



Ghyll Royd School and Pre-School

A small school with a big heart

PROSPECTUS



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Ghyll Royd School
and Pre-School

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Moz (our school mascot) with their family



Welcome

from the Headteacher

At Ghyll Royd, we believe school should feel like a second home, a place where children feel safe, happy and inspired to be themselves.

Our school is small enough that every child is known by name, yet big enough to offer a rich variety of experiences, specialist teaching and wonderful opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom.

We are proud of our history and traditions, but even prouder of the way our children laugh, play, question and flourish each and every day.

I hope you enjoy reading about our school and I look forward to welcoming you soon.

Hadley Nicholson

Hadley Nicholson
Acting Headteacher

Our Mission and Values

Our mission is simple:

“We aspire to continuously provide a nurturing and highly engaging and active educational environment, where every child is valued and encouraged to reach their potential”.

We achieve this by encouraging all members of Ghyll Royd to consider the school's values.

We are a community built on our 6 C's, values that are lived, not just taught:

- Confidence: celebrating small steps as well as big achievements.
- Care: for ourselves, our friends, our school and the world around us.
- Consideration: listening, sharing and showing empathy.
- Courtesy: kindness, respect and good manners every day.
- Creativity: imagination and curiosity across every subject.
- Challenge: encouraging children to try their best and keep going, even when things are tricky.

These values are at the heart of everything we do, from classroom learning to sports, music, drama, and everyday interactions. They create a community where children feel safe, supported, and inspired.

Parents and senior schools often tell us our children grow not just in knowledge, but also in character and joy.



A School with Space to Breathe:

Exceptional Facilities & Grounds

Ghyll Royd is a hidden gem. Our school is set in the beautiful Greystone Manor, with bright classrooms full of warmth and character.

Facilities include:

- Fully equipped sports hall with changing rooms
- Multi-purpose hall for assemblies, performances, and events
- Dedicated art, music, and ICT suites
- Spacious classrooms filled with natural light

But what really makes us special is what's outside: Seven acres of grounds where children can run, play, and explore.

A dedicated forest school area, where den building, campfires, tree climbing and bug hunts bring learning to life. Sports fields and adventure playgrounds where friendships are made and teamwork thrives.

Two large nursery gardens for Early Years exploration. Children have the freedom to be outdoors every day, enjoying a childhood full of fresh air, muddy knees, and wide smiles.





Pastoral Care, Wellbeing and Safeguarding:

Every Child Known and Loved

At Ghyll Royd, we are more than a school, we are a caring community where every child is valued and supported. We believe that happy, confident children learn best, and their safety and wellbeing are central to everything we do. Our small class sizes and close-knit environment mean no child is ever overlooked, and teachers work closely with families to support each child's unique strengths and needs.

Our Pre-School Key Worker system and strong communication with parents ensure that every child feels secure and valued from their first day. Pastoral care is part of daily life, guided by our six core values; the 6 C's, which shape behaviour, relationships, and decision-making. Through School Council, House events, and community projects, children learn resilience, leadership, and teamwork, while our house system: Nelson, Rodney, and Drake, fosters a real sense of belonging and friendly competition.

Safeguarding is woven into all we do. Our staff are trained and vigilant, creating a nurturing environment where children can thrive safely. We work closely with families and external agencies to ensure every child receives the support they need. Most importantly, children know they can always turn to a trusted adult for guidance or reassurance. At Ghyll Royd, a place where every child can flourish and every family can feel reassured, kindness, respect and safety come first, helping every child grow into a happy, confident and resilient young person.

We want every child to feel safe, valued, respected, and proud of who they are.



Our Nursery & Early Years Provision

Our Early Years Foundation Stage caters for children aged 2–5, with classes including Little Adventurers, Great Explorers, Brave Pioneers and Reception. We aim to provide a warm, family atmosphere where children thrive through structured learning and imaginative play.

From the age of two, children can join our warm and welcoming Nursery. For many families, this is where their Ghyll Royd journey begins.

Our staff are experienced, caring, and treat every child as an individual. With small groups and excellent staff-to-child ratios, we can give children the attention and encouragement they need.

The Nursery has two large, secure gardens, offering endless opportunities for outdoor play. Children dig, climb, explore and enjoy fresh air every day, whatever the season. These spaces are an extension of the classroom and give little ones the freedom to learn through play in a natural, stimulating environment. The days are busy and happy, filled with play, stories, songs, and laughter.

Children bake, paint, dress up, build and explore. They enjoy specialist sessions in music, PE, ballet and Forest School, alongside plenty of time for free play with friends.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage, with a focus on the Prime Areas of:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development

Children who move from our Pre-School to Reception attain higher than the national average in Reception Baselines.

For working families, we also offer wraparound care from 7.30am to 6.00pm, so parents can feel reassured that their child is safe, happy, and cared for all day.



The Junior School (Years 1–6)

As children move up through school, they are encouraged to become independent learners who are curious about the world.

We are ambitious for our pupils, but never at the expense of their wellbeing. Every lesson is designed to give children the confidence to ask questions, think deeply, and enjoy learning.

A Curriculum That Sparks Curiosity

At Ghyll Royd, we go far beyond simply delivering the National Curriculum. We believe learning should be an adventure. Our Learning Challenge Curriculum is an inquiry-led, child-centered approach designed to:

- Engage curiosity through thought-provoking questions
- Encourage critical thinking and problem-solving
- Seamlessly integrate Creative Arts and Humanities with core English and Mathematics
- Develop confidence, independence, and a lifelong love of learning

Children benefit from specialist teaching in sport, music, art, drama, French and Spanish, along with weekly swimming, outdoor learning and Forest School activities. Our classrooms are bright and engaging, with small class sizes of up to 16 pupils, allowing teachers to know each child personally and support their unique learning journey. This personalised approach also allows children to flourish academically, socially and emotionally.







Forest School:

Learning in Nature

Our Forest School sessions are some of the children's favourite times of the week.

In the woods, children are encouraged to take safe risks, work together, and discover the world around them. They learn to climb trees, use tools carefully, build shelters and light fires under expert guidance.

But more than that, they gain:

- Confidence from trying something new
- Care and respect for nature
- Creativity in making woodland art or stories around the fire
- Resilience when challenges don't work first time

Forest School is not just about being outdoors, it's about building character, independence and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime. Parents often tell us that their children come home after sessions in the woods "taller", brimming with pride at what they've achieved.





Awards and Achievements

We are proud of our children and staff and the recognition they, and our school, have received:

- ISA "Excellent in all Areas" School: awarded by the Independent Schools Association for our excellent all-round provision (October 2022)
- Arts Awards: celebrating our creativity in art, drama, and music, with pupils often winning regional and national competitions
- Sporting Achievements: teams representing us locally and nationally, showing not just skill but teamwork and sportsmanship, previously crowned National Champions in both football and swimming
- Eco Recognition: for our commitment to outdoor learning and respect for the environment
- Placed as one of the Sunday Times Top 10 Independent Schools in England (2020)

We are all very proud when our values and hard work are recognised.





Life Beyond the Classroom:

Extra-Curricular Activities & Enrichment

Learning at Ghyll Royd doesn't stop at the classroom door. Our pupils enjoy:

- A wide variety of after-school clubs: multi-sports, gymnastics, ballet, modern dance, art, French, Spanish, Lego, clay, Rubik's Cube, ensemble music and more
- Holiday Sports Camps led by our Head of Sport, hugely popular with our local community too
- Educational trips and residential visits to deepen learning and life skills
- Musical performances, drama productions and public speaking opportunities
- Fundraising and charitable activities to foster empathy and community spirit

We also offer Before and After School Care for all ages, with breakfast served in the mornings and a light tea after school.

Nutrition and Community

Mealtimes at Ghyll Royd are about more than eating, they are about sharing.

Our school chef prepares delicious, home-cooked meals every day, using fresh and nutritious ingredients. Children sit together, practise good manners and enjoy a real family-style dining experience.

Snacks are wholesome and varied, from fruit to bagels, and everyone is encouraged to try new tastes.



Where Our Children Go Next

One of the questions parents often ask us is,

"Where do Ghyll Royd children go when they leave?"

We are proud to say that our pupils move on to a wide range of excellent senior schools, both independent and state, including Bradford Grammar, Ilkley Grammar and Leeds Grammar, often securing scholarships in academics, music, art and sport.

Our small class sizes, nurturing environment and individual attention mean that children leave us confident, well-prepared and ready to thrive in the next stage of their education.

More importantly, they leave with a love of learning and a sense of who they are. They are confident to take on whatever comes next.



Our Alumni - Lifelong Connections

At Ghyll Royd, the sense of community and belonging doesn't end when a child leaves our school. Our alumni, fondly remembered as former pupils, are a cherished part of the Ghyll Royd family. Many have gone on to excel in senior schools, further education and their chosen careers, but they often speak of their time here with great warmth and fondness.

We are proud of the strong foundations our school provides; academic excellence, confidence, resilience and a sense of care for others, which our alumni carry with them throughout life. Many return to visit, share their experiences, or contribute to school events, helping to inspire current pupils and strengthen our sense of community across generations.

Being part of the Ghyll Royd family is truly lifelong. Our alumni network allows children to see that their journey here is part of a bigger story, a story of curiosity, creativity, and values that last a lifetime.



Scholarships

We are proud to offer a limited number of scholarships for children entering **Key Stage 2**, recognising exceptional talent and potential in the areas of **Academics, Music, and Sport**.

Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate:

- Academic ability, typically within the **top 10%** of their peer group
- Outstanding talent in music or sport
- Excellence in a personal extracurricular activity or specialised area of study

Scholarship awards are based on your child's performance during a **Scholarship Assessment Day**, which may include academic assessments and/or practical evaluations. Supporting documentation such as **music or sports qualifications, awards, rankings, or references from instructors or coaches** will also be considered as part of the application.

Bursaries at Ghyll Royd School

At Ghyll Royd School, we are committed to making our education as accessible as possible. To support this aim, a limited number of means-tested **bursaries** are available each academic year. These are awarded at the discretion of the Finance Governor, based on clear criteria and in a fair and consistent manner.

Bursary awards are reviewed **annually** to reflect any changes in family circumstances and school fees. As such, families must re-apply each year to confirm continued eligibility.



Admissions & Next Steps

Choosing the right school is a big decision. At Ghyll Royd, we welcome families to visit, meet our staff and see our school in action. We offer:

- Open Days throughout the year
- Taster sessions where you and your child can experience time in class prior to joining
- Personal tours with the Headteacher or Business Officer at any time to suit you.
- A simple registration process to secure a place with just a £100 deposit

We also offer flexible fee payment options, ensuring education at Ghyll Royd is accessible for families who value excellence in a caring, nurturing environment.

A Place to Belong

Founded in 1889, Ghyll Royd has a long history of providing a family-feel education. Ghyll Royd is more than a school, it's a community where children are happy, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential. We invite you to become part of our family and give your child the gift of a joyful, enriching and life-changing education.

Today, set within our seven acres at Greystone Manor, we continue to give children the freedom to grow, the encouragement to try and the support to thrive.

We warmly invite you to come and see us in action. Visit our classrooms, wander through our woodland and meet our happy, confident children. We believe you will feel the warmth and community that makes Ghyll Royd so special.

Contact Us:

Telephone: 01943 865575

Address: Greystone Manor, Burley-in-Wharfedale, West Yorkshire, LS29 7HW

Web: www.ghyllroydschool.co.uk

E-mail: information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk





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