



working together for a better future...

**YARDLEYS SCHOOL**





Emphasis is placed on:

- Care for each individual student
- Well qualified and experienced staff
- High standards of work and behaviour
- Care and consideration for others
- Raising the aspirations and achievements of our pupils
- Good attendance and punctuality
- The wearing of school uniform
- Respect for the environment
- After school home-work clubs

#### **LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

At Yardleys we aim to develop a sense of pride in young people and their achievements and to build a community that cares for others. We are proud of our 900 students and the varied multi-cultural community they represent.

Yardleys was designed as a Specialist Science College in September 2003. The specialist status has brought some very exciting opportunities for our students and the wider community. Dedicated, experienced and well-qualified staff will support students to achieve their full potential. We offer a wide range of courses leading to valuable qualifications. Sporting and extra-curricular activities are offered so that all can succeed at Yardleys.

The new building was opened in April 2002 and offers outstanding accommodation for all curriculum areas. Our aim is to provide a safe, caring and orderly environment in which all young people can thrive and develop.

Staff and governors are committed to providing a high quality educational experience. We want the best for the children in our care and insist on high standards of work and behaviour.

Mrs R Hughes  
Head Teacher



# The School

“Committed to raising aspirations and achievement of all our young people...”

Yardleys is a co-educational, multicultural comprehensive school in the Tyseley district of the City. The school takes its name from the amalgamation of Yardley Grammar School and the Leys Secondary School in 1975. We believe that the history of our school can be traced back to 1260 and is the oldest school in the city.

All pupils are taught in new purpose built accommodation which is equipped with the latest technology and educational furniture.

## ADMISSIONS POLICY

Yardleys is designated as a community school for the 11-16 age range, this means that 180 pupils may be admitted annually in September. The school is heavily oversubscribed and there is a waiting list for each year.

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

The admission criteria for entry to Yardleys are as follows.

When there are more applications than places available at the school the following criteria will be used to determine which children will be allocated placed:

1. Looked After Child (In Public Care)
2. Children with a brother or sister at the school who will still be in attendance at the time the sibling enters the school
3. Children who live nearest the school

## AIMS

- To raise the aspirations and achievements of all young people.
- To ensure that each child fulfils their potential whatever their ability.
- To promote equality of opportunity for all, regardless of gender, culture, or religion.
- To create a caring community and a safe environment where all are respected and valued.
- To prepare our students to be productive citizens in a rapidly changing world.

## A SCIENCE COLLEGE

Yardleys School gained its specialist school status from September 2003 and was designated as a Science College with science and mathematics as our focus subjects. Our key aim is to raise standards of achievement across all subject areas through innovation in teaching and learning.

To this end we have:

- made great improvements in the use of educational technology with laptops, interactive whiteboards and visualisers widely used
- created additional teaching groups in all years to improve the teacher pupil ratio
- developed close and effective links with the local community and primary schools

Our pupils will be qualified to take up scientific and technological roles in society and play a responsible part as a global citizen in this time of ecological challenge.

## A HEALTHY SCHOOL

Yardleys was the first secondary school in the city to win the Healthy Schools Award in 2006. This award is assessed on healthy eating, personal, social and emotional wellbeing, sporting activity and citizenship. We also offer a comprehensive programme of sex education for all children.

We are always sensitive to the religious and cultural needs of our children and their parents.



Science



Healthy Schools



# Every child matters

## CURRICULUM

### Key Stage 3 - Years 7 to 9

At Key Stage 3, pupils follow the National Curriculum. The core subjects are; English, mathematics and science and they also study art, citizenship, history, geography, RE, modern foreign languages, ICT, design technology, music, drama and PE.

All pupils are allocated to a tutor group on entry to school and most will stay in this group, with their form tutor, for 5 years.

In Years 7 - 9 pupils will be taught in ability groups for English, mathematics and science.

### Key Stage 4 - Years 10 to 11

At Key Stage 4, all pupils study English, mathematics, and science. All pupils follow courses in PE, RE, ICT and citizenship in addition to their options. We have a wide range of courses on offer to suit the needs of all our pupils including GCSEs, BTEC, ASDAN and OCR Nationals.

We also have links with Matthew Boulton College and City College where pupils can follow BTEC courses in dental nursing, sport and motor vehicle studies and engineering. We are also a Princes Trust School and some pupils opt for the XL club scheme. All courses studied in KS4 lead to a GCSE or other accredited qualification.

Pupils are well supported throughout both key stages to ensure they achieve their best. There are homework clubs, revision programmes and booster sessions in place to help pupils prepare for SATS, GCSE, BTEC and other vocational qualifications.

## TRANSFER FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We place great emphasis on primary school liaison and our induction process includes regular visits by staff and students to our feeder schools with return visits to school. We run a very successful Open Evening which is followed up with an Induction Day and Induction Evening for pupils who have been successful in gaining a place at Yardleys and their parents.

There is careful and sensitive placement of children into teaching groups by an experienced team of teachers. We ensure that we address any issues of concern to children at the time of transfer and have created a secure environment with zero tolerance of bullying.

## PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral system is a real strength of the school. Students' academic and personal development is monitored by the form tutors and the Achievement Leaders. Students meet with their form tutor on a daily basis and are well supported to ensure that they settle into school.

We work closely with parents/carers to ensure that every child succeeds at Yardleys.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

We work with several outside agencies who provide a comprehensive range of services to ensure that children are supported and have someone to listen to their concerns. Counsellors offer one to one work and small groups focus on anger management and assertiveness. Several small, social skills groups are run and we operate the Valued Youth Programme and have a Princes Trust XL club.

Our team of trained peer supporters offer help when students start at the school and also try to resolve any friendship issues.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Those with special educational needs are supported by a team of specialist staff which has an excellent record of raising standards. We run a range of groups which focus on literacy, numeracy, reading and handwriting. One to one help is also available.

## SCHOOL NURSE

A fully qualified nurse is on hand to deal with any medical needs students may have. Parents are encouraged to contact the School Nurse to discuss any concerns.

## LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

School lunch is served in the school canteen offering a full range of healthy foods, halal food is always available. We are proud of our Healthy School status, having been the first secondary school in the city to achieve it.

Students may bring a packed lunch but only under exceptional circumstances are they allowed to go home for lunch by arrangement. Students are not allowed out of school to buy lunch.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Through Religious Education we aim to prepare pupils for life in a multicultural society, recognising and building upon the strengths of cultural diversity. We hope to promote racial equality and tolerance by increasing the children's knowledge and understanding of the world's major religions.

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act parents have the right to apply to the Headteacher of the School to have their child excused for the whole or part of Religious Education. A similar right exists with regard to School assemblies and acts of collective worship.

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

The Headteacher writes to parents on a regular basis with news, information and updates. Reports are produced termly and progress review days and parents' evenings are held to give parents several opportunities to meet with staff and receive information.

Additionally, tutors, achievement leaders and senior staff are always pleased to meet with parents by appointment to discuss any concern they may have.

We have many bi-lingual staff employed at Yardleys, who can help parents and teachers communicate about children's work and progress. There are several parent governors who can raise parents' issues at meetings and the Governing Body produces an annual report which is presented at the AGM which is open to all.

Any parent with a complaint or enquiry is welcome to contact the Headteacher.



# Care and consideration

## BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE

Good behaviour is essential in a school community, our staff are here to teach and our students here to learn. With this in mind we have a robust behaviour policy which includes strategies to support children who need help to behave in the classroom, to manage their anger or to maintain friendships. Counselling is available for children who are bereaved or who have personal difficulties.

We focus on student achievement and success. We believe that students learn through praise, reward and celebration. At Yardleys we celebrate success in a variety of ways and parents can expect to receive notification of improvements, attainment and effort.

Occasionally we have to resort to sanctions to address persistent poor behaviour or disruption to lessons, we use a daily/weekly reports and if necessary, withdrawal of privileges and detentions.

Serious misconduct or repeated misdemeanours when the work or well-being of other children is being affected will result in a meeting with parents and may lead to an exclusion.

We keep parents informed of any problems. A pupil's schooldays should be happy and fulfilling and at Yardleys we know that we are most successful when home, school and student work together.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We insist on good attendance and punctuality. If your child always attends school they will make better progress in many different ways, learning will improve, targets will be reached and relationships will flourish. Furthermore good habits formed at school prepare students for the world of work where employers value reliable employees.

Morning school begins with first lesson at 8.45 am, registers are taken at the beginning of each period and there is a full roll call during form period at 1.50 pm. If your child is absent, we ask that you contact the school as soon as possible. Our attendance officer will contact you on the first day of absence if we have no information.

Absences are either authorised or unauthorised and only the school can authorise an absence. We will refer your child to our Educational Social Worker if there is persistent unauthorised absence or lateness, the ESW will visit you at home to support your child's return to school.

As parents/carers you have a legal duty to ensure that your child receives an education and we would ask you to make certain that s/he is properly equipped and in full school uniform.

If, after working with you, your child's attendance does not improve, the Educational Welfare Service can take action against you, the parents, in a Magistrates Court; apply to the Family Proceedings Court for an Educational Supervision Order or request Social Services to investigate.

Holidays during term time are not permitted and if you take your child on holiday, they may lose their place in the school.

The school Attendance Officer is available to discuss issues of concern with parents and students.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

### Girls

- Yardleys Black Blazer
- White Blouse
- Plain Black Skirt or Plain Black Trousers
- School Tie
- Flat Black Shoes
- Yardleys Sweatshirt (optional)

### Boys

- Yardleys Black Blazer
- White Shirt
- Plain Black Trousers (not jeans)
- School Tie
- Flat Black Shoes
- Yardleys Sweatshirt (optional)

Training shoes are for games and PE lessons only and should not be worn in other lessons. Make-up and jewellery are not worn in school, although sleepers may be worn in pierced ears.

Mobile telephones and MP3 players must not be brought to school, as we cannot accept responsibility for these and other expensive items.

No hats or hooded tops

The following items are worn by the children during PE and Games lessons:

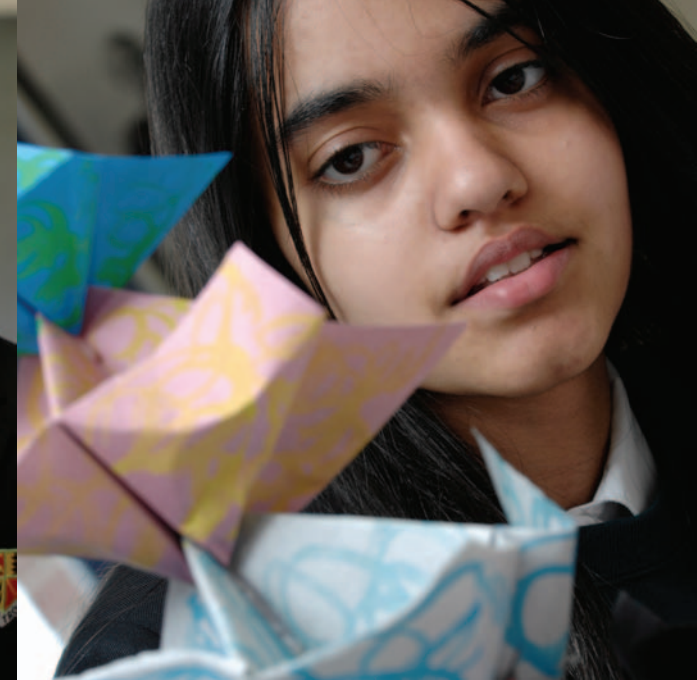
### Girls

Trainers, black tracksuit bottoms, white shirt with collar

### Boys

White shorts, white T-shirt and trainers  
Green rugby shirt, black shorts, green/yellow socks

Kit must be brought to all lessons even when the student is unwell.



# YARDLEYS SCHOOL

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Science



Healthy Schools