



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Further to the videos and information we have shared with you, below are some frequently asked questions. Please also do peruse our website, which has a whole host of information for you. In particular you may be interested in the following sections:

- [Our Vision](#)
- [Secondary Curriculum](#)
- [Reporting Pupil Progress](#)
- [Rewards and Sanctions](#)

General Information

Q. How many pupils are there in each year group at CFS?

We have 120 pupils in each secondary year group, made up of 4 tutor groups of 30 pupils in each. However, many lessons are taught in smaller classes, for example Year 7 Maths and English is taught in 6 classes of 20.

Q. What is the shape of the CFS school day?

Pupils can arrive from 0745. Secondary registration is at 0820, with a 30 minute break at 1040 and a 40 minute break for lunch at 1300. There are 6 lessons per day of 55 minutes each and the compulsory day ends at 1530. From 1530 onwards, usually until 1630, we have a whole host of enrichment activities and academic interventions. Pupils can also remain in school to complete their homework in Supervised Study sessions.

Transition

Q. What transition arrangements are in place for the Year 6 pupils joining CFS?

The Senior Leadership Team contact the pupils' primary schools to get lots of helpful information about each pupil before they arrive at CFS. We also visit each of the Primary Schools to meet the pupils.

All the new pupils come into school for a special Transition Day in July where they get to meet their House Leaders, Tutors and new friends. They get a thorough tour of the school building and also play some fun team building games.

Over the summer holidays the pupils can take part in the Passion Project. The project is designed for pupils to share information about themselves and allow them to celebrate their creativity, skills and knowledge.

There is a Team Building day during the first half term, which helps our new Year 7s bond as a year group, and is a huge amount of fun!



Uniform

Q. What is the School uniform?

We are immensely proud of our uniform at CFS. We have recently made some changes to ensure that our uniform is fully inclusive, affordable, and yet still extremely smart. The uniform celebrates both the School, and each pupil's membership of their House. For full details of our uniform, please see our website: <https://www.chichesterfreeschool.org.uk/about-us/school-shop-and-uniform/>

Q. How much does the average uniform cost?

The average full uniform including blazer and PE kit bought from our School supplier, School Colours Direct, cost approximately £105 but varies a little depending on size. All other items can be bought from any local retailer/supermarket.

House System

Q. How many Houses are there?

There are 4 houses, Aquila (green), Noctua (black), Pegasus (blue) and Phoenix (purple). Tutor groups are in houses and there are lots of inter-house competitions that run throughout the year with points going towards the House Cup. Each house is led by a staff House Champion, and a host of pupil leaders as our House Ambassadors and House Presidents. Pupils also earn individual House Points, as part of our praise system, and these go towards each pupil's individual totals as well as the overall House Cup.

Q. How are pupils assigned to a House when they join the School?

If a pupil already has siblings at CFS, we will assign them to the same House – to ensure no family disagreements on Sports Day! Our Head of Year 7 and Senior Leadership Team spend a long time working with all of the information we have received from Primary Schools to ensure a positive mix of pupils in each tutor group, and this will influence your child's House placement.

Subject Groupings

Q. How big are CFS class sizes?

The maximum class size at CFS is 30 pupils. This is for non core and non practical subjects in Year 7-9. In Years 7, Maths and English is taught in classes of 20, with DT, Art, Food Tech etc in classes of 24. As pupils move up the School, English and Maths classes are kept to 24 pupils on average, with Science classes moving to 24 or less in Year 9.

At GCSE, all subjects benefit from small class sizes, ranging from 15 to 28.

Q. Do you set for Maths, English and Science?

At CFS we take a cohort by cohort approach to groupings. This allows us to adapt to the needs of each year groups. For example, in some year groups, Maths is set strictly 1 to 5. In others we have Sets 1 and 2 and 3 for Higher pupils, with the two foundation groups being mixed to ensure all pupils are pushed and motivated. Typically, Maths and Science have a level of setting in each year group, whilst English is often taught in mixed ability.

GCSEs

Q. When do pupils make their GCSE selections?

In the spring of Year 9, pupils choose their GCSE subjects and these are then confirmed towards the end of that summer term.

Q. Which GCSEs do pupils have to take – how much choice do they get?

All pupils will study Maths, English, Science, and at least one Humanities or Language subject. Pupils do not have to take both a Humanities and a Language, although may do so if they wish. They then get three other open choices from a wide choice of subjects. The Head of Year and tutor team will support pupils in making their choices. Where appropriate, some pupils will be entered for fewer GCSEs and will engage with our Parallel Inclusive Provision during this lesson time, where they will be supported to get the highest grades possible in their GCSE subjects.

Homework

Q. How much homework is set each week?

In Year 7, on average each subject will set 1 homework per week, some subjects 1 per fortnight. A week will be given for each homework task. Pupils have the option to stay after school to complete their homework with the support of a teacher, in Supervised Study which runs from 1530 to 1630 every day except Friday. Homework will increase as pupils move up through the School, with a focus on independent learning, revision and preparation for exams in Year 10 and 11.

Enrichment Activities

Q. What after school clubs do you offer?

There are a wide variety of clubs to take part in each term, both at lunchtime and after school, ranging from football, netball, table tennis, Tai Chi, Dungeons and Dragons, Coding, performing arts productions, choir and much much more. We also run our very own Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme.

Q. Is the extended day compulsory?

No, pupils can stay every day till 1630 if they wish, alternatively they can leave at 1530 every day too, or a mixture. However, at CFS we strongly believe that it is important that all pupils take part in at least one extra curricular activity and we therefore encourage pupils to do at least one club a week. However, if pupils engage in an enrichment activity outside of school then this does of course count, and we actively celebrate out of school achievements too.



Travel

Q. What buses pass CFS?

The 51 and 600 buses stop right outside the school and operate on a regular basis. Pupils coming from the Witterings area travel into Chichester on their local bus route and then connect with a bus travelling along Hunston Road on the 51 or 600 bus route. Of course, pupils could opt to walk the 20 minutes from the bus station/railway station to the school site via the protected footpaths and footbridge.

Q. Can I cycle to School?

Absolutely yes, but all pupils must wear a helmet please and have bike lights in the darker months. There are bike shelters where bikes can be locked up during the day.

Q. Are parents required to car share?

I'm sure you're aware that the parking facilities on site are limited, as is common in most Secondary schools. Therefore, we do encourage all parents to only come on site with at least 2 CFS children in the car. We also encourage all secondary pupils to use public transport or be dropped off north of the A27 and then to walk into school over the footbridge or cycle in from home. Many of our pupils do engage with this and enjoy the level of independence that this encourages.

How to Apply

Q. How do I apply for a place here at CFS?

For a Year 7 place joining the school in September, you need to apply through West Sussex County Council Admissions, on line, and we would be one of your 3 choices of school. If you select CFS as your first choice, you are likely to be offered a place here. There is no supplementary form to complete.

Any further queries, please contact Karie Wright on admissions@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk