



Άγιος Νικόλαος & Άγιος Ξενοφών

Information Handbook

**St Nicholas & St Xenophon
Leicester Greek School**



Academic Year 24/25

A WORD FROM THE HEAD



I am delighted to welcome you to our information pack which I hope gives you a flavour of the kind of place St Nicholas and St Xenophon Greek School is. We are a dynamic learning community that provides students the opportunity to explore the richness of the Greek language, history and culture.

Our objective is simple – we want our children to look forward to Greek School, knowing that they will receive an outstanding Greek language education that prepares them academically, and personally, to flourish in the complex and changing world.

Our school is welcoming and supportive and all teachers are expected to work very much as a team with the children as our central concern. The Greek School years are incredibly special and our priority is that each child enjoys their every moment at Greek School.

The beautiful church of St Nicholas and St Xenophon is at the heart of our Greek School and reflects the importance of the Christian Orthodox faith and values explored within the school. Children participate in a wide range of productions and take full advantage of all of the opportunities available to help them develop as confident, curious and smiling individuals.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide Parents and Guardians with information about our school, so that we can work together to do the best for those in our care. It is sent to the Parents of all pupils and we hope that in conjunction with other, more detailed and specific information that will be sent out from time to time, it will provide a useful reference for you whilst your child is in the School.

Warm wishes,
Dr Chara Orthodoxou

OUR VALUES

In keeping with our Christian Orthodox values, we value kindness, humility, respect, courage and community.

Courage

We challenge students to have high expectations of themselves, as staff do, and persist in striving for their goals and take risks. We want learners to be confident, with a strong sense of self-belief.

Humility

We show awareness of our strengths and weaknesses. Achievements and talents, however impressive, are not sufficient to succeed as human being - keep your feet to the ground.

Kindness

We expect pupils to be kind; to be good friends to those around them, feel and show compassion for others and ready to support those in need.

Respect

We seek to understand and embrace differences in people, ideas and experiences with politeness, tolerance and understanding from all in our school. We take care of our environments and the things in them, understanding that rules are there for a reason.

Community

We are a close-knit community: everyone is expected to care for everyone else. Through these community relationships, pupils learn the value of helping others and broaden their life skills to enrich the communities to which they belong but also make positive contribution to the wider community.

VISION AND AIMS

OUR VISION

Shaped by our values we provide:

an inspiring Greek language education in a community which ensures that children use Greek confidently and competently, and empowers students to engage with independent thinking, history and culture.

OUR AIMS

In order to achieve our Purpose, we aim to deliver an education which:

1. Instills enthusiasm for Greek language learning by designing joyful and meaningful learning experiences.
2. Uses authentic situations and examples to stress the importance of language learning as well as using more traditional methods.
3. Is taught to a high standard in all four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening which leads to success at GCSE and A level.
4. Is built on three foundation stones: pastoral, academic and wider curricular.
5. Asks students to lean into their discomfort, be vulnerable, take risks, and embrace mistakes.
6. Explores culture and identity through literature, art, events, film, history, music, poetry, and theatre in an immersive classroom setting helping students develop the skills they need for engagement in a diverse global community.

THE SCHOOL DAY

THE START OF THE DAY

For Lower School, please drop your child at the entrance between 9:25 - 9:35. A member of staff will greet your child.

For Upper School, please drop your child at the entrance between 1:10 and 12:20.

THE END OF THE DAY

The school day ends at 1:00 for Lower School and 4:45 for Upper School. Parents can collect children from the same points as they were dropped off. Children must always sign out with a member of staff before leaving.

Attendance at School Celebrations:

Pupils are expected to dress in accordance with given instructions and follow school regulations as appropriate. Parents are encouraged to attend school celebrations.

THE SCHOOL DAY

SATURDAY CLASSES

NURSERY - GCSE

Lower School

Arrival and Registration

9:25-9:35

Lessons

9:40

Break and Snack

10:40

Lessons

11:00

Break

12:00

Lessons

12:10

End of school day

13:00

Upper School

Arrival and Registration

1:10 - 1:20

Lessons

1:25

Break and Snack

2:25

Lessons

2:45

Break

3:45

Lessons

3:55

End of the school day

4:45

Nomenclature News: On Saturdays, if we are referring to Years Nursery - Year 3 we will use Lower School while Years 4 - GCSE will be called Upper School

TERM DATES 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Term Starts

Monday 9th September

Half Term

Monday 21st October - Saturday 26th October

Term ends

Saturday 21st December

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts

Tuesday 7th January

Half Term

Monday 17th February – Saturday 22nd February

Term Ends

Saturday 12th April

Summer Term 2025

Monday 28th April

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May

Half Term

Monday 26th May – Saturday 31st May

Term ends

Saturday 12th July

SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS PARENT EVENINGS

School Celebrations

28th October Celebration

Sunday 3rd November 2024

Christmas Celebration

Sunday 15th December 2024

25th March 1821

Sunday 23rd March

End of Year Celebrations

Saturday 12th July 2025

Parent Evenings

Saturday 30th November 2024

Saturday 29th March 2025

COMMUNICATION

School to Home

The school believes that regular liaison and communication with parents and teachers are fundamental to helping the children fulfil their academic and social potential. The school aims to provide prompt, accurate and relevant information to Leicester Greek School community and to embrace families in creating a positive and supportive community.

Reports and Parent-Teaching Meetings

Opportunities to meet or speak with teachers are available in the Autumn and Spring Term.

The Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter is a monthly communication for parents and contains important information. Parents are asked to read this to inform themselves of news, updates and information.

Home to School

Absences due to Illness:

If your child is ill, please email the Headteacher at info@leicestergreekschool.com

Planned Absence or Leaving Early:

The school must be informed of planned absences within term time. If your child needs to be collected during the school day, he/she should be collected from, and signed out from the drop off/collection point. Where possible, a child should be collected between lessons rather than leave during a lesson.

Changes of Personal Circumstances:

Changes of address, contact details including phone numbers and emergency contacts can be notified to the school by email to the Headteacher.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The curriculum is complemented by a plethora of cultural enrichment activities developing the personal, social and cultural development of each pupil. School plays, dance and music lessons constitute an important part of the curriculum and provide an essential compliment to the work in the classroom. They are enjoyable and nurturing, affording all children the opportunity to learn about their culture, grow appreciation of Greek heritage and develop close friendships.

HOMework

Children will have homework (i.e. reading, vocabulary, spellings etc) to learn outside school. All pupils will benefit from doing as much reading as possible and progress is maximised if they are able to practise their vocabulary and spellings frequently.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Children should have a named school rucksack.

Essential Items:

The items they should normally have in their school bags:

- Books
- School diary

Pencil case large enough to contain:

- HB pencils
- Pen
- Glue stick
- Sharpener with reservoir
- A small set of coloured pencils

CURRICULUM

The main focus of the Leicester Greek School curriculum is to build firm language foundations and encourage a love of learning the Greek language. Pupils are taught to a high standard in all four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening which leads to success at GCSE and A level.

The children are taught in mixed ability classes and lessons are differentiated to meet their individual needs to enable good progress across the curriculum. Late starters flourish because of our bespoke curriculum and because the syllabus is spiral, in that all areas of vocabulary are regularly re-visited.

Our school follows a comprehensive Greek Language Curriculum provided by the Cypriot and Greek Ministry of Education and Culture for the children of Diaspora. The curriculum is organised and planned for using a thematic approach. This is communicated with our families via our Curriculum Map on a termly basis. The curriculum is creative, skills based and knowledge supported, making learning motivational and successful.

Principles for Greek Language Learning

Language is best developed in meaningful contexts across the curriculum. A task-based language curriculum, accelerates language acquisition through real-world practice.

Lessons are multifaceted and rich in the myriad techniques and materials teachers use.

A different topic forms the theme for lessons. This approach encourages engagement, exploration, and discovery in every lesson.

Competent levels of language and literacy in a child's first language (L1) enhance subsequent learning in his second language (L2).

LUNCH AND BREAKS

Children should bring their own food to school and should all have a water bottle in their bag to keep hydrated.

Food Allergies:

If your child requires a special diet, please inform the Head. Please note, we are a nut-aware school.

FUNDRAISING AND OUTREACH

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE? HELP US RAISE FUNDS AT NO EXTRA COST
Help us raise funds for free when you shop online via easyfundraising.
Three simple steps:

1. Join. Head to the school's cause page

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnandx/> and sign up for free. Tip: Install the browser add on for the donation reminder.

2. Shop. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to our school for no extra cost whatsoever. There are no catches or hidden charges.

CONTACT

Headteacher: Dr Chara Orthodoxou

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School's Number: 07784957591

School Chair: Mr Antonis Pavlakis

School Chair Email: Antonis.p@leicestergreekschool.com

Website: leicester.schools.ac.cy

Facebook and Instagram: St Nicholas and St Xenophon Leicester Greek School