

A watercolor splash background with shades of teal, blue, and yellow, centered on a white background. The splash is irregular and textured, with darker teal in the center and lighter yellow and blue tones towards the edges.

Bootham School
Ages 3 – 11

WE
ENCOURAGE
CHILDREN
TO FIND
THEIR OWN
UNIQUE
TALENT

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I am delighted you have taken the time to pick up this prospectus and find out a bit about what makes Bootham such a wonderful place.

No publication can ever really do justice to a school; the atmosphere, the relationships and the sense of purpose which make a school like Bootham stand out can only be properly experienced in person. Nonetheless, I do hope that this prospectus gives you an insight into who we are and why I believe that a Bootham education is so special.

Helen Todd,
Headteacher





A DIFFERENT SCHOOL

There are very few schools like Bootham.

Quaker principles provide a foundation and purpose to our school's everyday life that lead us to speak, act and live differently to other schools.

The conscious belief that we have a responsibility to equip our pupils to build a better world means our children learn and grow in a community that places great value on individuality, self-discovery and kindness alongside learning, ambition and academic success.

Success at Bootham is not simply about academic grades; the value of a person is understood to be far greater than that.



**“ Education alone is not enough.
It is education with values
that matters.”**

- Teacher




A QUAKER SCHOOL

Quaker principles of Peace, Equality, Integrity and Stewardship provide a wonderful foundation for a truly modern education.

Quakers have no creed, and thus Bootham is not in the business of telling children what to believe or who to become. Instead we give them space to search for and find truth for themselves, and encourage them to examine their place in the world, especially in making that world better for all.

It is perhaps the most fundamental tenet of the Quaker world view that there is something of the divine in every individual - 'that of God' to quote one of Quakerism's founders, George Fox. This promotes an unusually optimistic, tolerant and caring approach to all members of our community. In turn this aids us in the development of an education which is committed to bringing out the very best in each individual.

Interestingly, very few of our pupils are from Quaker families, but the ethos, values and practices seem to resonate with people from all backgrounds.



“ Many schools talk about tolerance and respect but at Bootham it seems to be reflected in so much of what they do.”

- Parent



AN ACADEMIC SCHOOL

At Bootham we believe in setting high academic expectations and challenging our pupils to achieve success at the best possible level.

Our creative and stimulating curriculum goes well beyond the standard requirements and is designed to ensure that children move on to Senior School with a depth and breadth of knowledge that is quite extraordinary. Whether your child's talents lie in Mandarin, Design Technology, Music or Chemistry our small class sizes and specialist teachers mean particular strengths are identified and nurtured.

We have an open and enquiring approach to education. Our children are encouraged to develop skills of discussion and debate, intellectual curiosity and creative problem solving. Our notion of 'curriculum' is one that encompasses all opportunities for learning and growth so time is set aside for personal development and enrichment as well as classroom lessons.

Every child at Bootham is supported to be the best they possibly can – sometimes that means help for a particular learning need, sometimes that means extension and challenge and very often it means both!



AN ACTIVE SCHOOL

We offer a varied programme in keeping with our conviction that activities outside the classroom are an integral part of our curriculum because they provide valuable opportunities for growth and learning.

Our outdoor education provision is outstanding. All our children follow a progression of outdoor skills from Nursery to Year 6, enjoying tree climbing, foraging, shelter building, outdoor cookery and fire lighting, encouraging them to become risk aware not risk averse.

The outdoors is also one of our most valuable curriculum resources. There is no better way to learn about river features, rocks and soils or coastal erosion than by heading outside to explore.

For many of our children, the highlight of the school year is their residential experience. From Reception onwards, everyone has

the opportunity to take part, whether that is a one-night adventure under canvas in the school hall for our 5 year olds, toasting marshmallows and searching for shooting stars in the school field, or a five day expedition for Year 6, where the children are responsible for everything from route plans and kit lists to buying their own food supplies.

As well as PE, Games and Swimming featuring weekly on the timetable, the activities programme also provides a range of options that means almost any interest is catered for. It doesn't stop with sport either – Music, Drama, Cultural Studies, Art, Cookery and Academics are all on offer.

Our after school club is a relaxed environment offering a host of fun activities and outdoor play for once the more formal activity programme has ended. As one parent said, 'The difficulty isn't getting them to go to school, it's getting them to come home afterwards!'



A CARING SCHOOL

Bootham believes that placing the welfare, wellbeing and personal development of its pupils as its top priority creates the optimum conditions for them to be able to achieve their best academically. In short, happy children do well.

Actively encouraging the habits that promote good mental and physical health, tackling difficult problems and issues head on, being honest about the harder aspects of school life such as bullying and pressure: these are all central to our mission.

All of our children can access individual and small group support to help them gain emotional resilience. By talking about emotions, worries, highs and lows we believe we are giving our children the best chance of thriving as adults.

Our teachers and teaching assistants know every child and will always make time to listen. That's because every member of our community matters.

A photograph of three young girls in school uniforms standing outdoors. The girl on the left is a Black girl with braids, wearing a dark blue cardigan over a light blue checkered dress. The girl in the middle is a white girl with short brown hair, wearing a light blue checkered dress. The girl on the right is a white girl with a dark blue cap and a light blue checkered dress. They are all smiling and holding hands. The background is a lush green garden with a tree trunk and foliage.

“ When I started I was quite nervous but everyone was kind so I felt at home.”

- Pupil



A TRUE COMMUNITY

If you wish to quantify a school's success then watching the community arrive each morning is as good a measure as any. At Bootham you will find that children, staff and parents offer each other a friendly greeting and a warm smile.

Our community stands apart from other schools in the way it values each member as equal to all others, whatever their age or role. We do not patronise our children, they are respected and listened to. At the same time we expect them to respect and listen to other members of the community.

These values of co-operation and community grow from our Quaker traditions. In turn, they prepare our pupils for life after Bootham. We understand that the three year old who joins Nursery today needs preparing for a world we can barely imagine. To do that, we need to equip our children with a set of skills that will enable them to become adaptable and resilient. They will learn to be adventurous problem solvers and to collaborate with a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds.



AN OUTWARD LOOKING SCHOOL

It is in Quaker DNA to be engaged with local communities and with the world more widely.

Children are encouraged to become active citizens. Special assemblies and visiting speakers introduce them to the work of different charities and they also enjoy taking part in fundraising activities. We hold the International School Foundation Award, take part in global art exchanges, have a thriving Eco-group and work closely with children from across York through our Inspire, Challenge, Enrich workshops.

A school community as diverse as Bootham's couldn't fail to be interested in the wider world, hence the importance we place on our pupils' understanding of Current Affairs as well as our innovative Cultural Studies programme which sees the children learn about countries, cultures and beliefs from around the globe.



“ Bootham Junior School is a wonderful place where your child will get the best possible education but also learn to become a respectful, kind, creative and adventurous person.”

- Former parent

NEXT STEPS

We hope you have enjoyed reading our prospectus and that it will help you decide whether Bootham is the right school for your family.

For information about Bootham Senior School, which offers boarding and day education for children aged 11 to 18, please contact **01904 655 021** or visit our website **Boothamschool.com**.

For a further glimpse at life at Bootham, you can follow us on social media:

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Twitter twitter.com/BoothamJunior/

Instagram instagram.com/boothamschool/

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