

Frequently Asked Questions

I like Davison but we do not attend church, can we apply?

Yes! We are a school that serves our local community. Only around 10% of pupils at Davison actively attend church. However, we do expect our students to respect our school values and Christian Distinctiveness. Families can complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) if they feel that they can evidence that their daughter is from a faith background prior to application. The SIF can be found on our school website or issued via admissions at WSCC.

I live out of the catchment area, can I apply?

Yes, many students come from far and wide to attend Davison. We are currently working with over 38 primary partner schools!

As mentioned in the Headteacher's presentation... we can only ever market to half of the students in the town. Therefore, being a large single-sex school means that we can accommodate students who live much further away. Having East Worthing train station on our doorstep makes us a very realistic proposition for families who live outside of the town. We also welcome students on to the school site from 8.00am each day. This means that parents can drop their daughters at school prior to travelling on to work or other school drop-offs.

What is the SEND provision at Davison?

Our Curriculum Support department offer wrap around support for students of varying needs. Please contact to our SENDCo Mrs Robertson for further advice in relation to your daughter.

Are students in 'ability sets' for lessons?

In KS3, students are set by ability for Maths, Science and Computing and are in mixed ability groups for English-based subjects, such as the Arts, History, RS and Geography. Setting also happens in KS4 for Maths and Science. Many options subjects are also ability-streamed where there is more than one class in any option block.

Do all students take two languages in Year 7?

The vast majority of students will study French and Spanish in Year 7. If any students need additional support in Numeracy and Literacy, they might take one Language, instead of two and take LETS, which offers extra Numeracy and Literacy support. At the end of Year 7, we ask students to choose between French and Spanish. A double amount of time is then allocated to the specialist language chosen for the remainder of Years 8 and 9 before GCSE options start in Year 10.

Do I need an iPad?

There is plenty of technology for your daughter to use in school, including iPads, laptops and computer Pods. However, we will be launching an iPad purchase scheme for our students during this term. This will be offered to the families of all students joining the school in September 2021.

What are colour families?

Our pastoral system is unique in that we have ten colour families or houses.

Every colour family has a Lead Tutor, the equivalent to Head of House, and a Form Tutor for each form group in that colour family. Our colour families, staff and students know each other well. There are only 150 students in any one colour family which usually means that there are less students for pastoral staff to get to know than in the traditional 'Head of Year' model. As well as a Lead Tutor and Form tutor, for each class, We also employ two Nurture Teachers and three Pastoral Managers who are based in the CFC (Colour Family Centre)

If I join Davison in September what will happen next?

You will be invited to attend a transfer/intake day in the summer term of 2021 or very early in September 2021 when Year 7 will be the only students in school. (This worked really successfully in September 2020.) During the day, you will meet your colour family, Form Prefects, Form Tutor and Lead Tutor. You will take part in lots of fun activities, so that you meet lots of staff and new friends.

What if I need extra support in transition to Secondary School?

Before the transfer day Ms Binney, Miss Fox or a member of the pastoral team will visit you at primary school or contact you and your family remotely. Any student who might need an extra visit to Davison before September can attend additional days for nurture or SEN support.

What happens if I am feeling bullied?

It is important to understand the difference between a friendship group 'fall-out', over an isolated incident, and a repetitive/ongoing act of unpleasantness towards another person/group of people. We are very proud to say that neither of the above are common at Davison. Our students generally enjoy really positive relationships with each other and are eager to bring issues to a resolution when things go wrong...as they will at times with all young people. The important thing is to report any act of unpleasantness to the Form tutor, Lead Tutor or classroom teacher. They will deal with issues directly or seek support from the Leadership Team as and when necessary. We have an Anti-Bullying Policy and do not hesitate to use it when we feel that it is appropriate. It is hard to say exactly how we deal with each case, because no two cases are the same. Our aim is always to make any form of bullying stop immediately and we will take whatever actions are needed to make this happen. This policy applies up to and including permanent exclusion.

Will I be with my primary school friends?

You are invited to outline who you think you will work well with but we also liaise with our primary partner schools. They will have told us how well students work together. We use this information to help us put tutor groups together. It is not uncommon for students to transfer into Davison from primary schools who are a long distance away from us. This sometimes means that a child knows nobody when they arrive...particularly if the transfer is 'in-year'. Please rest assured that within a very small amount of time, you will have made many new friends and it is often hard for staff to know who did and didn't previously know each other after one or two weeks.

Also...please remember that you are not taught in your tutor groups. Lessons are about learning but they are also opportunities to work in new groups and meet new friends. As well as this, you can also catch up with old friends at break and lunch when you are free to be with students who are in different form groups or classes.

Is there healthy food? Vegetarian options?

Students really like the Diner & Refectory food. Options are healthy and there is always a hot non-vegetarian and vegetarian choice.

Can I come to school by Bike?

Yes. We are currently extending our amount of cycle racks because cycling to school is becoming really popular. Please remember your bike lock and a helmet to stay safe.

Can I get help if I need it?

Yes of course – ask your Tutor, your Teacher, your Lead Tutor or Learning Support Assistant. Any adult in the school will help you. Sometimes this means helping you to help yourself as you start to grow up. Other students within your Colour Family will also help you too.

How do I make new friends?

In your tutor group you will do "getting to know you" activities. You will also do things in your Colour Family to help you. Your class teachers will use many different strategies for mixing up groups and partnerships so that you get lots of opportunities to meet new people. Getting involved in clubs and activities is another great way of making new friends.

What time does school start?

You need to be seated in your form room by 8:40am at the latest. Many students arrive earlier than that as they are allowed to go into their form rooms from 8.00am. This enables them to spend some time with their form group friends before lessons start.

Are tutor groups made up of Year 7 only?

Yes. All form groups only have the students from that particular year group in them.

How much is uniform and how do I know what to wear?

All this information is on our school website. <https://www.davison.w-sussex.sch.uk/school-life/uniform/>

We are really proud of our uniform and always ask that our students wear it correctly and with pride.

How will I know if my daughter is making progress?

We have worked really hard to develop FROG, our Learning Portal and Assessment System. Students and Parents/Carers will have their own unique log-in so that they can see real-time reporting on Homework, Attendance, Behaviour, Achievements, Progress Reports and results of KPI (Key performance Indicator) Assessments as students go through the year. FROG also contains lots of exemplar information and 'learning lockers' to help support any student who has failed to meet a KPI. The lockers also contain many extension activities for those students really wishing to attempt additional challenges.