

TATLER



Schools Guide 2021

The top prep and public schools in the UK

FALKNER HOUSE ●●
 20 Penryn Road, SW5 9SU;
 19 Birchin Place, SW7 4QB
 Website falknerhouse.co.uk
 Head Eleanor Dixon (boys),
 Fiona Rogers (girls) Pupils 277
 day: 120 boys, 157 girls Ages 4-11
 Term Fees £6,670

Replet with their blue cloaks or double-breasted jackets, girls and boys are educated on separate sites at this family-owned, family-run prep (there's a delightful co-ed nursery on Birchin Place), overseen by two brilliant Heads, Fiona Rogers and Eleanor Dixon. Parents are impressed that traditional but energetic Falkner House puts well-being and happiness ahead of academic achievement, ensuring that pupils really can live to their proper childhood fillings and less opportunities to waste their full potential. There are no applications per place, and demand is increasing; the selection process champions kindness, determination and genuine enthusiasm for everything an offer. Pupils adore the three school dogs, and every one looks forward to Founder's Day celebrations – a chance to 'dress up and be creative'.

FULHAM PREP SCHOOL ●●
 200 Greyhound Road, W14 9SD
 Website fulham.school
 Head Neill Lunnon Pupils 675
 day: 421 boys, 254 girls Ages 4-13
 Term Fees £6,818

Described by Fulham Prep parents as 'the dream', Head Neill Lunnon is adamant that children must be children for as long as possible. At this non-selective, co-ed school 'smiles abound', and each child is celebrated for their individual talents. Following the opening of Fulham Senior (the first cohort

finished their GCSEs this summer), pupils can now be educated here from age four right through to 18, with places at the senior guaranteed. However, preparation for the 11+ and 13+ is taken 'very seriously', and pupils depart to 45 different schools with a growing number choosing to board. With Fulham's musical life enriched by a collaboration with Berklee College of Music in Boston, it's no wonder the school rock band, 'APE', brought the house down when they played at the SotoRox festival in Spain.

Glendower Prep School

GARDEN HOUSE SCHOOL ●●
 Turle Ross, SW3 4TW
 Website gardenhouseschool.co.uk
 Head Dan Jamison (boys),
 Emma Scudd (girls) Pupils 450
 day: 198 boys, 252 girls
 Ages 3-11 Term Fees £7,800

There's a distinctly positive energy emanating from this Chelsea school, where fresh flowers and organic artworks decorate every room, its soothing sound of Frank Sinatra plays in the entrance hall and old pupils rush to greet new arrivals and girls straight onwards by mix freely and while academic are certainly rigorous, the emphasis is on offering 'a rich and a life. Art is taught by practising artists, everyone takes ballet, this is weekly swimming from the get-go, and clubs range from French cookery to gardening in the Roy. Hospital's grounds. New Head Dan Jamison and Emma Scudd have just taken up their posts, at curriculum developments and clubs are already in the pipeline.

GLENDOWER PREP SCHOOL ●
 86-87 Queens Gate, SW7 5JX
 Website glendowerprep.org
 Head Miss Kinganull Moore
 Pupils 251 day girls Ages 4-11
 Term Fees £6,700

With Glendower girls renowned for their all-round brilliance, as Head Miss Kinganull Moore can have craved on her humble, instead she's set this South to prep a laudable ambition: 'To be the kindest school in the country. Glendower's focus on pastoral care exemplifies this, and Miss KM has appointed a new Pastoral Deputy to work alongside the Academic Deputy, Head. The school is equipped already with its air building classrooms now fears large breakout spaces, but class remain small and there's special teaching in many subjects. The 'cheerfully industrious girls have lots of fun, from a school-wide 'whodunnit' to activity-packed trips to the Isle of Wight.