



Hardenhuish School
A High Performing Academy

Frequently asked Questions by Year 6 Parents

1. I live outside the catchment area, is it worth applying?

Most definitely. We do not know from year to year how many applications will be made. If you like what we have to offer and share our ethos you should put us as first preference, as this is taken into consideration as part of the application process.

2. My child goes to a village school, but we live in Chippenham, will that affect my application?

Yes, it will mean your child is ranked in section 3.5 of the over subscription criteria in the [Admissions Policy](#).

3. My child goes to a school in Chippenham, but we live in Calne, will that affect my application?

Yes, it will mean your child is ranked in section 3.6 of the over subscription criteria in the [Admissions Policy](#).

4. Can I appeal if I don't get my first choice?

Yes. Please see the appeals [timeline](#) and [FAQs](#) document.

5. Can I get school transport from where I live? And how much?

Please contact Passenger Transport who will be able to provide you with more information: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-transport-apply>

6. How does the transition programme work?

Pupils will usually visit us for a day from their Primary School in Year 5. Once they are confirmed as joining us, parents and pupils are invited to attend an induction evening where they can meet key members of staff, including their Learning Manager and Pastoral Manager.

Pupils will also spend a full day with their Tutor prior to the summer holiday, to spend some time getting to know the site and their tutor group. This is then followed by a further full day on site in September, when pupils have the school to themselves and take part in a programme of team building activities and lessons, before the rest of the school returns.

7. How are pupils inspired to learn?

The teaching staff at Hardenhuish are extremely well qualified and passionate about their subjects. Lessons are taught by subject specialists and staff go over and above on a daily basis to teach engaging and active lessons, taking advantage of our well-equipped classrooms. As a Microsoft Showcase school, technology is used wherever possible to enhance learning experiences.



Hardenhuish School

A High Performing Academy

8. Are SATS important for setting in Y7?

SATS are one aspect of the information we use to help us get to know your young person as a learner. They provide part of a bigger picture including information from Year 6 teachers, as well as baseline tests that are completed when young people first join us, along with Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATS) which help us to understand young people's strengths and where they may need support.

9. How do you set in Year 7?

Year 7 pupils are taught in tutor groups for about half of their subjects, including the humanities, expressive and performing arts and ICT. In English, maths, science, French and DT, pupils are placed in inter-tutor classes which are designed to provide the best level of support and challenge for all pupils. PE is taught in a range of different groups including ability and mixed ability as well as single and mixed sex groups depending on the activity.

10. How do you set in Year 8?

Pupils are taught in inter-tutor classes for all subjects in Year 8 and 9. A similar approach is used to that in Year 7 whereby pupils are placed in classes designed to provide the best level of support and challenge for all pupils in order to optimise learning and progress. The range of prior attainment in sets may vary depending on the subject and the profile of the year group.

11. How much progress will my child make if they come here?

We are very proud of the progress our young people make each and every day, both academically and socially. Progress is measured using grades and there is a document [here](#) to explain how this works. Progress is reported home via progress reports three times each year as well as a full report including comments from the Tutor and Learning Manager annually.

12. How does your schoolwork? How many lessons will my child have?

We operate a one-week timetable, with 6 lessons each day. Each day starts with a tutor time, followed by two lessons, break, two lessons, lunch and then two lessons to finish the day. The school day begins at 8.30am and finishes at 3pm. An overview of the Key Stage 3 Curriculum can be found [here](#).

13. How are pupils supported to succeed?

There is a wide range of support available to ensure that young people are given opportunities to achieve their very best. As well as Pastoral and Learning Managers and our Medical Officer, pupils can access support from the School Nursing Team, Counsellors and a specialist Mental Health worker.



Hardenhuish School

A High Performing Academy

Our Learning Support Department and Key Centre provide further specialist support to access their lessons.

14. What pastoral support is available?

Each Year group has a Pastoral Manager, a non-teaching member of staff whose role is to support the young people in their Year group. If bullying does happen we encourage young people to discuss this with their tutor or Pastoral Manager to enable us to intervene quickly using restorative approaches.

15. Do you have a drugs problem at Hardenhuish?

If we become aware of young people becoming involved in illegal substances, we discuss concerns with parents and involve external support as soon as possible. Our PSHE curriculum gives young people the information they need regarding illegal substances to be aware of the impacts of their use and abuse both physically and mentally.

16. What afterschool activities do you have?

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities covering a vast range of interests, from sport to music, the arts to engineering, science to horse riding and climbing to name but a few. Our staff are very giving of their time and we encourage our young people to participate in extra-curricular clubs and activities to support their holistic growth and development.

17. Do you have a breakfast club and homework club?

Breakfast club is by invitation only for a small number of young people and is accessed via discussion with the Pastoral Team. Homework club runs after school and is supported by Sixth Form Students who can support young people with their homework if they would prefer to do it in school.

The Resources Centre is also open after school to provide a space for independent working as well as offering an afterschool care club at a cost of £3 per session until 5.30pm each day.

18. Do you run a summer school and if so who can attend?

Summer School runs for 3 days during the summer holiday period to provide an extra opportunity for young people who might find the transition to Hardenhuish more difficult time to get to know the site, our expectations and some of the staff. Pupils are invited to attend following conversations with Year 6 Teachers.

19. My child has a special educational need, how do you support these pupils?

Details of the support available for young people with special educational needs can be found in our [SENIR](#). If you have specific questions, please contact our Admissions team (01249 650693, option 2 for Admissions)) who will ask a member of the SEN Team to make contact with you.

20. My child has an ECHP, do I still need to apply?



Hardenhuish School

A High Performing Academy

If your young person has an EHCP your transition will have begun with their Annual Review in Year 5 and you will have been supported through your decision and application process by your Education Support Worker.

21. My child has specific medical needs, can your school accommodate them?

This would depend on the specific needs of your young person. Please contact our Admissions Team who will arrange for our Medical Officer to make contact to discuss this with you further.

22. I have an anxious child that finds it hard to settle, what do you have in place to help?

It is normal for young people to feel anxious when they are changing school. We do all we can to support young people as they make the transition but recognise that some young people find settling in easier than others. Our Pastoral Managers and Nurture team provide more intensive support, helping young people to gain confidence and feel settled.

23. What is your mobile phone policy?

Mobile phones are expected to be turned off and in pupils' bags between 8.30am and 3pm unless they are asked to use them in their lessons by their teachers. Young people who choose not to follow these instructions can expect their mobile phone to be confiscated and a parent to be asked to come and collect it from the main office.

24. Do you cater for all food requirements? My child is allergic to eggs/gluten/vegan etc.

Manor Catering offer a wide range of catering options across the site to suit all tastes and our Catering Manager is happy to discuss specific allergies or dietary requirements.

25. Can my child continue their music lessons at Hardenhuish?

We offer a wide range of peripatetic music lessons here at Hardenhuish including drum, wind, brass, keyboard and voice.