

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

Encouraging a 'can-do' attitude and a growth mindset are central to the ethos of Bassett House School



Bassett House School is a co-ed prep school for children aged three to 11, where, in the words of headmistress Philippa Cawthorne, "every child can learn to fly". Formerly a large family home, the school is tucked away in a quiet corner of North Kensington and offers an education that encourages a love of learning in a warm, supportive atmosphere. The school is non-selective, yet punches above its weight academically, with leavers in winning places and scholarships to the top London



senior schools and boarding schools. First and foremost, though, Bassett House guides children to the school where they will be happy and thrive.

The school believes children learn more effectively when they are encouraged to do things for themselves, to think creatively and form their own ideas. When Sylvia Rentoul founded Bassett House in 1947, she pioneered Montessori methods in the classroom, teaching children to think and behave independently from an early age. Bassett House still uses this teaching method in its nursery classes where three- and four-year-olds are expected to hang up their coats, wash up after activities and choose which learning opportunities they engage with.

A 'can do' attitude and growth mindset are in Bassett's DNA. Say "I can't do that" to a pupil, and they inevitably bellow back "You mean, I can't do that YET".



This mantra, often repeated at assemblies, has become a shorthand for understanding that resilience and perseverance pay off. It is embedded in every aspect of school life from the curriculum, classroom, staffroom and sports fields to the playground and outside-school activities. Most importantly, this mantra empowers children to tackle new tasks without fear of failure, giving them the confidence to persevere.

This message is reinforced by the school's Tree of Mastery, which

features the school mascot Bassett Bear facing a challenge, engaging with it and persevering until he masters it and reaches the top of the tree. Following in the footsteps of Bassett Bear, children understand the need to be resilient and inventive to overcome difficulties.

Children are encouraged to do their own research, argue their own points of view and problem-solve rather than learning by rote. They discover their opinion matters and feel free to step out of their comfort zone when faced with new challenges.

They have the opportunity to attend homework club where they work independently. The school also encourages children to make a self-assessment of their learning, enabling them to take ownership of their learning process and personal achievements.

Outside the classroom, a wide range of clubs, enrichment activities and residential trips allow children to push their boundaries and let their imaginations soar beyond the confines of the familiar.

The development of leadership and team-building skills are encouraged with a host of club activities such as sports, orienteering, martial arts and drama, whilst experiences such as rigging a boat, cooking on a campfire and building shelters in the wild are the character-building stuff residential trips are made of.

This is an exciting time for Bassett House as the school has acquired a new building just across the road, at 73 St Helen's Gardens. It is being developed into new classrooms, a science laboratory, a performance arts studio, together with individual tutorial rooms.

For more information about the school's admissions process, to download a prospectus or to book a visit, go to bassettths.org.uk

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