

Farleigh School: The Case for Support

Nestled in 60 acres of Hampshire countryside is Farleigh School, an independent co-educational preparatory school, re-constituted in 1982, which has cared for children in this joyfully rural spot ever since. Welcoming all faiths and none, the school provides a broad and high-quality education for children in a Catholic community, a home-from-home for approximately 100 boarders and over 300 day boys and girls.

The ISI in 2014 rated the school as ‘excellent’ across the board, including the leadership of the school governors, and we continue this impressive track record: about a third of our Year 8 pupils gain scholarships to some of the country’s leading senior schools.

What makes us distinctive?

Farleigh is a very special place for children to enjoy their formative years, offering warm pastoral provision and a stimulating curriculum which is complemented by extensive opportunities for sport, music, drama, and art, giving every child the confidence to discover their talents. Farleigh pupils grow up inspired by high ideals and the values derived from the faith and life of the Catholic Church, so that they may serve others generously, and be strong in friendship and family.

We take seriously the trust placed in us by parents and share with them in the spiritual, moral and intellectual development of their children and cultivate the closest links between home and school; our pupils’ extended families are very much a part of the fabric of this close-knit community.

Our children are encouraged to think beyond themselves and become actively involved in charitable service: our belief is in doing everyday things with a big heart that is open to God and to others. This is not simply for its own sake, but for the well-being of our wider society, where such values can influence strategies for resolving conflict and learning how to handle differences.

What is our contribution to society?

Open to all, Mass is celebrated each Sunday in the school Chapel. It is well attended by Farleigh families and parishioners from the local community. In addition, school facilities are made available for local groups to use throughout the year and Farleigh pupils themselves also make a proactive contribution to the life of the locality from a young age - from playing with children from a local special needs school to fundraising for various charities, both locally and overseas. We continually aim to share the Farleigh ethos within the local community.

What if we weren’t here? Our unique solution

A Farleigh education is a very special thing. In an ever more constrained and restricted world, Farleigh children have the time and space to run around, play, and build dens in the woods – in short, to be children. We believe that presenting shared values to a variety of cultures can offer coherence to an increasingly secularised, fragmented society which lacks an ability to agree upon, or establish, a system of common ideals. In this way, we believe that our educational ethos touches every child in the school and every person who meets a member of the Farleigh family.

What is the need?

Our pupils’ development continues to be a top priority. Supportive facilities in which children can learn and grow are key, beginning a life-long process of service, discovery and growth, nourished by the Catholic ethos which is central to all that we do.

The school is currently implementing a master plan for capital expenditure and has allocated significant funds to this task from surplus income. However, we recognise that the school has no historical endowment and fees alone cannot continue to meet the cost of every aspect of life here.

To help fee increases to be held at or below inflation and hence improve affordability long-term, we have to build up voluntary income if Farleigh is to continue to inspire and nurture new generations. They may not have the benefit of low interest rates, generous relatives and company trusts and unprecedented house price inflation, which have benefited many children in the recent past.

Therefore, the school set up a Development Office as part of a long-term, strategic initiative, which includes raising funds for the school within its remit. In years to come, funding from the wider Farleigh community will

help to ensure the educational infrastructure is of a quality that simply cannot be afforded by fees alone. Voluntary income will fund one-off projects and a number of full bursaries; it could also help to subsidise the use of our facilities by local charities.

Whether donating your money or your time, you can help us to sustain Farleigh's future. Parents, alumni, family and past parents are all welcome at Farleigh and we aim to establish a thriving programme of Development events and activities for our whole community. We welcome donations of all sizes – all support is important to us – and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Conduct to run an ethical and transparent programme.

Thanking and measuring impact

The pupils themselves will be the best arbiters of our success; we will share our stories and demonstrate the impact of donations on our entire community through reports, online news, and personalised feedback. Acknowledging our supporters is very important to us, and the school organises a range of events and recognition opportunities to thank all those giving to the school.

We have already started to realise our vision for Farleigh, but we are also looking ahead and taking actions now to ensure that Farleigh will survive and thrive. In order to continue to enrich the lives of our children and *their* children (through new projects and future bursary provision), we need the support of our whole community. With your help, we can leave a legacy which we can enjoy and of which everyone can be proud, ensuring that Farleigh remains a beacon for Catholic education for generations to come.