

Junior Department – Pastoral



About the Junior School

St Helen's Junior Department is a small department, with one Year 5 class of up to 16 students and one Year 6 class of up to 24 students. Our classrooms are nestled right in the heart of the School and provide our students with a supportive and enriching environment from which to begin their life at St Helen's.

Although two separate classes for academic subjects, we aim to foster a sense of belonging in our Junior students both as part of the Junior Department and as a member of the whole School community. Year 5 and Year 6 work together for a wide range of activities including clubs and events as well as the Junior Christmas celebration, Junior residential and our Summer Production. Other events find the Junior students working alongside senior students; this interaction helps to nurture a sense of community throughout the school.

Our Junior students benefit from a team of dedicated staff committed to providing an enriching and happy learning environment for every student in our care. The small size of the department allows staff to get to know and understand individual requirements and the strengths of each child and, in doing so, can help each student to flourish.

Meet the team



Mrs Nina Bass, (from October 2018) Head of Junior Department and Year 6 Class Teacher: Mrs Bass joined St Helen's in September 2012 after four years teaching Year 5 and 6 in Oxfordshire. She studied psychology at the University of Nottingham, before completing a PGCE at Oxford Brookes University.



Miss Deborah O'Brien, Year 5 Class Teacher: Miss O'Brien joined St Helen's in September 2012 after completing a PGCE. She studied Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge and teaches all of the Junior science as well as being Year 5's Class Teacher.



Mrs Rachel Green, Year 5 and 6 Support Tutor: Mrs Green joined St Helen's in September 2014 after teaching and advising in Oxfordshire schools for nine years. She studied economics and management at Oxford University before completing her PGCE. In 2012 she qualified as a Primary Maths Specialist Teacher.

What do students say?

"I feel that we are looked after very well. At break time Mrs Shepherd cares for us and the teachers also look after us. I feel very cared about by everyone in the School."

"I find that being with the older students makes me feel more responsible. I feel safe in the Junior Department and all the teachers know us well."

Junior Residential

Each year the Junior Department takes part in a residential trip which alternates between a cultural visit to Stratford and an active visit to the coast. Whilst very different in terms of the activities offered, both trips provide an opportunity to challenge students and develop independence and team building skills.

"I really enjoyed the residential because I achieved things which I would never have achieved otherwise."

