



Westbourne House School

Best for kindness

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As you step through the big, red door of Westbourne House School in West Sussex, you might well hear the sound of laughter echoing through the halls, or warm cheerful greetings between pupils and staff. You might even catch a Year 6 ‘super buddy’ chatting with a younger pupil. Teachers value the time to talk and listen and pupils are encouraged to do the same. The Kindness Committee, with pupils from each year, meet regularly to design and launch initiatives to promote kindness and care. Playground Pals organise inclusive games, while Happy Helpers support younger children. Friendship soup – a mix of respect, fun, kindness, humour and love – reflects the ethos, with staff handing out tokens for thoughtfulness. A Path of Kindness, illustrated by pupils, represents how compassion runs through the school.

westbournehouse.org

Other contenders:

Brambletye School
Highgate Pre-Prep & Junior School



Bruern Abbey

Best for SEN

Bruern Abbey

Bruern Abbey is a mainstream boys’ school based in Buckinghamshire which specialises in supporting neurodiverse pupils and those with special educational needs (SEN). Combining mainstream experiences – such as competitive sports, residential trips and ample outdoor activities – with tailored inclusion, it ensures children thrive in lessons within a classroom setting and with minimal intervention. Small class sizes and expert teachers address challenges in working memory, processing and attention through effective strategies. As a deliberately small school, staff understand each boy’s interests and learning style. Pupils develop personalised skills for success in class, exams and beyond, with many progressing to their chosen schools. The school prioritises pastoral care and happiness, viewing these as essential for academic engagement and success.

bruernabbey.org

Other contenders:

Fairley House School
Belhaven Hill School



Brambletye

Best for sport

Brambletye

Sport is at the heart of a Brambletye education and the school emphasises quality coaching for all abilities, celebrating success across all teams. Last year, 11 teams in football, rugby and hockey achieved unbeaten seasons, with several reaching IAPS national tournaments. Individual achievements included a pupil being placed third in the IAPS swimming nationals, and record-breaking discus and high jump performances. Brambletye attributes its sporting success to a restructured timetable, ensuring focused coaching for all age groups. Elite athletes benefit from weekend training and holiday camps in five major sports. This year, three pupils earned sports scholarships and many joined county teams. The Friday night hockey league sees over 70 children eagerly participating in mixed tournaments in an environment where every child can thrive.

brambletye.co.uk

Other contenders:

Leweston School
Great Walstead School



Norwich High Prep School

Best for Stem

Norwich High Prep School, GDST

A dynamic science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem) curriculum equips girls with essential skills such as creativity, problem-solving and teamwork. Blending theory with hands-on projects, such as coding and building earthquake-resistant structures, sparks curiosity and critical thinking. Events such as British Science Week feature activities such as making bio-plastics and exploring fossils, while parent-led assemblies inspire interest in Stem careers. As sponsors of the Norwich Science Festival, the school promotes talks and workshops to inspire future scientists. From Reception, 1:1 iPads teach digital confidence, supported by resources like BBC Micro:bits and Year 6 Digital Leaders. Success in initiatives like the Primary Maths Challenge reflects the belief that Stem is for everyone, empowering girls to thrive and embrace challenges with confidence.

norwichhigh.gdst.net

Other contenders:

Junior King’s, Canterbury
Cranleigh Prep School