

A photograph of three children in school uniforms playing on a swing set in a grassy field. The child in the foreground is swinging happily, wearing a dark blue school jacket with a crest and the word 'Sidcot' on it. Two other children are visible in the background, also in school uniforms, one standing and one sitting on a swing.

# Sidcot Junior School

What Matters?

[sidcot.org.uk](http://sidcot.org.uk)



Sidcot  
Live Adventurously

What matters most  
to you in choosing  
a primary school?  
At Sidcot, we believe  
what matters most  
is your child.

# What matters when choosing a primary school?

What matters most to you in choosing a primary school? At Sidcot, we believe what matters most is your child. In our Junior School, we ensure your child is equipped with all the tools they need to learn effectively, so that when they move into secondary school, they have already developed the building blocks for success.

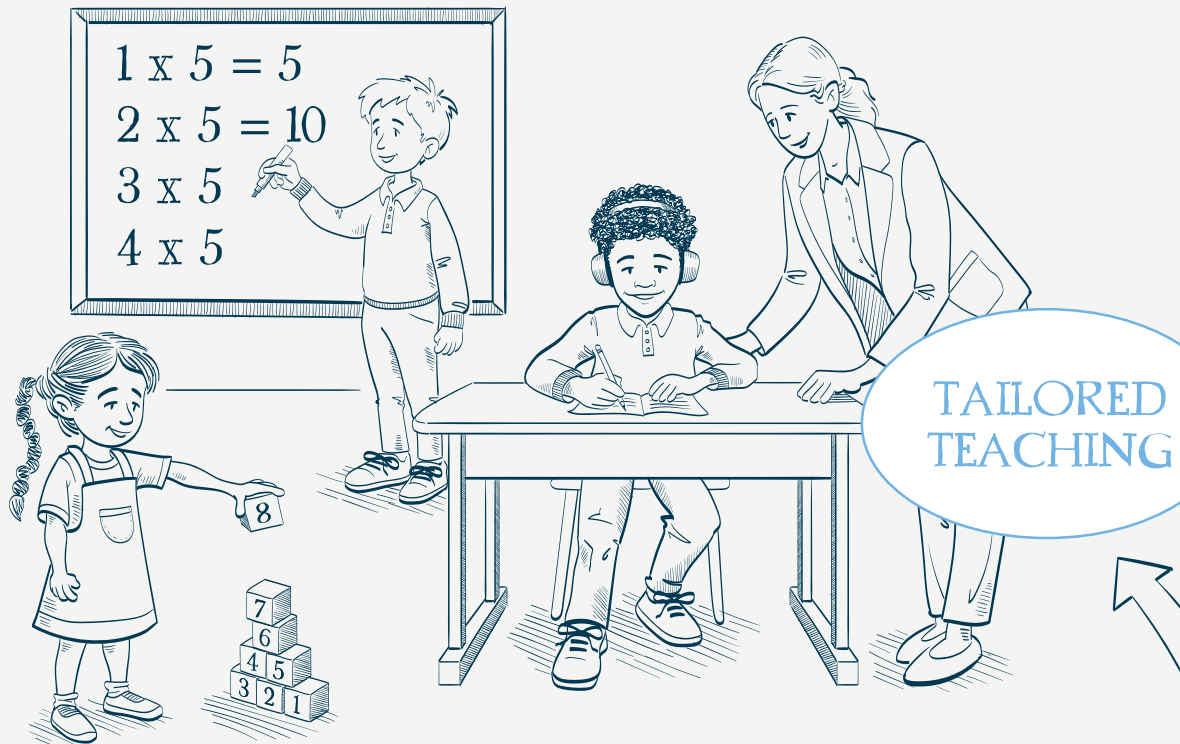


At Sidcot Junior School, we are committed to the holistic development of every child, ensuring they flourish both academically and personally. We believe that a happy, well-supported child is one who can reach their full potential.

Our small class sizes allow our experienced staff to provide a curriculum that is individually tailored to each child's needs, balancing support with challenge. This personalised approach ensures that our pupils not only excel academically but also develop the essential skills and confidence needed for lifelong success.

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Cath Dykes  
Head of Sidcot Junior School



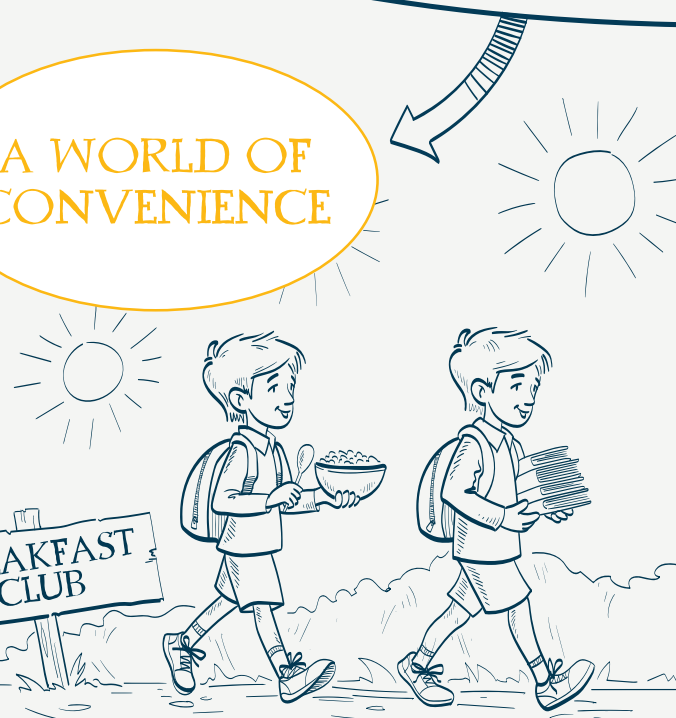
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE



What

A WORLD OF  
CONVENIENCE

BREAKFAST  
CLUB

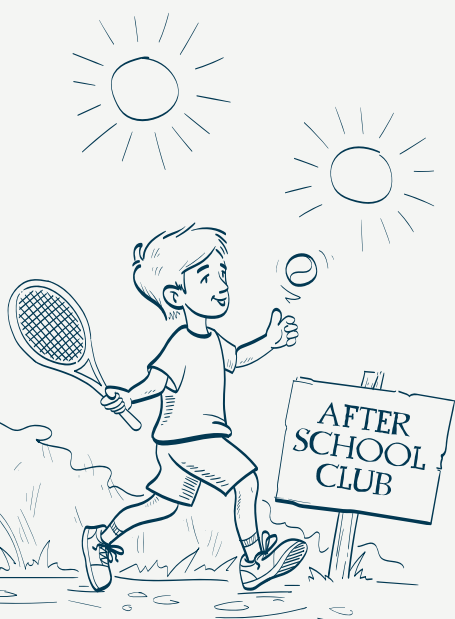






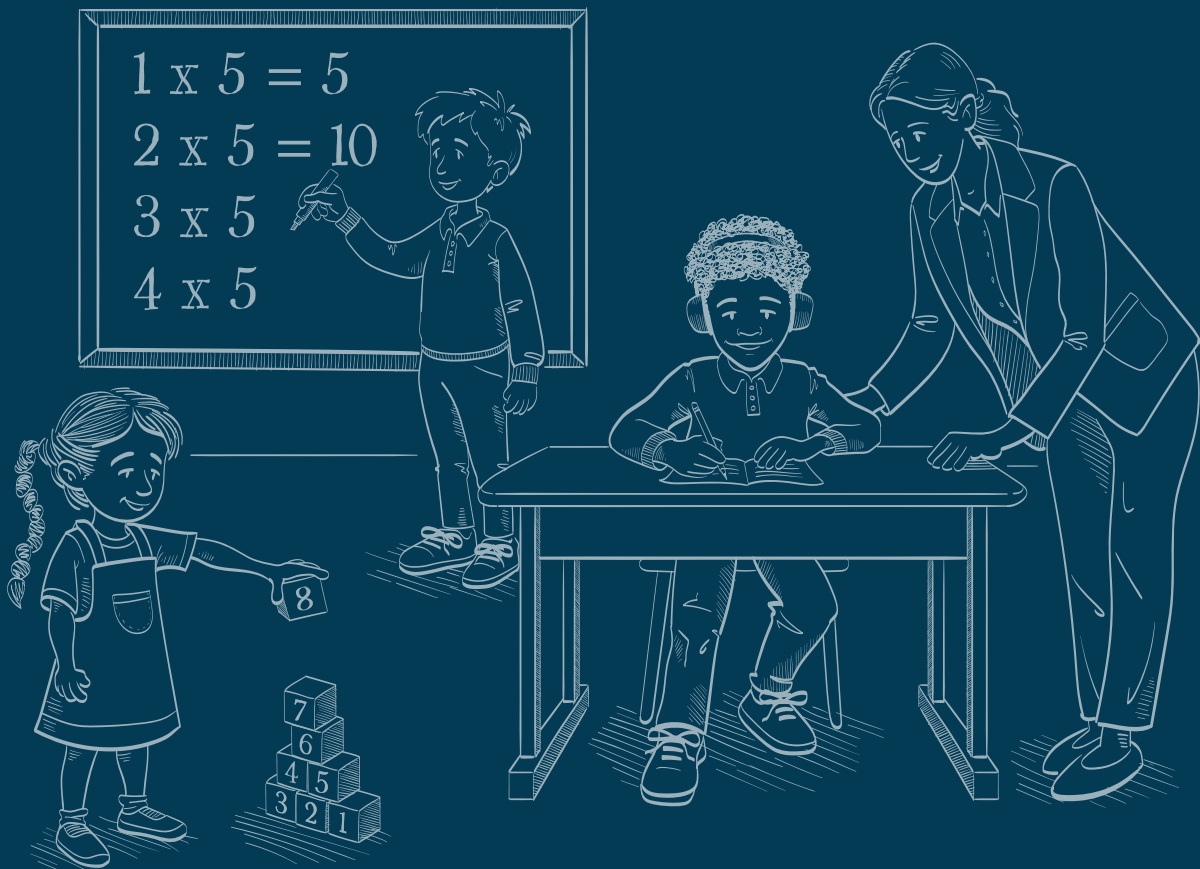
matters

SPECIALIST  
TEACHERS



# Tailored teaching

At Sidcot Junior School, we believe every child is unique. That's why we offer a tailored teaching approach that goes beyond simply following a curriculum. Our small class sizes, combined with a commitment to a nurturing and child-led environment, ensures your child receives the individual attention they deserve.



# What does tailored teaching look like at Sidcot?

**Understanding Your Child:** We take the time to get to know each pupil holistically. This allows us to fully understand your child's strengths, interests, and how they like to learn so that we can create a personalised learning experience which fosters their individual talents and engages them fully.

**Nurturing Curiosity:** Our teachers encourage exploration and discovery, sparking a lifelong love of learning in every child. This builds confidence and a sense of ownership in their educational journey.

**Celebrating Individuality:** We believe in fostering a supportive environment where all voices are heard and celebrated. This allows children to thrive and develop their unique personalities.

**Academic Achievement:** Our small class sizes, combined with a commitment to a nurturing and child-led environment, ensures our children receive the individual attention they deserve and reach their full academic potential.

# What are the benefits of tailored teaching?

**Deeper Understanding:** Children are more engaged when learning aligns with their interests and learning styles, leading to a deeper grasp of concepts.

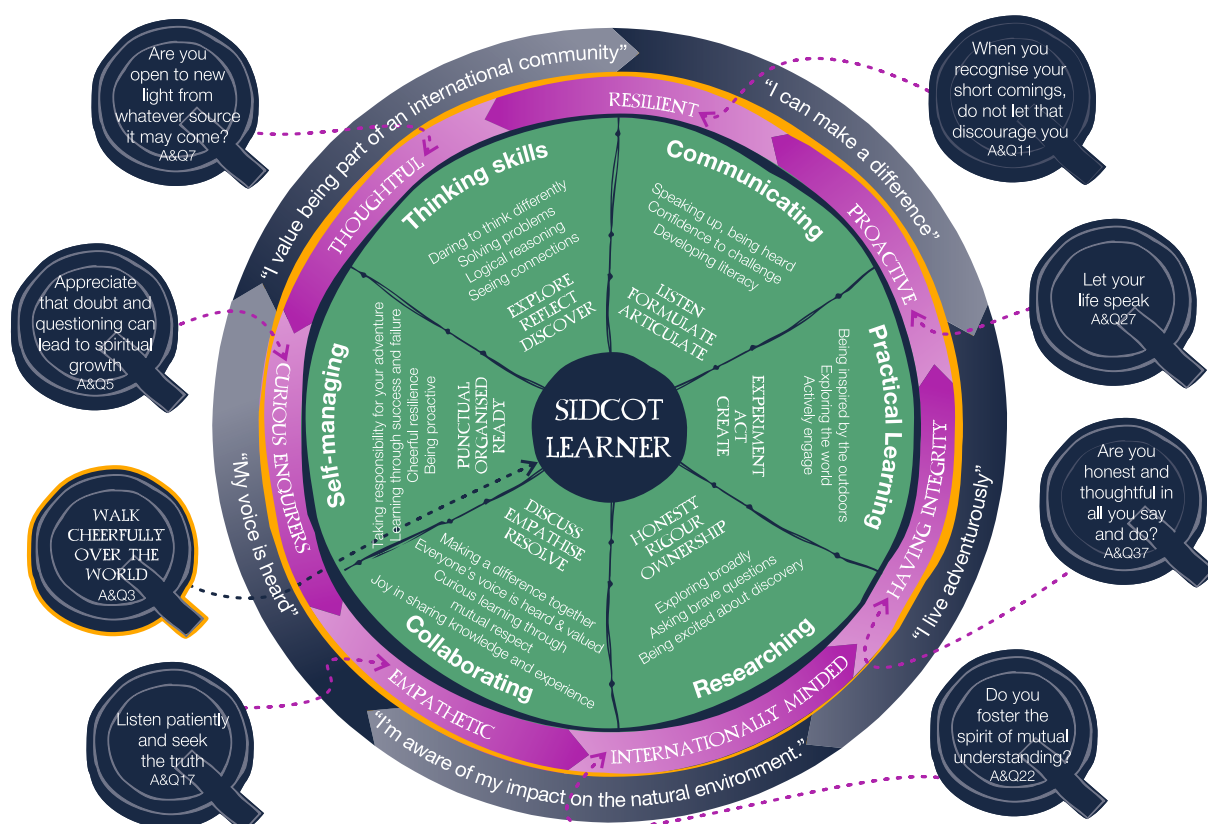
**Increased Confidence:** A focus on individual strengths empowers children to take ownership of their learning, build confidence in their abilities and respond positively when being challenged in their learning.

**Lifelong Learners:** By fostering curiosity and a love of learning, we prepare our pupils to become successful lifelong learners who want to know more about the world!

# The Sidcot Learning Wheel

The Sidcot Learning Wheel shows how our Quaker testimonies link to the teaching and learning that goes on in the School.

It shows the thinking behind what we do inside and outside the classroom, and how our values inform our approach to education. You'll see it all around the School, being used by both teachers and pupils as a focus for reflection and discussion.



A&Q: ADVICES AND QUERIES FROM QUAKER SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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# Our curriculum

**Each week pupils have lessons in a wide range of subjects.**

These may be held in the classroom or, where appropriate, outside, in our Forest School, in a yurt, or in the facilities we share with the whole School, including the Arts Centre, Drama Studio, Science Laboratories, Sports Centre, and Library. The timetable also includes plenty of opportunities for Creative Arts each week.

At Sidcot School, we are committed to the education and academic pursuits of our pupils, tailoring our curriculum to encourage self-exploration and a focus on what matters to each individual child. What matters at Sidcot is that children learn and develop in the subjects they are taught and that they grow their passions, hobbies, and self-esteem too. We do this by creating a holistic approach to education.



At Junior School,  
the foundations  
are laid for an  
education for life.



# In the classroom

Our pupils learn in small classes, typically of 14 to 18.

We make a start on academic work early, bringing it to life with imaginative exercises and activities that give children experience of collaboration, giving and receiving feedback, and plenty of practice in oral skills.

## Active learning

Throughout the School, we encourage children to be interested in their own learning.

This extends to prep, where pupils are asked to complete project-based learning at home, which they bring in and share with their class.







# What's it like to learn adventurously?

It's fun and it's challenging. The key to it is our teachers.

They are not tick-box teachers, and they don't practice tick-box education. They create a family feel in the classroom, a supportive structure with clearly defined boundaries to make each child feel safe and empowered.

They give their pupils plenty of space and time to explore and experiment. They find out what each child can manage and then help them to work with confidence, supporting them to stretch and challenge themselves.



Two young girls in school uniforms are running on a grassy field. They are wearing dark blue polo shirts with yellow accents and dark blue shorts. The girl on the left is wearing white socks and white sneakers, while the girl on the right is wearing dark socks and colorful sneakers. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying their run. The background is a lush green field with some white flowers.

# Assessments



We don't enter our children for external national testing.

We know that assessments can be useful in helping teachers decide a child's next steps. However, they mustn't interfere with children's well-being or their enjoyment of learning, so our teachers collect the same assessment information in more discreet and less pressurised ways.

We want our pupils to experience education as being about expanding possibilities and discovering potential, not just passing tests.



# Specialist Teachers

A world of opportunity with lessons in Science, Languages, Art, Drama, and Sport delivered by skilled specialist teachers.



# Music

**There is a wide range of musical opportunities for every pupil at Sidcot. Each child has the chance to learn a musical instrument, taught by specialist teachers.**

Music is an integral part of the curriculum from Pre-School to Year 6, where children are introduced to the foundations of reading music and exploring music-making. As the children move into Year 2 and beyond, they can attend group instrumental lessons, provided by a peripatetic teacher.

In addition to weekly classroom lessons, Sidcot provides the opportunity for children to play and explore music collaboratively in the School orchestra, small groups, weekly singing assemblies, the School choir, and After School Music Clubs.

Music at Sidcot is very inclusive and all children are given the opportunity to perform in a variety of different concerts and performances throughout the School year.

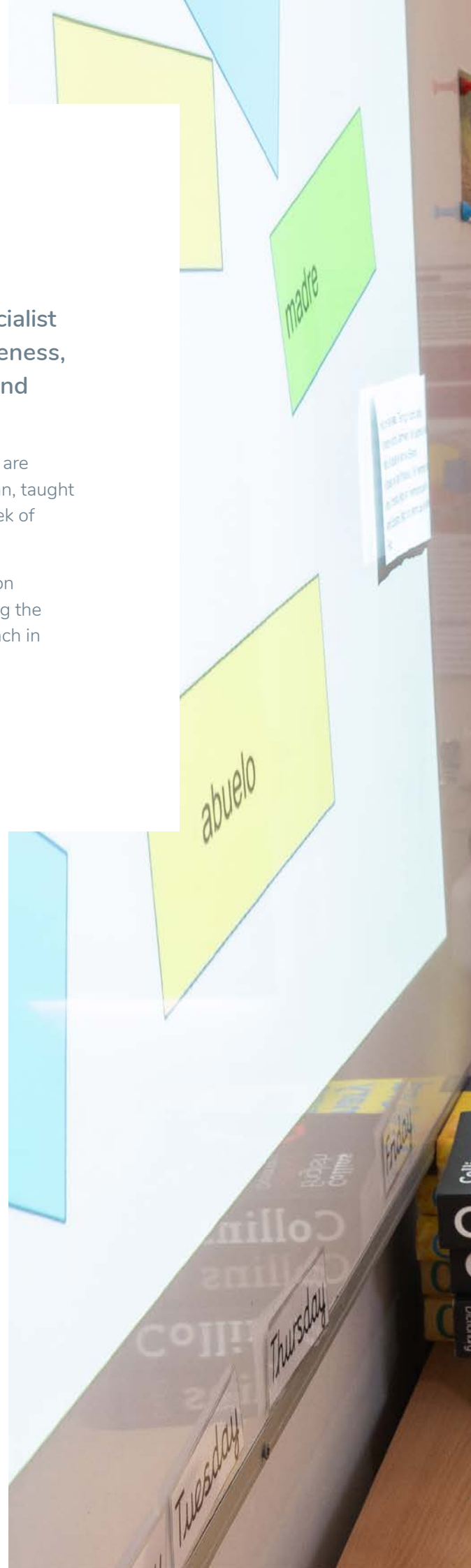


# Languages

All children from Reception to Year 6 have specialist language provision. We believe that an awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of languages and culture are essential in the modern world.

Our pupils learn French, German, Spanish, and Chinese. They are also introduced to other languages, such as Italian and Russian, taught by international students, during our annual International Week of Languages.

All children from Reception to Year 6 have one language lesson per week. Those in Year 6 can continue with their French using the Linguascope programme that prepares them for learning French in the Senior School.













# Sports

We have excellent sports facilities at Sidcot and we make good use of them. From their earliest years with us, all our pupils have regular sports sessions, starting with PE lessons and swimming sessions in Pre-School and Reception.

In Years 1 and 2, children have two PE lessons a week. Years 3 to 6 have one PE lesson and a games afternoon. All children have a weekly swimming session.

Sports at Sidcot Junior School are both competitive and inclusive. We aim to make sports enjoyable and exciting for all students, emphasising the importance of finding joy in competitive sports and physical activity. We focus on ensuring that children experience the joy of winning and accomplishing personal goals rather than solely striving to be “the best”.

The Junior School makes full use of the School’s excellent facilities, which include a 25m swimming pool, a 4G hockey surface, tennis courts, an all-weather pitch and an athletics field.

We run several extracurricular sports clubs and activities every week and have a packed schedule of fixtures against other schools throughout the year.



# The Great Outdoors

Nestled amidst 150 acres of beautiful Somerset countryside, Sidcot Junior School offers an environment unlike any other. Here, learning extends far beyond the walls of the classroom, with a dedicated focus on outdoor learning opportunities.





# Forest School

Our weekly Forest School program provides a unique and enriching experience for children of all ages. Immersed in the natural world, students develop a love for the outdoors, fostering a sense of wonder, curiosity, and respect for the environment, whilst being challenged in their learning.

Through a range of hands-on activities, children:

- Build confidence and resilience
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Learn about nature and the changing seasons
- Practice teamwork and communication
- Take part in STEM activities

## A world of exploration

Beyond the dedicated Forest School area, our extensive grounds offer endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. Children can:

- Build dens and play imaginative games in our woodlands
- Explore the diverse wildlife that thrives on our campus
- Learn about sustainable gardening in our allotments
- Enjoy the freedom and fresh air of our open fields

## Benefits of outdoor learning

**Enhanced Learning:** Studies show that outdoor learning improves concentration, memory, and academic performance.

**Physical and Mental Wellbeing:** Spending time outdoors promotes physical activity, reduces stress, and fosters emotional well-being.

**Developing a Connection with Nature:** Outdoor learning helps children develop a connection with the natural world, instilling a sense of environmental responsibility.





# Location

Sidcot Junior School is located in Winscombe, North Somerset. Set among stunning green spaces, we are close to Bristol and Bath, and Weston-super-Mare is only 8 miles away. Our location on the A38 and minibus routes across in the county mean that we're accessible for families based in Bristol and throughout Somerset.



# Making a difference

At Sidcot Junior School, we believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically prepared but also equipped to make a positive impact on the world. We go beyond traditional education, fostering a sense of social responsibility and encouraging students to become active global citizens.



# Empowering future leaders

Beyond the classroom, we offer a variety of initiatives that encourage pupils to think big and Let their Life Speak:

- **School Council:** Students have a voice in shaping school life, developing leadership skills and taking initiative.
- **Charity Fundraising:** Children actively participate in fundraising events, fostering a sense of social responsibility and supporting worthy causes.
- **Community Outreach Projects:** Pupils engage with the local community, learning the importance of social connection and giving back.
- **Green Team and Green Earthlings:** Sustainability is very important to our pupils. Children on these teams meet once a week to plan activities and carry out any eco-school business.

# Developing global citizens

We provide opportunities for pupils to connect with their peers from around the world, fostering a sense of global citizenship. These may include:

- **International Learning:** Pupils broaden their horizons by interacting with students of different cultures on a daily basis. Senior School boarding students often come to the Junior School to discuss important parts of their heritage and cultures, and share their stories and experiences.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** We celebrate many international events, from Lunar New Year and Christmas, to Black History Month and Ramadan. These events provide a great opportunity for our students to learn about the world in a fun and interactive way.





# Quaker practice

The Junior School has its own regular Meeting for Worship. Pupils come together and sit in silence and if anyone feels they want to speak, they do so.

You'd be surprised how quickly our lively young pupils settle into the silence and learn to welcome the quiet space.

Meeting for Worship also helps to build pupils' confidence in speaking out. They get to voice their opinion knowing that they will be fully listened to, and, in turn, they learn how to listen respectfully to others.

Each Meeting has a theme, which is chosen by the Elders, a group of pupils from Year 6 who meet each week to organise the Meeting. Throughout the year, The Elders get together with local Quaker groups for games, activities and discussions. They are also invited to attend QSpace, a Quaker youth group, as an after-school activity.

The School's approach to behaviour management is designed to be supportive and nurturing, and follows a restorative practice model. This ties in with our Quaker ideals of equality with every child's voice being heard.

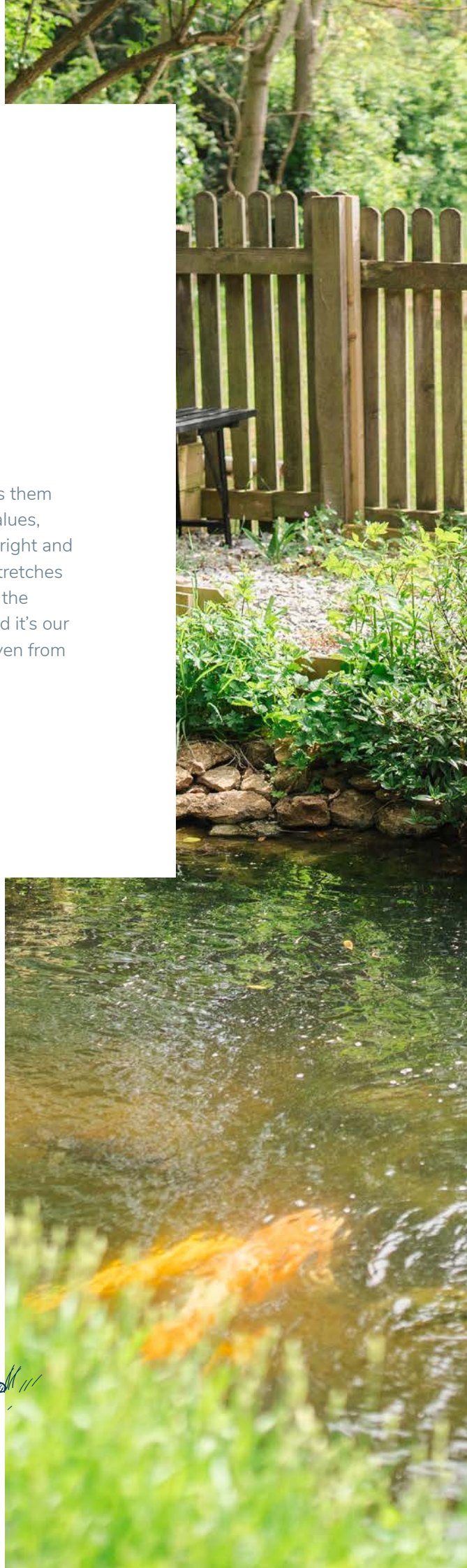




# Peace and global studies

Developing a broad, global perspective is an important element of our Learning Wheel.

Each week, pupils in Years 1 to 6 join a lesson that encourages them to think about how they fit in to the world. They think about values, their own and other people's. They discuss what we mean by right and wrong. They think about the global environment, and how it stretches beyond the School's setting in rural Somerset and out beyond the confines of the country. These are big things to think about and it's our experience that children engage enthusiastically with them, even from a very young age.









Small classes,  
an inspiring  
curriculum and a  
caring ethos, are  
the vital ingredients  
in helping us create  
an enthusiasm for  
learning.



# Sustainability matters

Sustainability is a Quaker testimony and is therefore high on the agenda at the Junior School.

As an eco-school, we have a very active Green Team that meets in the garden three times a week, for gardening or other nature activities. The Green Earthlings meet up most days of the week to plan and carry out any other eco-school business such as Waste Week, Water Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, and Switch Off Fortnights. The Junior School also promotes the UN Sustainable Development Goals throughout the curriculum. The children are engaged with issues such as Fair Trade, reducing poverty, supporting an orphanage in Tanzania, sponsoring toilet twinning in Uganda, reducing energy consumption and developing a greater understanding of climate action across the world by young people.

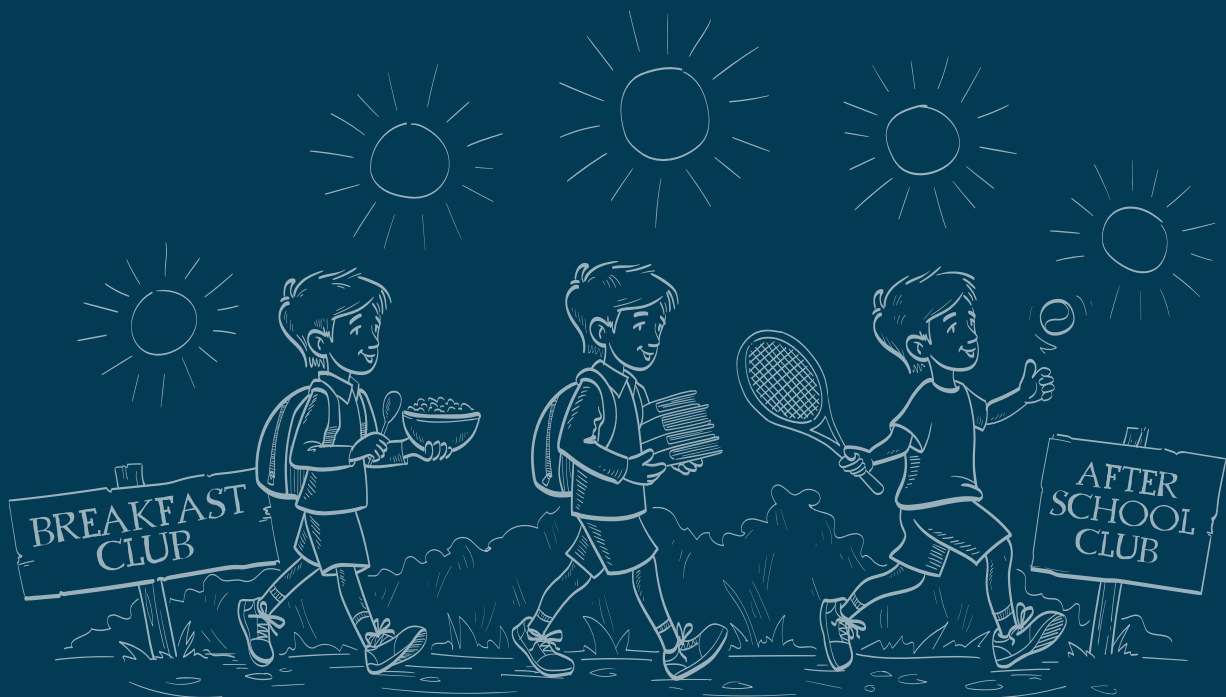




# A world of convenience

At Sidcot Junior School, we understand the importance of convenience for busy parents.

Our comprehensive wrap-around care programme offers a seamless solution, providing high-quality childcare before and after school, alongside a vast selection of extra-curricular activities.



# Flexible and supportive

Our wrap-around care programme is designed to fit your family's needs. We offer:

- **Early Start:** Supervised care from 7:45am with the option of having breakfast too, ensuring your child has a calm and stimulating start to the day.
- **After School Clubs:** A wide range of engaging activities until 6:00pm, allowing your child to explore new interests and develop their talents. A hot meal is provided in the Senior School refectory for pupils who are still onsite at 5:20pm.
- **Holiday Clubs:** Fun and enriching activities throughout school holidays, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for your child.

# Beyond convenience

Wrap-around care at Sidcot goes beyond just convenience. It's an extension of our nurturing school environment, offering a range of benefits:

- **Peace of Mind:** Knowing your child is in a safe and stimulating environment before, during, and after school allows you to focus on your day.
- **Seamless Transition:** Wrap-around care provides a smooth transition from home to school and back, reducing stress for both parents and children.
- **Continued Learning and Development:** Our after school clubs offer opportunities for further exploration, fostering creativity, social skills, and a love of learning.

# Exploring extra-curricular activities

With a diverse range of after school clubs, your child can explore their passions and discover new interests. These may include:

- **Arts and Crafts:** Develop creativity and artistic skills
- **Performance:** Drama, music, and dance clubs to build confidence and teamwork
- **Sports:** A variety of sporting activities to promote physical well-being
- **Academic Clubs:** Explore subjects in greater depth

# Beyond the classroom

Sidcot School is situated in a beautiful rural location in North Somerset.

The surrounding area means we have ample space for school sports, extra curricular activities, and wellbeing activities for children. We also have links with local community groups, charities and businesses, and arrange school trips throughout the year.

## Junior School Trips

With stunning North Somerset as our home and a host of towns and cities nearby, it's no wonder that we love taking our Junior School pupils on school trips. Our staff arrange school trips to galleries, museums, sporting fixtures, and local events. Recent trips have included a visit to the Roman Baths, Nothefort, We the Curious, residential trips to Kilve Court, and lots more!

During the summer term, the entire school takes part in an on-site summer trip to make the most of our beautiful School grounds and facilities. It's a fun-filled day with various activities such as climbing, art, enjoying tasty ice creams, and bouncing on a bouncy castle. This special day is a highlight on our School calendar, offering all students the chance to relax and have fun with their friends as the School year ends.

**“Open, curious, inspired by their education and calmly confident in their ability to make a difference is how these pupils come across.”**

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Good Schools Guide



# Transition to Secondary School

The education children receive during their Junior School years is essential in setting them up for what comes next.

Being immersed in a boarding school environment prepares Sidcot Junior pupils for this transition, and once your child comes to the end of their time at our Junior School, Sidcot Senior School is ready to welcome them. We then continue to support them as they embark on the next step in their education journey, and move into Sidcot Sixth Form from ages 16 to 18.

For current J6 pupils at Sidcot, we ensure their transition to our Senior School is as seamless as possible. We have a range of measures in place to ensure your child is familiar with the people, processes and facilities available to them. We also have a comprehensive programme of events scheduled to prepare pupils for the move to our Senior School.

These include:

- **Third Form Taster Evening**
- **Third Former for a day**
- **Bridging Curriculum Day**
- **Transfer Day**
- **Specialist lessons with Senior School teachers**
- **QSpace and lots more!**

For more information about our comprehensive transition programme, contact our Admissions team on [admissions@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:admissions@sidcot.org.uk).



# Pre-School

During their time at Pre-School, children will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. In practice, this involves play and activities designed to develop skills and talents in literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

Teaching within these areas addresses the three prime aspects of the curriculum: Communication and Language development, Physical development and Personal, Social and Emotional development.

Children can enter our Pre-School when they turn three years old and are developmentally ready to manage their own hygiene and personal needs. We accept Local Authority Early Years funding up to a maximum of 15 hours of per week until the term following a child's fifth birthday. We expect children to start with a minimum of four sessions and this needs to incorporate a whole day.

Our Pre-School children make use of many of the School facilities such as the swimming pool, library and refectory, as well as the lovely woodland Forest School. Regular activities include creative arts, cookery, dance, music, PE and plenty of outdoor play.

# Baby & Toddler group

Sidcot Toddler Group takes place Monday to Friday during term time and is run by highly qualified and experienced Early Years professionals.

It provides an opportunity for parents/carers and their young children to get to know other local families in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Our weekly sessions consist of: Pony Club, where our adorable Shetland Ponies aim to give children a gentle introduction to riding and Pony Care while gaining confidence and having fun; Forest School, where children can come and explore our forest area and partake in activities based around natural resources, using tools, mud, clay, flora and fauna; Gardening and Nature club where children can learn about nature and the seasonal planting of flowers and vegetables; Our Stay and Play session where children can be independent and are offered activities that help them socialise with other children; Swimming sessions, introducing babies and toddlers to the water and incorporating rhyme, music, and movement.



# It's a family affair

When your child joins the Sidcot School community, the whole family joins, too. As a parent, you will receive numerous invitations to visit the School, get involved in your child's daily life, and attend our busy calendar of School events.

You can visit the classroom to share about your occupation or participate in events like Grandparents' Tea, Mother and Father's Day celebrations, BBQs, firework parties, and the weekly Coffee in the Hub sessions. There are always competitions, clubs, sports fixtures, arts events, talks, and fairs, and family members are welcome to join. Parents are also encouraged to participate in Quaker events like Meeting for Worship and the Sidcot Festival of Peace.

The Junior School PTA is a welcoming, inclusive community with class representatives for each year group. This active, friendly group of parents contributes to and enriches School life, and all parents are welcome to join.

# Emotional health

Our classrooms have a family feel and an atmosphere of mutual respect. Our pupils know they are being treated with fairness, that their views are listened to and their decisions respected.

We have a strong PSHE Curriculum which puts in place the key building blocks of respectful relationships and teaches our pupils to be healthy – both physically and mentally.

Developing emotional literacy is important to us at this early stage. We teach our pupils to recognise and name their emotions so that they are able to speak up and communicate their feelings. We believe in the importance of our pupils knowing that their voice will be heard, and we make sure that they understand what it means to be in a safe environment – not only in the classroom, but also online and in everyday life.

When disagreements arise, as they will, we help our pupils use the skills of peer mediation and to have restorative conversations. We encourage them to be creative and use social stories to develop empathy and confidence around opposing points of view. In this way, our pupils learn to listen and come to understand, and not be frightened by difference and disagreement.





# An invitation to visit

Now you've heard a little about Sidcot Junior School, come along and see it for yourself.

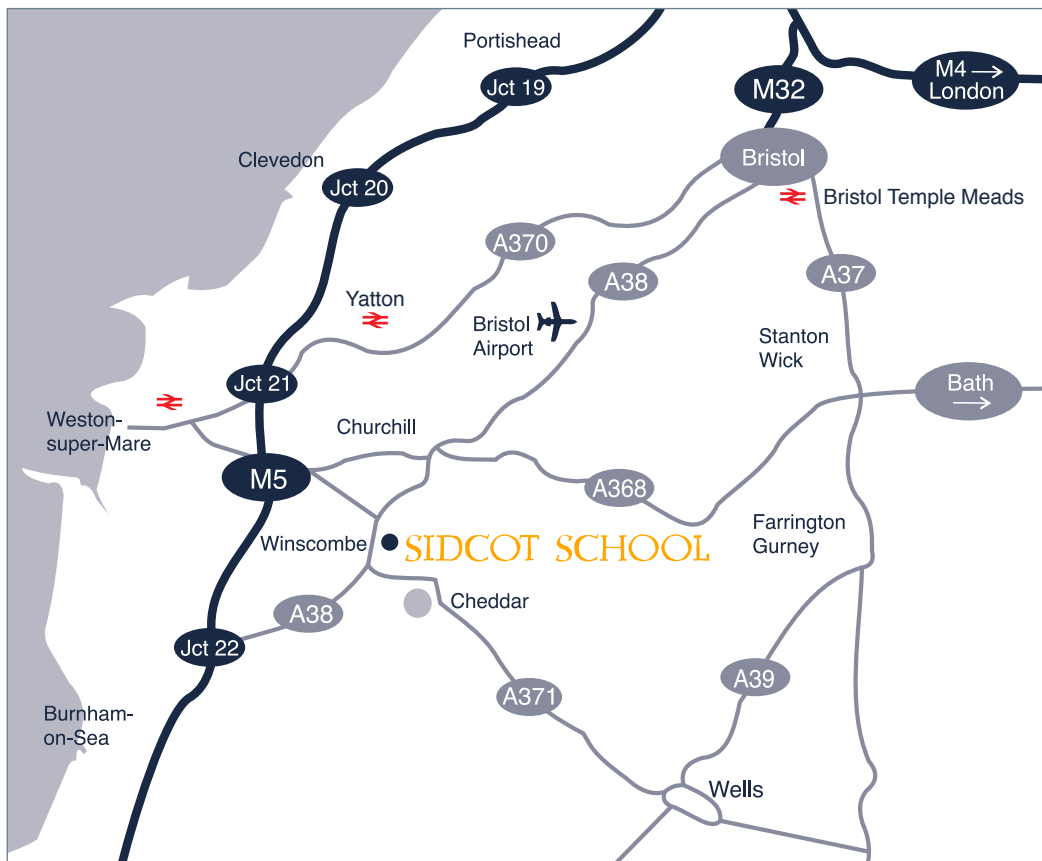
Wander round the grounds and the buildings, meet the staff and pupils, sit in on a lesson. Most importantly, be curious. Ask us as many questions as you can. We're very proud of our School and are always happy to talk about what life is like here.

For details of our curriculum and lots more information, visit our website [sidcot.org.uk](http://sidcot.org.uk).

**Even better, come and see us!**

Sidcot School,  
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Winscombe,  
North Somerset  
BS25 1PD

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[admissions@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:admissions@sidcot.org.uk)







# Our people



**Head of Sidcot Junior School – Cath Dykes**  
cath.dykes@sidcot.org.uk

## Admissions team

We would love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to give us a call or email us.  
Please see our website for a full staff list: [sidcot.org.uk/who-we-are](http://sidcot.org.uk/who-we-are)



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