



PORTLAND PLACE

HYBRID SCHOOL





Independent School of the Year Shortlisted 2023

School of the Year for Student Wellbeing
&
Small Independent School of the Year

STANTON
COOL

Portland Place Hybrid School

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David Bradbury Headmaster

“Where every child is inspired to learn and free to stretch their horizons.”

Welcome to Portland Place Hybrid School.

In 2020, Portland Place pioneered the first hybrid school, offering a mix of online and on-site learning for students aged 10-16 years old. Portland Place Hybrid School has gone from strength to strength, providing a high standards of academic and pastoral care.

Our Hybrid School combines quality, live online lessons with the opportunity to spend time onsite each week, at our leading co-ed day school near Regents Park.

This learning model offers the following benefits:

- a more flexible learning approach
- an alternative educational provision with strong pastoral support
- access to a more affordable, quality independent education

Portland Place Hybrid School shares and works to the same ethos and values as Portland Place School - a caring, nurturing, supportive environment where strong academic progress is supported by excellent pastoral care.

This consistently leads to excellent achievement by our students.

Welcome

The Hybrid School

Portland Place Hybrid School follows the full UK curriculum from year 6 to year 11.

The lessons are live and follow an individual timetable.

The model is flexible and enables students to choose one of the following structures:

- Four days online with one day on-site at Portland Place
- Three days online with two days on-site at Portland Place
- Five days online

Our Hybrid School:

- Independent School of the Year Awards - Shortlist 2023
- Talk Education Awards 2022 – Best Use of Technology - Shortlisted
- Winner of APG Innovation of the Year Award
- Independent Schools of the Year Award - Finalist 2021
- Featured in The Times & London Live News



“A wonderful school... My son started in the Hybrid School and is excelling. The teachers are so kind and understanding.”



Learning

Each day starts with a dedicated form tutor meeting to meet as a group and discuss the day ahead or any upcoming activities. These sessions also cover citizenship, PSHE and coaching.

Experienced teachers lead live, online, timetabled lessons through video conferencing tools, where pupil interaction is encouraged. Class groups are small by design to help support individual progress, with a maximum of 15 students per lesson. Our teachers are on hand to answer any questions and monitor development. Where necessary, teaching is adapted to the individual needs of the student and stretch or support is given when needed. Online study tools and self-direction are used to compliment the live teaching sessions.

The time on-site at Portland Place School, near Regents Park, is timetabled for more practical subjects such as music, science experiments, art, design and sport that are sometimes difficult to replicate at home.

When on-site Hybrid students can attend any extra-curricular clubs taking place that day, which are included within the fees. Our online instrumental and LAMDA lessons are online and are at an additional cost.

The Hybrid School students are also included in whole schools events such as drama productions, sports day, concerts, Celebration Day and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

All teaching at Portland Place School and Hybrid School is dyslexia friendly.



“My hybrid school is great, I look forward to it every day, I used to hate maths and now it’s one of my favourite subjects! The teachers are amazing, I think all of us feel very safe and happy in this school, and it’s very much the best school ever!”

Technology

Students have access to Firefly, Office 365 (including MS Teams), and an iPad pre-loaded with a variety of learning apps. Students will also be given login details for subject specific learning tools where appropriate, such as Century Tech and Hegarty Maths.

Firefly forms the core communication tool of the online school learning experience. Here you will access all the essential details including timetables, links to live lessons, set work, teacher feedback, extension activities and attendance records. Parents have access to Firefly via a browser or a dedicated app.

Our teachers have been trained in making the most effective use of online learning tools and many subject areas supplement their live teaching with digital content.

At the core of good teaching is individual flexibility that matches a student's learning needs. Our teachers are adept at employing different styles to suit individuals and provide highly effective personalised learning. Pupils will find that within live lessons they are often asked to use a variety of software packages and that a high level of ICT literacy will be a natural consequence of effective learning online.

The tailored pedagogy underpinning our technology is created by the Senior Leadership Team with the objective of learning in a way that is intellectually creative.





Strive

- Excite and broaden their mind on their favourite topics and subjects
- Stretch their learning far beyond the classroom
- Empower them to set their own learning direction
- Inspire and motivate them

We want to provide our students with the opportunity to explore topics and issues further, to develop a sense of questioning and curiosity. When we are curious, we see things differently, making connections and experiencing moments of insight and meaning — all of which provide the foundation for rich and satisfying life experiences.

The Portland Place Strive Booklets allow our students to harness their curiosity and deepen their interest and engagement of a particular subject through closer study. Each subject has suggestions about things to WATCH, READ, LISTEN, SEE and DO to foster passion and enthusiasm for the subjects our students love and develop strategies for independent learning. There will be lots of opportunities during the year to submit ideas and creations to our strive celebrations, where there will be awards for the most interesting, original and creative ideas. Strive projects can also be written up and submitted for the EPQ awards (Level 1 or 2).

Homework

Teachers will set tasks for students to complete outside of live lessons. Usually, the expectation will be that they are completed and submitted before the next live lesson.

In Years 6-8 we expect students to spend a minimum of 5 hours per week in independent study, rising to 7 hours per week in Year 9 and then 10 hours per week through the GCSE course.

The difference for The Portland Place Hybrid students is that their timetable will include some specified independent study time, time when they will be expected to work on assigned tasks.





“The Hybrid School is a great opportunity for pupils to get back into every day school life. On-site are hands on lessons and teachers are very creative. Then the rest of the week with their online based lessons. The timetables are really well designed to cater for all pupils.”



Pastoral & Wellbeing

It is important to maintain a well-balanced lifestyle when attending school online. We encourage students to keep to a regular routine (follow the school timetable), eat healthily and take exercise. In addition to meeting on-site each week, we encourage Portland Place Hybrid students to meet up with friends virtually and in person where possible.

The school offers coaching as part of the curriculum and students can be referred to the independent school counsellor for additional support if required.

We have been able to support several students with anxiety or previous school refusers creating a bridge back into education.

The following elements of the school structure also promote pastoral care and support wellbeing.

Vertical Tutor Group

Meet online or on-site each morning as a group

Weekly Newsletter

Build community and keep connected with school news and successes

Pupil Reward Points

Support progress and inform development

Coaching and Counselling

Counselling and coaching available

Extra-Curricular Club

We offer a range of clubs for students to extend their skills and passions

Small by Design

Nurturing and driven to help every child reach their potential

Individualised Support

Flexibility within and beyond the framework



Timetable

Example timetable for a Year 9 student with one day on-site.

	MONDAY On-Site Day	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FORM TIME 08:30 - 9:00	On-Site Form Time	Online Form Time	Online Form Time	Online Form Time	Online Form Time
PERIOD 1 09:00 - 09:55	Sports Lesson	Mathematics	Science	English Online Study Century Tech	Mathematics
PERIOD 2 10:00 - 10:50	Sports Lesson	English Online Study Century Tech	Private Study	Spanish	English
PERIOD 3 11:05 - 11:55	Art	Science	English	Mathematics	Humanities Online Study
PERIOD 4 12:00 - 12:50	Music	English	Mathematics	History	Private Study
LUNCH					
PERIOD 5 13:50 - 14:45	Design	Computing	Maths Online Study Hegarty	Geography	Maths Online Study Hegarty
PERIOD 6 14:50 - 15:45	Drama	Private Study	Science Online Study Century Tech	Private Study	English

On-Site Days:

Years 6–8: Monday

Years 9–11: Tuesday

Optional Second Day On-Site for Years 7–11: Wednesday

Exam Results

Our results were well above national averages and Hybrid students went on to accept sixth form places at Highgate School, Albemarle College and King Alfred's, among others. We have a 'Student Futures' member of staff who supports the transition to Key Stage 5.

38%

at grades 7-9
(National Average 26%)

23%

at grades 8 and 9

87%

at grades 4-9
(National Average 73%)

“The school’s extraordinarily supportive approach has underpinned her successful reintegration into learning. She is regaining confidence and we have high hopes for the future.”



E-Safety & Safeguarding

Online safety in all forms is embedded into the teaching ethos at Portland Place. Our teachers endeavour to ensure all pupils are aware of the myriad dangers as well as opportunities a connected world provides. They take active steps to model appropriate online behaviour and regularly include discussions about life online into general discourse.

We advise parents to discuss online behaviour with their children wherever possible, and to take an active role in the discussion of learning online.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Head, Paul Jones.



“The Hybrid school has a family feel and is fantastically nurturing. The teaching is of a uniformly high standard and our visits to the physical site has become a high point of the week.”

Application Process & Fees

Application and Fees

All enquiries and applications should be made to our Admissions team who will take you through the process. School tours can also be arranged through the registrar.

Please contact:

admissions@portland-place.co.uk or call 020 7307 8700

A registration fee of £100 is payable on application.

On offer, an acceptance deposit of £1,000 is payable to secure the place.

Fees for 2023/24 are charged equally over three termly instalments:

1 Day on-site
£4,280 per term

2 Day on-site
£5,350 per term

Extras such as public examination fees, books, and theatre and museum trips will be charged at cost. Individual music tuition can be arranged with the Director of Music and is payable on receipt of invoice.

The acceptance deposit is returned when the pupil leaves the school.

Notice of Leaving - in all cases a full term's notice is required in writing to the Headmaster if a pupil is withdrawn from the school. Absence of written notice will incur a charge of a terms fee's in lieu of that notice.





FAQ

Will the school offer live lessons and what is the proportion of synchronous vs asynchronous lessons?

The majority of lessons will be live lessons taught through video conferencing. There are some designated independent study periods in the timetable for each student. Where a subject has three or more periods in a week, one of those will be for independent tasks set in that subject.

How will my child learn - is it a full or restricted timetable?

The full academic timetable will be taught, including Music & Art. Practical subjects and PE (up to Year 9) are integrated into the school day on-site.

When does the virtual school begin? Is there a set date?

The Portland Place Hybrid follows the normal school year and terms dates can be found on the school website

www.portland-place.co.uk/about/term-dates/

Speak to our registrar for in year availability.

Do we have to come into school on the 'on-site day'?

This is the model for Portland Place Hybrid so ideally, yes - but flexibility can be discussed according to personal circumstances. We do have a 5-day online school option.

Will an independent study timetable/activities be available for the students at home?

Tasks set through Firefly, tools such as Century Tech and Hegarty Maths, work towards a Strive project or EPQ, means there will always be meaningful tasks available.

Will a teacher always be there to help and support my child during the lesson?

Yes, with the exceptions of lessons identified for independent study. Work from these lessons can always be submitted for feedback.

What happens when a teacher is absent?

A one-day absence would be covered with tasks set through Firefly and followed up on the teachers return. Longer absences would have another subject specialist take the live lesson.

How will the assignments/tasks get assessed?

We use electronic submission and feedback through Firefly. This feedback is visible to parents in their parent app for Firefly.

Will we still receive termly reports?

We report four times per year, twice as formal written reports and twice through parents evenings which we will arrange online. You will also see the on-going feedback through Firefly.

Will my child have an e-tutor to help support them academically?

The Form Tutor, who they will see each morning, is there to support students pastorally and academically.

Will my child be involved in school events?

The Hybrid School students are invited to be part of the wider community through events such as drama productions, sports day, concerts, Celebration Day and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. These are all optional.










Portland Place
Hybrid School

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