupils in the Junior School at the time of the national closure of schools in March 2020, ensuring a rapid transition to full remote learning.

All Junior pupils now bring their own mobile device into School for use in lessons and this enables a successful approach to blended learning if pupils or staff need to self-isolate. There is no expectation that pupils will complete work in every lesson on a mobile device and their deployment varies between subjects and classes.

We want to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by new technology but to do so in a way that does not prioritise the technology itself over teaching and learning. We also aim to keep Withington and its pupils at the forefront of learning and to help them to develop skills that will be beneficial in their future lives.

WITHINGTON GIRLS' JUNIOR SCHOOL

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

The Junior School is small and friendly, and each child's progress can be noted and discussed regularly by all the staff involved. Parents will always be informed of any concerns. There is a Welcome Evening in early September where parents can meet each other, their daughter's Form Tutor and find out about the new school year.

On a more formal level, there are regular tests in Mathematics and English; modular tests in other subjects and externally moderated assessments. Around Autumn Half Term and in the Spring Term there are Parents' Evenings.

There are two reports: a short report in the Spring Term and a full report in the summer.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Girls can arrive at school from 8.00am when they are supervised in the School Dining Room until registration. 'Breakfast' type snacks can be purchased.

There is a supervised Late Stay where girls can be collected up to 5.15pm and a variety of clubs are available during this time.

There is no charge for our before and after school care.

“Withington is like a family to me”

Tvisha UIIX

WHERE GIRLS SHINE



STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There are many lunchtime activities. Typically, these include Junior School Choir, Pets Club, Art clubs, Drama clubs, Dance clubs and Library clubs and are in addition to a range of sports activities such as gym, netball, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, football and fencing. Private music lessons are also available, at extra charge, for every orchestral instrument and for classical guitar, percussion and singing.

Wind, string and clarinet ensembles and a percussion group meet weekly for rehearsal and perform in assemblies and concerts. These concerts are some of the many occasions throughout the year when we welcome parents and friends. Others include the Christmas Concert, the Music Festival, Sports Day and Drama events.

Outings and visitors to the school enrich the curriculum and further enhance and stimulate the girls' enthusiasm and curiosity for life. We have Geography fieldtrips to Castleton and Macclesfield Forest, activity weekends away and visits to sites of historical interest. We also welcome many visitors and activity providers to the school including charity representatives, science workshops and drama productions.

EXPECTATIONS

We want each girl to achieve her own potential and feel that this is facilitated by our small numbers, warm and friendly atmosphere, and experienced staff. Parents can expect that we will look for each girl's strengths and develop these whilst giving help with any weaker areas.

We expect that pupils will try to be thoughtful, courteous to others and well disciplined. We want them to be creative and love learning, enjoying the input we give at school whilst receiving encouragement and support from home on a daily basis. The Junior School offers a safe and secure foundation, allowing girls to question, and be bold in their thinking and learning.

Parents can be involved regularly during the year at school functions and can become involved with the PTA Committee, which organises social and fundraising activities, and supports the School with gifts of equipment.

The Junior School girls are fully involved in raising money for charity and parental support for these ventures is invaluable.

“I like it when you get chosen to play in a match. The feeling is inexplicable!”

Harshini F1X



ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Entry for the Junior school is by an Entrance Assessment taken on **Saturday 16th January 2021**. Up to 40 places are available for Transition (Year 3) and 15 for Form I (Year 4). Additionally, a small number of places may be available for Lower II (Year 5) and Upper II (Year 6). The closing date for applications is **Thursday 10th December 2020**.

We ask parents to inform us of any disability or special educational need which might affect their daughter's ability to participate in the admissions procedure. The Head of the Junior School will consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the application procedure is accessible for their daughter and that the Junior School can make the necessary arrangements, should an offer of a place be made.

The whole aim of the assessments is to test the girls' ability to think for themselves. It is not necessary, or even helpful, for them to be heavily tutored, as this will not help us to discover their true potential.

BEFORE THE ASSESSMENT

Complete an Application Form and return it to the Admissions Office.

Please take care to enter the correct date of birth. We ask that you include a copy of your daughter's most recent school report. If she has a report in December, please wait and send that one.

There are no sample papers as the English and Mathematics Assessments will be similar to work that they usually do at school.

Please do not practise a story; it will not help as the story must be written on the given titles and a prepared essay is most unhelpful to your daughter, and to us if we are to understand her potential.

Please be aware that we are looking for girls who will enjoy their education here and will thrive in the Withington environment. It may not be right for every girl.

“I like the positive atmosphere
and we have great facilities”

Margot UIIX



ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

ASSESSMENT DAY

The Junior Entrance Assessment is scheduled to take place on Saturday 16th January 2021. Our aim is for applicants to attend the Assessment Day in person if national and local coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance in place at that time allows.

As we will need to make plans to allow for appropriate social distancing, we will make final decisions on arrangements after the application deadline, once we know the number of girls who have applied for each Year Group. We will stay in contact with all parents of applicants to keep them updated of arrangements.

The girls would be taken to individual classrooms where teachers will talk to them and make them feel at home. The morning will be as informal as possible and girls may ask questions, although they cannot get help with the answers! We want everyone to feel comfortable and we try to make the atmosphere relaxed.

THE ASSESSMENT

- English - comprehension, language skills and story
- Mathematics - basic numeracy and problem solving
- A short, taught task may be given in some year groups

**“Everybody here is so friendly
and willing to help you out”**

Harmony UIIX

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

There are no formal interviews for Junior girls; we talk to them and observe them on the Assessment Day. Ms Bridget Howard, Head of the Junior School, or one of the Junior School team will contact parents within a few weeks of the Assessment to provide feedback. A reference and/or a recent report will be needed from your daughter's current school before a formal offer can be made.

If you have any queries regarding the admissions procedure, please contact Ms Jane Ellis, Admissions Officer, at admissions@wgs.org, or phone 0161 249 3371.



ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

TRANSITION

The Entrance Assessment is taken in January of Year 2 to enter Transition (Year 3) in September. The following is a guide to what each girl should be capable of at the time of the Entrance Assessment.

Mathematics:

- Addition
- Subtraction in simple written forms
- Multiplication in the simplest form e.g. 'lots of'
- Division as used in 'sharing' not formal division
- Clocks – ability to tell the time on the hour and half hour
- Simple fractions
- Tables 2x 3x and 4x
- A number of story sums where the ability to read is essential
- Simple bar charts

English:

- Fluent reading is expected
- Answering simple questions on a passage
- Ability to write a simple, imaginative story
- Simple idea of sentence construction, such as full stops and use of capital letters
- Legible writing with no confusion of letters

FORM 1

The Entrance Assessment is taken in January of Year 3 to enter Form 1 (Year 4) in September. The following is a guide to what each girl should be capable of at the time of the Entrance Assessment.

Mathematics:

- Place value up to 1000
- Adding and subtracting up to 2 digits
- Tables up to 12x
- 4 rules of number and their simple use in money
- Length – m and cms / Weight – kg and g
- Ability to tell the time using the 12 hour clock and simple calculations on elapsed time
- Use of fractions to describe proportions of a whole
- Simple properties of two-dimensional shapes e.g. symmetry
- Ability to extract information from a simple list, table or bar chart
- Simple problems involving any of the above

English:

- Fluent reading
- Answering vocabulary and simple inference comprehension questions about a passage
- Writing with correct use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and with verb agreement
- Ability to write imaginatively showing variety of sentence construction and grammatical accuracy



ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

LOWER II

The Entrance Assessment is taken in January of Year 4 to enter Lower II (Year 5) in September. The following is a guide to what each girl should be capable of at the time of the Entrance Assessment.

Mathematics:

- Tables up to 12x
- 4 rules of number
- 4 rules of money
- Decimals; understanding of tenths and hundredths
- Finding fractional amounts of whole numbers and shapes
- Time – 12-hour clock, using am and pm
- Areas and perimeters of squares and rectangles
- Units of measurement: length, mass and capacity
- Classification of polygons
- Graphs – constructing and extracting data from bar charts
- Problems, involving one or two steps, on any of the above

English:

- Punctuation and grammar as for Form I but including use of speech marks, a variety of connectives and the correct use of all the verb tenses
- Ability to answer searching questions from a passage
- Stories to be lively and imaginative, using paragraphs, appropriate punctuation, grammar and correct spelling
- Write story plans
- Enjoyment of reading and ability to relate the main points of a story
- Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with the work of some established authors and explain their preferences

UPPER II

The Entrance Assessment is taken in January of Year 5, to enter Upper II (Year 6) in September. The following is a guide to what each girl should be capable of at the time of the Entrance Assessment.

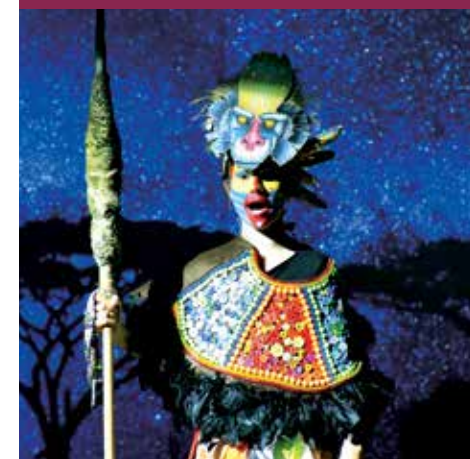
Mathematics:

- 4 rules of number including long multiplication and long division
- 4 rules of number using length, weight and capacity
- Time, timetables, 12- and 24-hour clock
- Simple averages
- Decimals and fractions (addition, subtraction and short multiplication)
- Ability to convert decimals to fractions and vice versa
- Graphs: pie charts, pictograms, block graphs, line graphs; the ability to construct, extract and interpret data
- Area and perimeter of regular shapes
- Recognition of shape, rotational and line symmetry
- Increase and reduction as simple percentages
- Two and three-step problems on any of the above

English:

As for all previous years, also including:

- Fluency of writing, with imagination, showing correct use of grammar and paragraphs
- Punctuation using exclamation marks and double quotation marks, e.g. for names of books inside existing speech marks
- Accuracy in spellings and a wide vocabulary
- Comprehension: ability to deduce information as well as answer straightforward questions
- Reading; as for Lower II, but candidates are expected to have read a wide range of books



Means-tested bursaries are available for Years 5 and 6.
The closing date for applications for these is Tuesday 15th December 2020.
For more information please contact our Admissions Officer
on 0161 249 3371 or email admissions@wgs.org