



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
COBHAM

LOWER SCHOOL

READY?

READY TO THRIVE, FROM DAY ONE.



ROBERT CROWTHER,
HEAD OF SCHOOL

HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR LOWER SCHOOL, WHERE JOYFUL LEARNING AND PURPOSEFUL EXPERIENCES LIE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

Our 128-acre campus, set in the heart of the Surrey countryside, provides a spacious and inspiring environment for learning. The dedicated Lower School Village boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including a science/STEM lab, an art studio, a library, a digital learning centre, and a modern dining hall. The contemporary, light-filled classrooms are designed to inspire creativity and collaboration, providing students with a vibrant space to explore and grow.

We offer a supportive, dynamic environment where students develop essential skills through cross-curricular learning grounded in real-world experiences. Our dedicated staff, exceptional facilities, and strong sense of community foster a lifelong love of learning.



JUDITH KINGSBURY,
LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

IN LOWER SCHOOL, WE PROVIDE A NURTURING SETTING WHERE CHILDREN CAN EXCEL ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY THROUGH PLAY-BASED, HANDS-ON, AND INTERACTIVE LEARNING.

Small class sizes ensure every child is known and supported as an individual, while a no-uniform policy supports comfort and self-expression. Through a balanced approach of structured learning, exploration, and inquiry-based lessons, we foster intellectual curiosity and a deep-rooted love for knowledge. Our diverse, international community promotes a strong sense of belonging, preparing students to engage confidently with the global world.

We tailor our classroom learning and activities according to age. In our Lower School division, we have our Early Childhood classes (Flopsy Bunnies to Kindergarten) with dedicated learning spaces and a playground designed for young children. Grades 1-4 benefit from a playground with treehouses, an adventure playground, playing fields, a multi-use games area, and extensive woodland outdoor areas. We encourage curiosity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration, empowering students to take ownership of their educational journey.

Student assessment helps us personalise instruction to individual needs, and our students excel in standardised assessments. We are accredited by NEASC and ISA and recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for our balanced approach to using technology as a tool for learning.

We work closely with parents to understand children's needs and strengths in order to develop caring, confident and effective individuals.

In summary, during the Lower School years, we equip our students with the tools they need to thrive in the next stage of their education. Whether tackling a complex project, exploring new ideas, or collaborating with peers, our students transition to Senior School confident, capable, and ready to embrace new challenges with enthusiasm and independence.





READY TO GROW, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

LOWER SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Division	Age	ACS Cobham Grades / US System Grades	UK Equivalent Year Group
Early Childhood	2-3	Flopsy Bunnies	Nursery
	3-4	Scramblers	Nursery
	4-5	Pre-Kindergarten	Reception
	5-6	Kindergarten	Year 1
Grades 1-4	6-7	Grade 1	Year 2
	7-8	Grade 2	Year 3
	8-9	Grade 3	Year 4
	9-10	Grade 4	Year 5

READY TO THRIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Our comprehensive curriculum is guided by international best practices and is designed to develop critical thinking, creativity, and independent learning, preparing children to thrive in an ever-changing world. We cover core subjects such as literacy, mathematics, science and technology, and social studies, alongside world languages, visual art, physical education, performing arts, digital learning, and outdoor learning.

We prioritise each child's individual progress rather than teaching to a specific year group assessment test, allowing them to access and demonstrate their understanding in multiple ways. By encouraging exploration and collaboration with peers from diverse backgrounds, we help children develop into global citizens.

Responsive Classroom

At ACS Cobham, we use the Responsive Classroom approach to create safe, joyful, and challenging

learning environments where every child can thrive. The approach is built on the belief that students need social-emotional skills such as cooperation, responsibility, empathy, assertiveness, and self-control, alongside academic skills including perseverance, learning strategies, academic behaviours, and a strong academic mindset.

Morning Meetings are one example of this practice, providing a predictable and joyful start to the day where each child has a voice and feels a sense of belonging while engaging in meaningful academic and social-emotional learning. Guided by the four domains of Positive Community, Engaging Academics, Effective Management, and Developmentally Responsive Teaching, teachers foster reflection, model positive language, and treat mistakes as opportunities for growth, ensuring that social-emotional and academic learning are woven seamlessly together.

“

When we walked into the school, it felt like we were being hugged as a family – not just our children, but all of us.

PARENT





“

They really want the kids to grow and become their own individual...they're reaching out to these kids to pull out of them their best selves.

PARENT

EARLY CHILDHOOD FLOPSY BUNNIES TO KINDERGARTEN AGES 2-6

In Early Childhood, we engage young learners through a play-based approach within a welcoming community that is supported by a strong educational foundation. We recognise that each child develops at their own pace and therefore provide opportunities for success at every stage. Small classes offer a blend of self-initiated activities, guided lessons, and

group experiences, enriched by lessons in art, digital skills, music, drama, languages, swimming, physical education, and Forest School. Our extensive outdoor areas, including playgrounds, an activity field, and woodlands, provide diverse spaces for children to grow cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally.

GRADES 1-4, AGES 6-10

Our broad and balanced Lower School curriculum prepares students for independent learning through the core subjects of literacy, maths, science, and social studies. Students explore world languages, art, music, physical education, and culture, participating in activities such as assemblies, performances, field trips, and service learning. Our extensive outdoor spaces support outdoor learning and Forest School, connecting students with nature. The Lower School includes a dedicated playground for Grades 1-4,

a STEM room, digital hub, art and performing arts rooms, and library, along with regular use of the sports centre, swimming pool, and their own dining hall. We provide academic support, English language instruction, and social-emotional support, recognising that learning thrives when students are healthy, both physically and socially. Transitioning to Middle School (Grades 5-8) is seamless, ensuring students are ready for the next step in their ACS journey.

“

She wants to come to school each and every day. They're definitely creating an interest in learning, which is not necessarily just from a book.

PARENT



READING AND WRITING

Our language arts programme helps children grow into confident, enthusiastic communicators across reading, writing, speaking and listening. Through a workshop-style model, students are supported to explore texts and genres in meaningful ways while developing their skills step by step. From Kindergarten, formal reading instruction is supported by a rich mix of picture books, chapter books, and multicultural stories, while writing is taught through mini-lessons and creative projects that encourage students to express themselves across genres. Phonics and spelling are built into learning from the early years onward, supported by small-group instruction. As children's motor skills develop, handwriting is introduced with a focus on fluency and comfort – and every student is supported to grow their voice, at their own pace.

MATHEMATICS

Our programme focuses on developing skills and conceptual understanding, emphasising problem solving, critical thinking, and mathematical computation, including mental maths. The maths curriculum aims to help students understand concepts and apply them in meaningful ways as they learn through experiences with fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving. Hands-on activities build confidence and connect maths to real-life situations. The curriculum progresses from concrete to pictorial to abstract models, with opportunities for mathematical discussions, focused on reasoning and argument construction. Instruction is differentiated to meet diverse learning styles and abilities so that everyone is working at an optimal level of challenge.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Our science curriculum provides hands-on learning experiences rooted in real-world scenarios. We inspire curiosity and develop problem-solving skills from an early age, helping pupils explore the world around them and understand their place within it. Students learn about key global issues such as sustainability and climate change, encouraging them to think critically about the future of our planet. Engineering principles are explored through practical activities, including LEGO robotics and circuit-building, promoting creativity and innovation. Each grade level enjoys a weekly lesson with our specialist science teacher, ensuring consistent, high-quality learning across the school.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Students learn through a variety of digital tools that support access to curriculum content and provide a range of creative tools for sharing their understanding. Student choice is a key focus in the use of digital tools, while also building strong digital skills that can be applied across various subjects. Our Lower School has been recognised as a prestigious Apple Distinguished School in recognition of our innovative one-to-one iPad programme, providing a balanced approach to technology use as a tool for learning.





WORLD LANGUAGES

Our world languages programme for Early Childhood through Grade 4 focuses on building a strong foundation in listening and speaking through fun, engaging activities like songs, games, and storytelling. In a relaxed and supportive environment, children develop confidence and curiosity about language and culture. Using interactive tools such as puppets, flashcards, whiteboards, and technology, students are encouraged to speak, listen, and interact. As they progress into Grades 2–4, reading and writing are gently introduced through simple words and sentences, word recognition, and creative exercises like word searches. Lessons are often connected to classroom themes to deepen understanding and relevance. Emphasis is placed on correct pronunciation, cultural awareness, and risk-taking, helping students grow at their own pace. Our goal is to foster a lifelong love of languages and cultural learning in an enjoyable and nurturing setting.

PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts curriculum is a creative and active learning experience in which all Lower School students participate. The music curriculum provides enriching experiences that become integrated into students' lifelong appreciation of music. Students sing, move, listen, and play instruments to build skills in the musical elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, form, dynamics, and timbre. Drama skills and techniques are practised throughout the year with games, role play, and imaginative activities. This encourages creativity, enquiry, communication, empathy, self-confidence, cooperation, leadership, and negotiation. Above all, drama activities are fun, making learning both enjoyable and memorable.



“

It's not just about their academics. I think they look far beyond that.

PARENT





“

Children thrive here because they're truly enjoying life – the academics, the activities, and the support for whatever their strengths are.

PARENT

VISUAL ART

As students move through the early grades, they develop their identity and an expanding view of the world through a coherent and practical study of art. They develop skills of observation and learn to examine artworks in relation to their lives. At the same time, they grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond creatively in a range of art media. Through examination of their own work and that of other people, times, and places, students learn to unravel the essence of artwork and to appraise its purpose and value. Through these efforts, students establish the personal meaning and emerging agency that encourages a responsible world view.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes in the Lower School are designed to develop individual athletic-based and movement-based skills. The programme is taught through progressive instruction; the level and pace at which skills are introduced depend on the abilities and experiences of both the class as a whole and the individual students. Basic health and fitness concepts, rhythmic body movement, body and equipment awareness, manipulation, movement, control, and coordination are focused on at each grade level. Students enjoy a wide range of activities, including gymnastics, swimming, football, basketball, multi-sports, and more, all taking place on campus.

“

Being here at ACS and in an international school, your understanding of the world is accelerated. From day one.

PARENT

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE) AND PEOPLE SKILLS

The majority of our PSHE curriculum is integrated into every area of school life. Students in grades 1 to 4 attend blocks of people skills lessons throughout the year, covering topics such as understanding ourselves and managing our responses, talking confidently and empathising effectively, and building relationships of trust and respect – the life skills we use to communicate and interact with other people, both individually and in groups. In addition to the scheduled people skills lessons, many of the PSHE standards are additionally covered with Flopsy Bunnies to Grade 4 in Morning Meetings, science, Forest School, IT Integration and PE. Themes such as privacy, consent, keeping safe, and bullying are covered more than once throughout Key Stages to ensure continued reinforcement of important learning.

LIBRARY

The library programme supports and enriches the school curriculum and encourages children to fall in love with reading. Exposure to literature from all corners of the world gives children an opportunity to learn about the cultures of their classmates. Classes visit the library weekly, share a story read to them by the librarian and/or learn research skills, and explore a multitude of books they can borrow and enjoy. They often recommend books to each other and swap books they have loved with their friends. Children are encouraged to see books as windows through which to view new ideas, or as mirrors into which they see themselves reflected. The library's collection is full of diversity, where every child can find themselves represented.





FOREST SCHOOL AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

We make full use of our 128-acre campus and its outdoor facilities for hands-on learning. With spaces for gardening and a dedicated STEM project area, students in Grades 1 and 2 engage in inquiry-based learning linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our woodland areas and Forest School programme allow students to explore nature, embedding real-life experiences into their learning. The curriculum is designed to encourage curiosity and environmental empathy, with outdoor learning spaces supporting this approach.

HOME LANGUAGES

The Home Language Enrichment (HLE) programme supports students whose first language is not English in maintaining their native language and cultural identity. Emphasising the value of multiculturalism, the programme recognises that continued literacy development in a student's home language is essential for both academic success and personal growth. Home languages are seen as vital assets that enhance children's development and promote cross-cultural understanding within the school community. HLE classes are student-centred, with tutors tailoring instruction to each child's needs and proficiency.

SCHOOL DAY

Early Childhood Example School Day (Flopsy Bunnies – Kindergarten)

07:45 – 8:00	Early morning drop off (Flopsy Bunnies and Scramblers from 08.00, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten from 07.45)
08:00 – 8:30	Optional morning play
08:30 – 9:00	Morning Meeting
08:50 – 11:00	• In class activities, incorporating literacy, maths, units of inquiry, creative work, building and constructing, role playing • Special area class, for example world languages • Recess/break time.
11:10 – 12:10	Lunch in the classrooms
12:00	Half day programme finishes
12.30 – 15.30	• Short nap time if age appropriate • Afternoon activities

Grades 1-4 Example School Day

07:45 – 08:00	Early morning drop-off	13:10 – 14:00	Inquiry unit
08:00 – 08:30	Optional morning play	14:00 – 14:20	Recess/break
08:30 – 09:00	Morning Meeting	14:30 – 15:20	P.E*
09:00 – 10:00	Literacy	15:20 – 15:30	Closing circle
10:00 – 11:00	World languages*	15:30 – 18:00	After-school clubs / Extended Day Club
11:10 – 12:10	Lunch and recess/break		
12:10 – 13:10	Mathematics		

Specialist classes include, and are dependent on the grade level, performing arts, Forest School, P.E., world languages (Spanish or French), swimming, art, STEM, and people skills.

*Specialist teachers teach the special area classes and their programmes are integrated with the curriculum in order to expand children’s understanding of themes taught in classrooms.



“

At this age, it's crucial to foster a love of learning, and ACS develops that through its passionate teachers and learning experiences.

PARENT

HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED IN LOWER SCHOOL?

Assessment in the Lower School is integral to the learning process, reflecting the inquiry-based nature of the curriculum. The school uses a variety of strategies to assess student progress, focusing on holistic development and formative assessment (rather than strict key-stage objectives and high-stakes testing).

Ongoing assessments monitor student progress and guide instruction. Teachers observe students, engage

in discussions, and incorporate self and peer assessments. Summative assessments, such as projects, written tasks, and performances, evaluate mastery at the end of a unit. Portfolios document a student's learning journey, while standardised tools are used for diagnostics. Progress reports and conferences with parents highlight academic and social development. Reflection and feedback are central to growth, with students setting goals and teachers offering constructive guidance.



READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.

Thoughtful preparation is provided for students transitioning from Lower School to Middle School (Grades 5–8, ages 10–14). The school ensures that students are academically, socially, and emotionally ready for the increased expectations and independence of Middle School life. In their final year of Lower School, students gradually take on more responsibility and participate in group activities that require leadership.

They develop a greater sense of independence, personal confidence and interpersonal skills to prepare for the demands of Middle School, supported by a programme of events and visits that enable them to get to know the Middle School teachers and expectations.

As they move up through our school, they work towards school-leaving qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and US College Board Advanced Placement Programme (AP), which are typically undertaken in Grades 11 and 12. Each year, ACS Cobham students achieve outstanding results in both programmes, consistently performing above global averages. These strong academic outcomes reflect our commitment to high standards, personalised support, and a culture of curiosity and challenge. Our graduates go on to study at leading universities around the world, including top institutions in the UK, USA, Europe, and beyond – ready to thrive in their studies and future careers.

READY TO DISCOVER THEIR PASSIONS.

CO-CURRICULAR

Drama and Music

Our thriving performing arts co-curricular programme offers Lower School students the opportunity to explore music and theatre. In addition to learning instruments within performing arts lessons, the private music lesson programme, offered during or after school, covers various instruments from flute to trombone. Students can also audition for our annual theatrical production, rehearsed and performed in our Performing Arts Centre. We have attended the MTI Junior Theatre Festival in Birmingham, winning an award for ensemble work and achievement in music. The music programme is integrated with the curriculum, featuring concerts, recitals, and an annual summer concert.

Choir and Orchestra

The orchestra and choir, available to Grades 3 and 4, allow students to perform in concerts with ensembles from other divisions. The Sprouts Choir (Grade 1 and 2) and Lower School Choir (Grade 3 and 4) welcome all students to come and sing a varied repertoire of songs. The Lower School Orchestra encourages beginner instrumental players and those with more experience to play together in an ensemble setting. Rehearsals take place before school, and both choirs and orchestra offer opportunities throughout the year to take part in performance events.

Sports

Our Lower School students enjoy world-class sports facilities, including football pitches, a sports arena, a competition-sized swimming pool, a floodlit astroturf pitch, a 400m track, and tennis courts. Sports offerings include football, basketball, swimming, tennis, cross country, and track and field, with additional clubs such as jiu jitsu, tag rugby, and pickleball. Participation is key, and students are encouraged to explore different sports each year. Our Swim School follows the Swim England Learn to Swim Stages, and the competitive Swim Team, starting in Grade 2, competes at Regional, National, and International levels. Lower School also has competitive Cougars teams in cross country running, football, and swimming.

Clubs

Our co-curricular programme offers a diverse range of activities, including sports like soccer, tennis, and track and field, as well as fencing, in-line skating, and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Students can also explore creative pursuits through the Lower School Choir, Art Club, LEGO Club, and Magic Club, or engage in science and gardening. Additional options include gymnastics, cheerleading, laser tag, and much more.

We have a specific programme for our youngest students in Early Childhood which is adapted to their needs and interests.



READY TO FEEL SUPPORTED AND SEEN.

Wellbeing

The central aim of the Pastoral Team is to foster a safe, healthy, and happy learning environment, supporting students' health, wellbeing, academic progress, and overall development while preventing marginalisation. Pastoral support is provided on both an individual and group level, in close collaboration with parents and families. Counsellors work alongside teachers and parents to identify and address each student's specific needs, meeting with students either on a one-off basis, regularly for a limited time, or periodically, depending on what is most beneficial. When needed, students and families are referred to external support specialists for further assistance.

Community

ACS Cobham fosters a warm, welcoming environment with a strong sense of community, connecting students, teachers, parents, and alumni from over 70 different nationalities. We promote global citizenship and ensure everyone feels valued. The Parents' Association (PSO) organises events such as the popular International Fair, celebrating diverse cultures. Parent workshops led by our teachers, counsellors, and administrators are available to help parents support their children with academic and social-emotional growth.

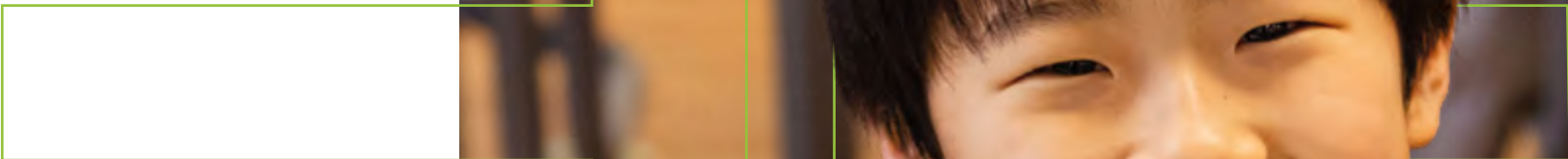
Student services

We welcome students who need services for English as an additional language and mild to moderate Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Students are challenged and supported in inclusive classrooms and specialist teaching environments, so they can equitably access the curriculum.

The English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme provides a supportive environment where young learners can develop their English skills and engage with the curriculum. Specialist EAL teachers offer personalised support through small-group lessons and in-class assistance, focusing on both language and content learning. The programme uses the WIDA standards and the Universal Design for Learning framework, while also valuing students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Optional Home Language Enrichment activities are available after school for various global languages.

Our Challenge & Enrichment classes are offered as needed.

READY TO JOIN OUR WORLD?



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admissions

We operate a rolling admissions process that enables students to join us in any grade and at any time of the academic year, subject to availability and acceptance.

Our online application process takes a holistic approach, assessing each candidate individually by reviewing previous school records, references, student questionnaire answers and standardised test scores. We also ask for additional information such as educational psychologist reports, where relevant.

A refundable enrolment deposit is payable after a student has been accepted in order to reserve a place. For more details of the application process, please contact our Admissions team.

Extended Day to 6pm

We offer an Extended Day Club to provide a safe, engaging, and convenient option for families. Led by our dedicated after-school specialist team, the programme runs every school day after school until

6:00 pm, with an early drop-off option available from 7:45 AM (school starts at 8:30 AM).

Located in Heywood House, the club offers a well-structured programme of activities, along with refreshments and a sandwich tea.

Catering

Lower School students enjoy a dedicated dining hall located next to the extension playground, providing a convenient and welcoming space for meals. Our award-winning catering team offers a diverse international menu with a wide range of nutritious and delicious options to suit all tastes.

Dress Code

While students are not required to wear a uniform, a branded sports kit is available and required for physical education and school sporting activities.



“

We were warmly welcomed and absolutely blown away by the school’s outstanding facilities and atmosphere.

PARENT

Busing

ACS Cobham offers a comprehensive busing service with door-to-door and shuttle options, ensuring safe and efficient transportation for students. Led by experienced drivers, the service is designed to recover only costs. Our Transport Coordinator works to arrange busing from your child’s first day (subject to availability). To help us organise this, please provide your home address as soon as possible.

Our door-to-door bus service is available from Pre-Kindergarten upwards, and the shuttle service and late bus service are available from Grade 1 onwards.

Shuttle service stops are assigned each year according to the home locations of our student populations. Example stops, subject to change, include Cobham, Claygate, Oxshott, Esher, East/ West Horsley, Kingston, New Malden, Walton, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Woking, Putney Heath and Guildford.

Contact cobhamtransport@acs-schools.com for more information. To view the zones we cover, please visit the busing section of our website.

Location

ACS Cobham is close to junctions 9 and 10 of the M25. Heathrow and Gatwick airports are around 30 and 45 minutes away, respectively. London is approximately 40 minutes by train.



AWARDS

We are very proud of the awards that we have achieved in the past few years, which are as follows:



Distinguished
School

2022 – Apple
Distinguished Technology
in Schools award



2023 – Pearsons’
Silver Award for Digital
Innovation



2024 – Pearsons’
Bronze Award for Early
Childhood Education



READY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.

CONTACT

To speak with our Admissions team, please call our office on +44 (0)1932 869744 or email cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com

To apply online, please visit acs-schools.com/cobham

We host regular Open Days throughout the year, or you can arrange a personal tour with our team.

We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful campus soon.



ACS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL COBHAM
Heywood,
Portsmouth Road,
Cobham, Surrey,
KT11 1BL England

+44(0) 1932 869744
cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com

2025/2026

