

ISA Awards 2024 Case Study: Prep School of the Year 2025



FOREST PARK SCHOOL

MAY 2026

History of the School

Forest Park Preparatory School is a thriving independent co-educational day school located in Sale, Cheshire, educating children aged approximately 3 to 11. Established in 1958, the school has a long-standing reputation for combining academic ambition with a nurturing, family-centred ethos.

Part of Bellevue Education, Forest Park has developed a clear identity built on its guiding principles of Nurture, Excellence and Aspire. The school places equal value on wellbeing and achievement, creating a close-knit community where pupils are known as individuals and supported to reach their full potential.

In 2025, Forest Park was recognised nationally as ISA Junior School of the Year, reflecting its innovative and forward-thinking approach to teaching, learning and community engagement. The school's transformation of collaborative learning and its transparency in sharing progress with pupils and parents was celebrated.

Aims

Forest Park's core aim is to develop confident, resilient and aspirational learners who are equipped not only for academic success but for life beyond the classroom.

The school seeks to:

- Provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment where children thrive emotionally and academically
- Encourage every pupil to develop a strong sense of self-belief and independence
- Deliver a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum tailored to individual strengths and interests
- Foster a culture of high expectations, mutual respect and ambition

Central to this is the belief that every child can succeed when given the right combination of challenge, support and opportunity.



Nick Tucker
Headteacher

<https://forestparkschool.co.uk>

Key Strategies and Innovation

1. *A Transformational Approach to Teaching and Learning*

Forest Park has undertaken a significant shift in its educational approach over recent years, moving away from traditional, teacher-directed models towards active, collaborative and enquiry-based learning.

Lessons are designed around:

- Open-ended tasks that promote higher-order thinking
- Collaborative problem-solving and peer discussion
- Opportunities for pupils to reflect on and evaluate their own learning

Traditional marking has been replaced with coaching conversations and structured feedback, enabling pupils to understand their progress in real time and take ownership of their development.

2. *Transparent Progress and Pupil Agency*

A defining innovation at Forest Park is the way progress data is shared. Pupils are actively involved in understanding their learning journey, with information presented in an accessible and meaningful way.

This approach:

- Empowers pupils to take responsibility for their outcomes
- Strengthens the partnership between school and home
- Builds metacognition and self-awareness from an early age

Learning is viewed as a shared process, where teachers and pupils jointly evaluate effectiveness and identify next steps.

3. *Personalised Curriculum and Holistic Development*

Forest Park's curriculum is broad, flexible and designed to develop the whole child. While rooted in strong foundations of English, mathematics and science, it is enriched through:

- Specialist teaching in areas such as languages, sport and the arts
- Creative and cross-curricular experiences
- Trips, residential and extracurricular opportunities

Small class sizes and strong staff-pupil relationships enable teachers to tailor learning effectively, ensuring each child's needs are met and their talents nurtured.

The school also places emphasis on confidence, communication and social skills, recognising these as essential for long-term success.

4. *Strong Community and Pupil Voice*

Forest Park fosters a genuine sense of belonging, where pupils play an active role in shaping school life. Structures such as the School Council and Eco Committee provide formal opportunities for student voice and leadership.

This culture:

- Encourages responsibility and independence
- Promotes confident communication
- Ensures pupils feel valued and heard

Close partnerships with families further strengthen this community, creating a collaborative environment centred on each child's success.





5. Preparation for the Future

A key strength of the school is its structured and thoughtful approach to transition. Preparation for secondary education is embedded throughout the curriculum, rather than treated as a final-year focus.

As a result:

- Pupils develop strong academic foundations
- They gain confidence in examinations and transitions
- The majority secure places at their preferred senior schools, with many progressing to grammar schools

This long-term approach ensures pupils are not only academically prepared, but also emotionally ready for the next stage of their education.

Outcomes

Outcomes at Forest Park demonstrate the impact of its innovative model.

Academic success is consistently strong, with high levels of progression to selective and independent senior schools. Beyond results, pupils leave Forest Park as:

- Confident and articulate communicators
- Independent learners with strong study habits
- Well-rounded individuals with a love of learning

Importantly, outcomes extend beyond attainment. Pupils show high levels of engagement, resilience and self-awareness, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic education.

The recognition as ISA Junior School of the Year highlights the school's success in combining academic rigour with progressive pedagogy and exceptional pastoral care.



NEXT STEPS

Forest Park is committed to continuous improvement and sector leadership. Key priorities include:

- Further developing its collaborative learning framework
- Enhancing the use of data to support personalised learning journeys
- Continuing to refine feedback and coaching models
- Sharing best practice more widely across the independent sector

The school also aims to build on its strong community ethos, ensuring that every pupil continues to feel known, supported and inspired to achieve.

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