



The Willink

Village School, Global Outlook



Welcome to The Willink

The Willink, based in Burghfield Common, is a vibrant community school for over 1,200 students aged 11-18. As the preferred state school in our area, we attract learners beyond our catchment, including Hampshire, Reading, and Wokingham.

Our broad and balanced curriculum has a strong international flavour, tailored to cultivate a global mindset in our students. Rooted in our heritage as a Language College, we teach three foreign languages which fosters linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding.

Exceptional academic outcomes position us among Berkshire's top ten non-selective schools, reflecting our commitment to educational excellence.

As leaders in mathematics instruction we head the Mobius Maths Hub, a national centre of excellence, thus extending our influence across Berkshire and Wiltshire. We maintain strategic partnerships with Teaching School Hub Berkshire, underscoring our dedication to exceptional education. Above all, The Willink is a lively, welcoming institution encouraging high aspirations and expectations for our learning community.



September 2026

Thank you for your interest in The Willink. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and we are delighted you are considering us.

The Willink is a wonderfully dynamic learning community for students and staff, whose ethos is encapsulated in the phrase "Village School, Global Outlook". This ethos is reflected in our seven school houses: the international, multicultural cities of Paris, Mexico City, London, Shanghai, Berlin, New York City and Tokyo — a daily reminder that our students belong to a world far larger than any single classroom.

Our mission is clear: to develop future global changemakers. Everything we do — our curriculum, our pastoral care, our co-curricular life — is designed to fulfil our vision: that every student here flourishes and achieves their full academic and personal potential, leaving us as a confident, respectful and resilient global citizen with the knowledge and skills to thrive in the twenty-first century.

Our success is built on combining the highest expectations with genuine sensitivity to each learner's individual needs. We concentrate on developing and maintaining the very best standards of learning and teaching, and we take every opportunity to recognise and reward achievement. We desire all our students to Engage, Respect and Achieve — three words that are not merely a slogan but a living commitment made afresh every day.

I warmly invite you to visit us during the school day, when members of our school community will be delighted to show you around. There is no better way to feel the energy and warmth of The Willink for yourself.



Nicolle Browning, Headteacher

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background.

Nicolle Browning – Headteacher

Engage

Respect

Achieve

Our Vision, Mission and Values

At the heart of The Willink is an unwavering belief: that every single student, regardless of background or starting point, can flourish and achieve their full academic and personal potential. This is not a hope — it is our vision, and it shapes every decision we make.

Our mission is to develop future global changemakers. We take that seriously. The students who leave The Willink do not simply hold qualifications — they hold the confidence, the resilience and the global perspective to make a genuine difference in an interconnected world. Our motto, **‘Village School, Global Outlook’**, captures this perfectly: rooted in a warm, close-knit community, yet always reaching outward.

Our three values — **Engage, Respect and Achieve** — are the daily currency of school life at The Willink. They guide how our students learn, how our staff teach and how our community works together. They are not words on a wall; they are the standard to which we hold ourselves and each other.

What Our Vision Means in Practice

Our vision statement sets out that The Willink ensures all students flourish and achieve their full academic and personal potential, becoming confident, respectful and resilient global citizens with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the twenty-first century. Each word in that statement carries weight. We offer students a wide range of opportunities — academic, practical, cultural, linguistic and sporting — because we know that potential takes many forms, and our responsibility is to find and nurture every one of them.

The school’s **five key aims** are:

- To promote the maximum possible development of individual students’ talents and potential within a tolerant and caring community.
- To help students to develop a lively, enquiring mind and the ability to question, to debate and to apply themselves to academic and creative activities.
- To help students to acquire in all areas of the curriculum the knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to adult life, employment and leisure in a fast-changing world.
- To help students to use language and number effectively and develop digital literacy.
- To promote equal opportunities for all, to counter racism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination.

For more information regarding the aims the school has for all students please view the School Philosophy and Ethos Policy on our website.



“Our motto of ‘village school, global outlook’ and vision statement underscore our core values and the school’s simple message to students: Engage, Respect and Achieve.”

Ms N Browning, Headteacher



“Pupils learn a broad and ambitious curriculum that prepares them well for life in modern Britain.

Teachers are experts in their subjects and teach the curriculum well.”

Ofsted, 2026



The School Community

The Willink is, above all else, a community — one built on mutual trust, shared purpose and genuine care for every person within it. Our values of Engage, Respect and Achieve guide not only our students but every member of staff, every parent and every carer who is part of The Willink family.

We believe that a thriving school community depends on open communication, meaningful pastoral support and a genuine commitment to student voice. These are not aspirations — they are the daily practice of life at The Willink.

Communication: We keep parents and carers fully informed of their child’s progress through the Arbor application and portal, teacher reports, Learning Review Days and Consultation meetings. Our fortnightly WeLink newsletter and weekly Parent Digest email ensure families are always connected to the life of the school.



Pastoral Care: Each year group is led by a dedicated Head of Learning and a team of Tutors, ensuring every student receives personalised attention and that parents can engage regularly with the adults who know their child best.

Behaviour and Respect: Excellent behaviour is the foundation upon which all achievement rests. At The Willink, positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated, fostering a culture of individual and collective responsibility in which every student feels safe and valued.

Student Voice: We empower students to shape the life of their school through Year Group Councils and the Whole School Council, led by Year 13 Head Students. Students actively participate in decision-making, lead charity initiatives and influence approaches to learning.

Parental Involvement: Parents and carers are valued partners in our community. Through Parent Forums and as contributors to The Willink Charitable Trust, families have a genuine voice in shaping our school environment. When school and home work in close partnership, students thrive.



“Pupils at The Willink School enjoy coming to school.

Warm relationships with staff start at the school gate, where pupils are welcomed by staff who know them well.”

Ofsted 2026



Engage

Respect

Achieve

The School Curriculum

Our curriculum is the engine of our mission. Every course, every lesson, every scheme of work is designed with a single purpose in mind: to develop future global changemakers who are ready for the demands and opportunities of the twenty-first century.

From Year 7 to Year 13, we offer a comprehensive, broad and balanced programme of learning that is both academically ambitious and genuinely accessible to every student. Our vision — that all students flourish and achieve their full potential as confident, respectful and resilient global citizens — is embedded in how and what we teach.

The Key Stage 3 programme is grounded in the National Curriculum and provides a wide academic foundation, including dual language learning that reflects our proud heritage as a Language College. As students progress into Key Stage 4 and the Sixth Form, they encounter a flexible options programme placing the English Baccalaureate core alongside a rich range of subject choices. Students may specialise in subjects leading to GCSEs or national certificates, spanning sciences, humanities, arts and design technology. Throughout, Religious Education and PSHEE — including RSE — ensure students develop not only academically but as rounded, thoughtful individuals ready for the world beyond school.

Where students have particular aspirations or needs, we provide a carefully guided alternative options curriculum. This student-centred approach is central to our mission for our future global changemakers: every learner deserves a pathway that is right for them.

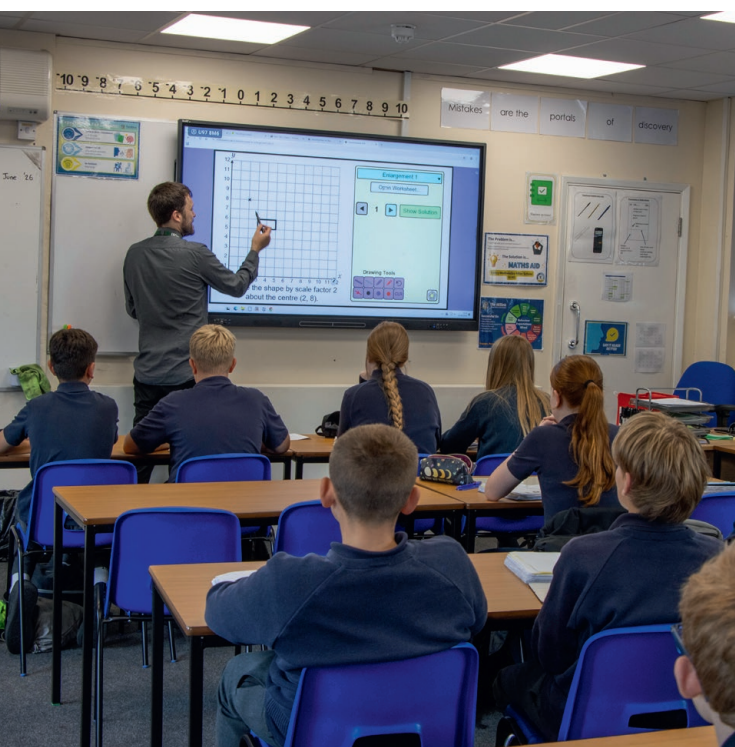


“Each subject area will operate carefully designed Schemes of Work in which progression is planned and students are offered material appropriate to their age and ability.”

Mr A Sizer, Deputy Head

“Effective transition from primary to secondary education requires careful planning. The school has developed close links with all our primary schools, both within and beyond our catchment, to ensure we understand individual student needs.”

Ms Schofield, Assistant Head



Academic Excellence

Exceptional academic outcomes place The Willink among Berkshire's top ten non-selective schools — a reflection of our uncompromising commitment to excellence and living proof that high expectations, delivered with care, enable every student to achieve their potential.

As the lead school for the Möbius Maths Hub and a strategic partner of Teaching School Hub Berkshire, we contribute to educational excellence across the region while continually investing in outstanding teaching and learning within our own school.

Our curriculum carries a strong international flavour, deliberately cultivating a global mindset while broadening students' perspectives and equipping them with the confidence, cultural awareness and communication skills to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. This global dimension is not an add-on — it is woven into the fabric of everyday learning, bringing our motto of 'Village School, Global Outlook' to life.

School Facilities

At The Willink, our facilities are designed to offer every student an environment that is stimulating, safe and conducive to all-round development. We regularly invest in our resources to ensure our spaces match our ambitions for our learners.

Academic Spaces:

We have dedicated spaces for all subject faculties, including our most recent addition of B Block for the English and Humanities Faculties, and well-equipped laboratories for the Science Faculty. A dedicated Sixth Form area provides a calm, focused environment for our oldest students.

Design Faculty:

Students have access to cutting-edge technology including Computer-Aided Design software, laser cutting equipment and 3D printing, alongside studios for art, food technology and textiles. Sixth Form art students benefit from their own dedicated studio space.

Performing Arts & Music:

Our facilities include a drama studio, music practice rooms and a music technology suite. Annual school productions and Key Stage 3 performances give every student the chance to participate — on stage or behind the scenes.

Physical Education (PE):

Our PE facilities include an astroturf pitch, basketball, netball and tennis courts, a swimming pool and a spacious sports hall. Expansive playing fields cater for a wide range of sports, and Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form students also have access to the Willink Leisure Centre gym.

Digital Learning:

With more than 700 computers and Chromebooks available school-wide, technology is seamlessly embedded in learning. Students have access to a broad range of digital tools and productivity applications across every subject.

Library Resource Centre:

Our library is at the heart of school life — a welcoming, inclusive space where everyone belongs. It supports teaching and learning, promotes literacy and nurtures a love for reading. Our daily 'Read to Achieve' initiative cultivates the habit of reading from the very start.

Social Spaces:

Students enjoy well-maintained outdoor areas including our Willink Community Garden and a recently installed outdoor canopy. Food and drink are available at our main canteen and 'ERA Eats' pod, both operated through a simple cashless system.



Prioritising Student Wellbeing

At The Willink, we believe that positive mental health and student wellbeing are key to academic success. We have dedicated teams ready to provide support to our students. Students are empowered to express concerns of any nature, knowing they will be met with empathy and expert advice.

Our proactive approach ensures important topics like internet safety, mental health and bullying are regularly discussed, embedding these vital conversations within our daily routine through tutor time, assemblies and PSHEE lessons.

We're proud participants in the Young Health Champions Award, where a team of specially-trained students join forces with staff to promote awareness about mental health and wellbeing across the school. Furthermore, our supportive Peer Mentors ensure that the transition for our Year 7 students into life at The Willink is smooth and positive.

We encourage regular interaction with parents and carers, building a strong support network which extends beyond the school grounds. By maintaining open conversations around academic progress and student wellbeing, we ensure that our students thrive in every aspect of their school experience.



"Leaders always act in the interests of children.

The school works closely with parents and other agencies to provide tailored support. As a result, pupils, especially those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and service children, achieve particularly well." - Ofsted 2026

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Life at The Willink extends far beyond the classroom. Our mission is to develop future global changemakers, and that demands more than academic knowledge alone. Vibrant co-curricular activity builds the character, confidence and practical skills that make the difference — nurturing talents, forging friendships and developing the wider attributes that employers and universities value most.

Our clubs and activities range from sports — football, swimming, netball and beyond — to intellectual pursuits including STEM, chess and Lego Masters. Drama and music provide creative outlets and bring the whole school community together for performances that are a genuine highlight of the school year.

Sport: Our PE Department leads local and county leagues and organises interhouse events that invite every student to participate, regardless of ability. Our Year 10 Sports Leaders extend this influence county-wide, building lasting ties with our feeder primary schools.

International Experiences: For over twenty years, The Willink's international ethos has been recognised with the prestigious International School Award — a mark of the genuine global engagement at the heart of everything we do, and a direct expression of our 'Village School, Global Outlook' motto. Our students travel to Barcelona, Paris, Berlin, Málaga, Bilbao, Rome, Naples and Iceland, as well as having the opportunity to take part in an international expedition. These interdisciplinary experiences, spanning Modern Foreign Languages, History, Art, Geography and PE, develop cultural understanding, resilience, teamwork and independence. They are not simply trips — they are transformative experiences that shape future global citizens.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: In Years 9 and 10, students have the opportunity to undertake the transformative Duke of Edinburgh's Award. More than an accolade, it is an adventure that sparks lasting friendships, reveals new passions and develops the resilience that lies at the heart of our vision. Open to all — irrespective of ability, background or gender — it is, at its heart, an invitation to become the best version of oneself.



Celebrating Success

We take immense pride in our academic excellence at The Willink, encouraging a culture of achievement. As one of the top-performing state schools in the region for both GCSE and A Level, our dedication to maintaining high standards is evident. Our curriculum is carefully crafted to cater to the unique needs of each student, fostering equal opportunities for every learner to showcase their abilities and passions, irrespective of their individual strengths or interests.

At The Willink we embrace a culture of recognition and celebration. Our monitoring and rewards platform, *Arbor*, enables students to earn merit points that support our vibrant house system. Achievements are also recognised through postcards, certificates, and award ceremonies - all aimed at boosting their sense of achievement and encouraging continued personal growth.



Our annual Prize-Giving is a prestigious event with a guest speaker, honouring achievements across all subjects and years, and acknowledging an array of skills, aptitudes, and special accomplishments.

Our seven diverse Houses — **Shanghai, Berlin, New York City, Tokyo, Paris, Mexico City, and London** — reflect our ethos of a ‘Village School, Global Outlook.’ Students earn house points through individual accomplishments or team events, encapsulating their effort, improvement, and helpfulness.

With regular House sports events, quizzes, drama, and subject-based competitions, every student has numerous opportunities to represent and support their House. Our summer Sports Day is a highlight of the year, sparking a spirited atmosphere.

We also frequently award certificates for service to students who actively participate in school life, reflecting our appreciation for those who contribute to the vibrant fabric of The Willink.



Shanghai



Berlin



New York



Tokyo



Paris



Mexico



London

Engage

Respect

Achieve

Leadership

Future global changemakers are, by definition, leaders. At The Willink, we give every student the opportunity to develop the mindset, skills and confidence that leadership demands. Whether leading a school council, a charity initiative or a global enterprise, the foundations are built here. We focus deliberately on developing initiative, organisation, resilience and the ability to communicate with conviction — the very qualities that our vision for our students requires.

Leadership opportunities available to our students include:

- Prefects in Year 11, serving as role models for the whole school community.
- Debating and magistrates' competitions.
- Peer Mentoring.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Elected Year Council and Head Student positions.
- Paired Reading Programme.
- Mock Trials.
- Subject Ambassadors, Maths Leader Mentors and Sports Ambassadors.
- Leading charity activities, including community outreach.
- Leading microfinance initiatives via Kiva, a global organisation using crowdfunded loans to help people overcome financial challenges.
- Eco Committee.
- Active Sixth Form Leadership Committees.



Peer Mentors

"Pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, have lots of opportunities to develop their talents and interests. They like the wide range of clubs and trips that the school offers."

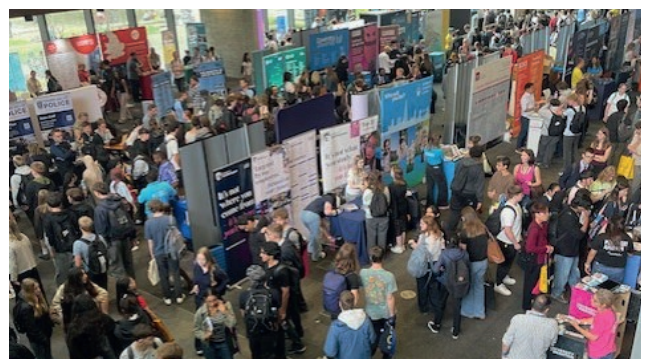
Ofsted 2026

Careers

Developing future global changemakers means equipping young people not only with knowledge, but with direction. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is a fundamental element of every student's experience at The Willink. From the earliest years of secondary school, students are supported in building self-awareness, exploring the world of work and developing the ambition to pursue the futures they deserve.

Our aims for CEIAG are:

- Enable students to make informed and considered choices at the end of each key stage.
- Help and guide students through transitions into new situations with confidence.
- Promote self-development, including the employability skills that modern workplaces demand.
- Equip students with both the hard and soft skills needed in the workplace.
- Help students to value and respect differences and diversity between people.
- Raise aspirations and ensure students are aware of the full range of opportunities available to them.
- Provide expert guidance on options, further education, higher education and career pathways — including apprenticeships.



Careers Expo visit

"Leaders help pupils develop the skills employers are looking for from key stage 3 onwards."

Ofsted 2026

A Growing Sixth Form

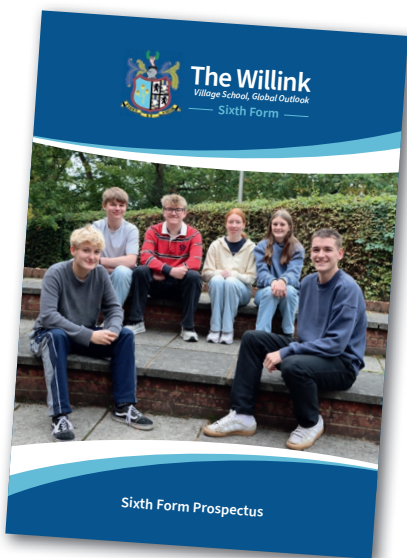
The Willink Sixth Form is an inspiring, ambitious and friendly community where students are known as individuals and supported to achieve their very best. We offer excellent teaching, dedicated academic guidance and a strong pastoral network that ensures no student is left without support at this important stage of their education.

The majority of students entering Year 7 go on to study in our Sixth Form — a testament to the trust and loyalty our school community inspires. A growing number also transfer from other schools, drawn by the quality of our teaching and the breadth of our offer. All Sixth Form students are encouraged to play an active role in school life: working with younger students in lessons, organising House events and serving as the ambassadors and role models that our vision asks them to be.

We are deliberately sized to offer the best of both worlds: small enough to focus on the individual aspirations and needs of every student, yet large enough to offer a wide range of A Level and vocational courses alongside an excellent enrichment programme. In addition to superb teaching, Sixth Form students enjoy a large common room and a suite of networked study rooms.

All of our Sixth Form leavers go on to university, employment or apprenticeships — confident, resilient global citizens who are ready for the world. That is our vision, realised.

Full details of courses offered, together with information about enrichment options, our pastoral support and careers guidance, can be found in The Willink Sixth Form prospectus on the school website.



"I would like to thank everyone at the school for giving my son the most wonderful seven years."

Parent of a Year 13 student, June 2025





THE WILLINK
SCHOOL



0118 983 2030
office@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

The Willink, School Lane, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3XJ

f @thewillinkschool @the-willink-school
willinkschool.org.uk