



Open Evening Questions 2020

General

1. What time does the school start and finish?
 - a. School gates open in the morning at 7:45am and close promptly at 8:20am. School dismisses Monday-Wednesday at 16:00 and on Thursday and Friday at 15:00. There may be after-school clubs, academic interventions or even detentions that would extend a scholar's school day.
 - b. To see our current day-to-day schedule click [here](#).

2. How many students are in a class? How big is the school?
 - a. No more than 30 children are in a classroom at a time. Our year groups are broken into four houses (Harrison, Nightingale, Sancho and Waugh).
 - b. There are 120 children in each year group (4 forms - 5 for English and Maths). There are 5 year groups (7-11) so we have 600 scholars in total. This makes us a smaller than average secondary school. We love our small close knit community as it allows us to get to know every child really well.

3. How does the school communicate with parents?
 - a. In the June 2020 parent survey 91% of parents said the communication at the school is effective or highly effective.
 - b. During the school closure period, every parent/family had a key contact and received weekly calls to check our community was safe.
 - c. This academic year we have assigned every family a key contact to ensure this contact continues.
 - d. Communications are sent daily by email, text and student post
 - e. There is a weekly parent bulletin (every Friday) and parents are asked to regularly check our website and twitter feed for further information.
 - f. All parent communication is centralised on our Xpressions App
 - g. The form tutor is the first port of call for all parent queries - simply contact reception and we will call you back within 24 hours. Parents may also use the contact book to send a note to the tutor.

4. Does the school cater for food allergies?
 - a. It is the child's responsibility to know what allergies they have and what food may affect them. We have both vegetarian and meat options daily, along with cold sandwiches and other items.
 - b. All medical conditions and prescriptive medication must be disclosed to the school. This means that a first aider can witness or administer all



medications. It is important spare asthma pumps and epi pens are all handed in while scholars also keep their asthma pump and epi pen.

5. What sports facilities does the school have?
 - a. Sports facilities include a multi use games area, dance studio, playground and sports hall. We also use Woolwich common for cross country lessons, Hornfair Park (BMX), Charlton Park Rugby Club and the Charlton Lido for swimming lessons. We are in the process of securing further grass space from the Victoria House site next door. On occasion we have scholars do climbing lessons at The Reach as well.

6. Are there student leadership opportunities such as mentoring younger students?
 - a. Student leaders in Year 10 and Year 11 work with younger form reps to complete a student voice activity led solely by scholars. This is an extremely important piece of work as the feedback helps us continuously maintain our sky high expectations and standards.
 - b. Our student leaders also act as role models for their peers. They lead on character readings during morning line up and lead on duties during lunchtime and at the bus stop. This responsibility allows our scholars to lead by example and positively influence younger students. Older peers also help mentor younger peers in developing strategies to correct their behaviour.

7. What's the settling in process for year 7 scholars?
 - a. Year 7s have a full induction period at the school, which consists of a visit in the summer term, specific time in September reserved for Year 7 scholars and then other induction and team building activities with the rest of the school. We take our time to ensure Year 7 scholars get lots of practice in how we do things before they start lessons.

8. Where do most children go for post 16 education?
 - a. Our scholars go to a wide range of post-16 providers. In 2019 approximately 50% of our scholars achieved the grades required to enter a grammar school sixth form. A list of the most frequently attended schools includes: *Thomas Tallis, Bexley Grammar School, Woolwich Poly, Eltham Hill School, Christ the King (3 sites), Blackheath High School, St Olave's Grammar School, Haberdasher's Aske's Academy Hatcham, The John Roan, Shooters Hill 6th Form College, Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, Townley Grammar School, Colfe's School, Stationers Crown Woods Academy, Dartford Grammar School, and Harris Academy.*



Curriculum

9. What is on the curriculum overview?
 - a. The curriculum overview can be seen by subject on our website under the 'Curriculum Aims' tab at: <https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/>

10. What are your choices of modern languages?
 - a. We teach French and Spanish at AGFS. Scholars choose the language they wish to study before they arrive at the school. Additionally, scholars have the opportunity to sit a GCSE in their community language (should they speak another language at home).

11. If a language (ie French) is studied outside of school can they select the same language to study within school?
 - a. Yes, although a child may choose to study an alternative language as well.

12. Do students receive homework or is it completed during the school day?
 - a. Yes, students are expected to complete independent learning each day. Learning to operate independently is a critical life skill so we place a primacy on homework (independent learning/IL). Details regarding IL can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17tfjkU5yQlvaE89otmIWpsMdupxjCP2GXboLXdg3OaA/edit?usp=sharing>

13. What are the academic outcomes at this school like?
 - a. Academic outcomes at this school are very strong. This track record of success meant that AGFS received the highest possible grade from Ofsted in 2020. Scholars study a traditional and academic curriculum with no shortcuts. Over 90% of our scholars are entered for the rigorous Ebacc set of qualifications. You can find outcomes for all schools by visiting:
<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

14. Are subjects done in sets? For example, can a student be in the top set of Maths and a lower set in English?
 - a. Scholars are taught in largely mixed ability groups for all subjects in Year 7-9. Some setting in English, maths and science takes place in Year 11 to allow for entry into different tiered qualifications.

15. What after-school activities do you have?
 - a. At AGFS we place great value on our scholars being both academically and socially developed. That's why each week years 7-9 get two hours to participate in various enrichment activities across the school. These include



drama, dance, STEAM, Russell Group, newspaper, BMX, badminton, meditation, media literacy and more.

- b. Additionally, each year we have 12 drop down days where our scholars go off time table to participate in activities including trips abroad (currently postponed due to covid), overnight residential trips, careers workshops, and more.

Admissions

16. Do children need to take a test to apply for a school place? Is there a test registration form for me to complete?

- a. No, those who wish to apply can do so without testing for a place at AGFS. To apply for a school place click here:
https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200286/apply_for_a_school_place

17. What was the farthest distance a child was accepted in from last year?

- a. Distance is but one factor for admission to AGFS. We encourage anyone interested in the school to apply. In 2019 the catchment area was approximately 1.5km. Further information on historical application data can be accessed through the Local Authority.

SEND

18. How do you support children with mental health?

- a. We are very proud of our record for promoting positive mental health. This is a central feature of our character programme. A further list of SEND programmes that we have at AGFS can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mitCIy-T3OnG9A8c5aTlof2yq7toF6hoO4qLdoTV37M/edit?usp=sharing>

19. What help is there for children with SEND needs?

- a. To discuss individual needs for your child, please contact info@arkgreenwich.org to book in a meeting with Ms Gainey, our SEND Lead at AGFS.



Policies

20. What is your bullying policy? How do you deal with bullying?
- Our anti-bullying policy is listed on page 16 of the following document with our full behaviour policy here:
<https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/sites/default/files/Behaviour%20Policy%20September%202020.pdf>
 - Bullying at AGFS is rare because we have a zero tolerance approach to bullying. Staff respond to any reports of bullying in a sensitive and swift manner.
 - In the June 2020 Parent survey, 93% of parents believed the school deals effectively with bullying.
21. What is your mobile phone policy?
- We are a strict no mobile phones school. This is detailed on page 4 of our behaviour policy here:
<https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/sites/default/files/Behaviour%20Policy%20September%202020.pdf>. We are a no mobile phone school for a multitude of reasons. This policy allows us to restrict online bullying, distribution of indecent images, exploitation, theft/crime and distractions to the learning environment and provides our scholars with 'digital downtime'. Mobile phones are not permitted on the premises.

Covid-19 Preparedness

22. How are you managing schooling through Covid-19 and what would you do if there was another lockdown?
- As a network and as a school we have undertaken extensive risk assessments and put in place measures across the school to ensure our scholars are as safe as possible. To read details regarding the parameters in place this school year click [here](#).
 - Should we experience another lockdown, we would maintain our schooling online via Microsoft Teams. Our school is well-placed to support its scholars should this be the case.
 - If a localised lockdown takes place we transfer our lessons onto a live online platform called Microsoft Teams. This means that learning time is not lost and scholars are still able to meet with their teachers in person each day.