

Our Strategic Plan 2026-2031



**RIPLEY
COURT**
School

Head's Introduction



I am delighted to present our Five-Year Education Strategy.

This document sets out our vision for the future of Ripley Court School and the educational journey we will continue to shape together over the next five years. It provides a clear sense of direction for our school while remaining firmly rooted in the values, opportunities and experiences that make Ripley Court such a special place to learn, flourish and grow.

The development of this plan has been informed by conversations with staff, pupils, parents and governors. Through this collaborative process, we have reflected on all that has already been achieved and identified the opportunities that will help us strengthen and enhance our provision in the years ahead. These priorities are organised around three key strategic aims.

What has emerged throughout this process is a deep affection for Ripley Court and a shared commitment to ensuring it continues to thrive. Everyone who has contributed wants the very best for our school and, most importantly, for the children who are at the heart of everything we do. As a prep school, we are proud of our long-standing success in preparing pupils for their senior schools and for the opportunities that lie beyond. At the same time, we believe childhood should be cherished. Our aim is to create an environment where children are given the time and space to discover their interests, embrace challenges, take appropriate risks and enjoy a rich breadth of experiences. Through an engaging and stimulating curriculum, we nurture a genuine love of learning while ensuring pupils are exceptionally well prepared for their next steps.

In a world that continues to evolve at pace, helping pupils develop the personal qualities they will need throughout their lives remains central to our mission. Our values of Perseverance, Aspiration, Curiosity and Kindness underpin all that we do, guiding children as they grow in confidence, character and capability.

Reed's School's move to co-education from 2027 provides our boys and girls with a natural pathway to an outstanding senior school as they take their next steps in education. At the same time, we recognise that every child and every family is unique, and we remain fully committed to supporting a wide range of senior school destinations. Our growing partnership with Reed's, alongside our collaboration with Feltonfleet, continues to enrich the educational experience we offer through access to excellent facilities, outstanding teaching and shared expertise.

Above all, Ripley Court is a place where children can enjoy their childhood, discover their strengths and thrive in every aspect of school life within a caring, supportive and ambitious community.

Thank you for the part you play in our school's future. We look forward to the next five years with confidence, purpose and excitement for all that we will achieve together.

Gavin Ryan
Headmaster



Our Mission

To prepare children for a life filled with passion for learning, and a desire to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Values and Aims

Our Values

- Perseverance, Aspiration, Curiosity and Kindness

Our Aims

- Provide a nurturing, inclusive and engaged community
- Promote academic ambition and curiosity
- Deliver outstanding co-and extra-curricular provision



RCS Strategy

Grow our school community

We will continue to grow Ripley Court sustainably, working towards two-form entry across Pre-Prep and Prep while maintaining the individual attention, sense of community and exceptional educational experience that define our school.

Through a strategic and sustained approach to marketing and engagement, we will share the distinctive opportunities available at Ripley Court with more families. Reed's move to co-education from 2027 represents an exciting new chapter in our relationship, strengthening a partnership that enhances opportunities for our pupils and supports our continued growth and development.

Enhance our learning environment

- Building on the developments already underway, we will continue to invest in and enhance our school environment, ensuring our facilities and learning spaces continue to support the very best educational experience for our pupils.
- We will regularly review our provision against the evolving expectations of the independent sector and the needs of our families, ensuring that Ripley Court continues to offer an inspiring, forward-thinking environment where children can thrive.
- Alongside maintaining and improving the exceptional facilities we already have, we will continue to develop our indoor and outdoor spaces to create even more opportunities for curiosity, exploration, discovery and hands-on learning.

Strengthen collaboration across our family of schools

- Building on the strong partnership already established with Reed's, we will continue to develop meaningful links that enhance the educational experience for our pupils. Through shared learning opportunities, curriculum collaboration and access to specialist expertise, we will create even more opportunities for children to be inspired, challenged and prepared for the future.
- Alongside this, our collaboration with Feltonfleet will provide further opportunities to share best practice, strengthen professional development and explore new ideas within prep education. These partnerships will ensure Ripley Court continues to learn, evolve and provide an exceptional experience for every child.





Aim 1

Provide a nurturing, inclusive and engaged community

We will continue to foster a warm, welcoming and supportive community, in the spirit of Andrew Reed, where every pupil, family and member of staff feels valued, safe and connected. Built on strong relationships, shared values and a genuine sense of belonging, our school encourages children to grow in confidence, independence and resilience while developing the social and emotional skills that will support them throughout their lives.

Pupils are encouraged to build meaningful relationships, contribute positively to school life and embrace the opportunities around them. Equally, we recognise the important role that families and the wider community play in enriching children's experiences and strengthening the sense of partnership that sits at the heart of our school. Together, we provide the foundations that prepare children not only for senior school, but for life beyond.

What we have already achieved

- Opening the Wellbeing Centre, The Nest
- Enhancing our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) provision
- Developing an inspiring outdoor classroom
- Increasing parental involvement through the relaunch of the RCPTA (Ripley Court Parent Teacher Association) and a programme of parenting workshops

Our Objectives

- **Strengthen positive relationships** by nurturing a caring and inclusive community where every pupil, family and member of staff feels valued, supported and understood, and where a strong sense of belonging is at the heart of school life.
- Deepen engagement and partnership through open and transparent communication, meaningful opportunities for parental involvement, and strong connections with the wider community, while continuing to respond to the needs of modern families.
- **Engaging learning environments** by enhancing learning opportunities through an increasingly rich cross-curricular approach, making the most of our facilities and embracing the value of learning beyond the classroom to inspire curiosity, exploration and discovery.
- Develop pupils' understanding of the importance of sustainability so they step into a changing world with the confidence and ability to help shape it.

Key plans for 2026-2027

- Build on the strengths and complementary expertise within the leadership team to further strengthen communication and partnership across the school, while continuing to develop strong relationships with the RCPTA and wider parent community through open, clear and consistent communication.
- Develop the tracking of alumni families and begin building meaningful and lasting engagement with our wider school community.
- Further enhance engagement with outdoor learning spaces, ensuring they are fully utilised to enrich learning and discovery.

Aim 2

Promote academic ambition and curiosity

We will continue to foster a culture of high expectations, ambition and a love of learning for every pupil. Building on the strong foundations already in place, we will further enhance a well-designed curriculum delivered by highly skilled, passionate and reflective teachers who use effective assessment and feedback to support strong progress. Through this approach, pupils are encouraged to think independently, embrace challenges and develop confidence in their own abilities. Strong partnerships with parents and careful preparation for future pathways ensure pupils leave Ripley Court confident, aspirational and well prepared for senior school and beyond.



What we have already achieved

- Introduced an Enrichment Programme for Years 3–6, including Spanish, ESB (English Speaking Board), Gardening, Computer Coding and additional Forest School opportunities.
- Completed a review of assessment practices, resulting in a more streamlined and effective testing schedule and improved use of pupil data.
- Enhanced the 11+ programme through parent information evenings, supportive guidance and tailored preparation to help pupils approach senior school applications with confidence and success.

Our Objectives

- Continue to enable every pupil to succeed by providing appropriate challenge, preparation and support that equips them for future success in school and in life.
- Build upon our effective assessment practices across the school, using data to support strong progress while helping pupils build resilience, confidence and independence.
- Nurture a lifelong love of learning by fostering curiosity through a thoughtfully designed curriculum, delivered by skilled, reflective and passionate teachers.
- Further strengthen partnerships with parents so that pupils leave Ripley Court confident, aspirational and well prepared for their next steps.

Key plans for 2026-2027

- **Continue to develop IT** (Information Technology) across the curriculum, ensuring pupils build the confidence, skills and understanding to become capable users of technology. **Maximise the opportunities provided by our STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) room, embedding its use more fully across the curriculum to enhance creativity, problem-solving and practical learning. Review and refine our English and Mathematics provision to ensure it remains outstanding and continues to reflect the most effective approaches to adaptive teaching and pupil progress. **Strengthen collaboration** with colleagues at Reed's School, building on existing relationships to enhance academic and co-curricular opportunities for pupils.



Aim 3

Deliver outstanding co- and extra-curricular provision

We will continue to provide a rich, high-quality programme of activities beyond the classroom, including sport, the arts, creative pursuits, and enrichment, that complements academic learning and supports pupils' development by building skills, confidence and enjoyment. Achievement and participation are both celebrated, promoting effort, perseverance and personal growth, and nurturing well-rounded, confident pupils with a lasting enthusiasm for physical, creative and collaborative pursuits.



What we have already achieved

- Increased the use of Reed's world-class facilities to enhance sport and co-curricular opportunities for pupils.
- Introduced new clubs to the extra-curricular programme, providing pupils with an even broader range of experiences and opportunities.
- Expanded our awards programme through the introduction of Values Awards in celebration assemblies and additional awards at Final Assembly and Speech Day, while maintaining the significance and value of each achievement.

Our Objectives

- **Continue to enhance our broad and high-quality enrichment programme**, offering a balanced range of sporting, creative, cultural and co-curricular opportunities that allow every child to discover new interests and talents.
- **Expand opportunities for learning beyond the classroom**, enabling pupils to develop their strengths, explore passions, and grow physically, creatively and personally.

- **Promote inclusive participation, progression and achievement by ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to access, enjoy and thrive through co- and extra-curricular activities.**
- **Strengthen coaching and pupil development** by providing opportunities to build teamwork, leadership, confidence and commitment, supported by effective monitoring of pupil progress and outcomes.

Key plans for 2026-2027

- Continue to develop the Enrichment Programme to provide pupils with a broad and relevant range of experiences, building skills, encouraging curiosity and continuing to foster a love of learning.
- Complete a review of the awards programme to ensure the right balance and range of recognition throughout the year, including celebration assemblies, Final Assembly and Speech Day.
- Introduce SOCS (School Online Communication System) to support communication, organisation, and engagement for parents and staff.



When our Year 6 pupils were asked to sum up Ripley Court in three words, they chose: **fun, caring and supportive.**

“We’ve been incredibly happy with our experience at Ripley Court. The school has a warm and nurturing atmosphere, the grounds are idyllic, and the teachers are outstanding – supportive, encouraging and dedicated to bringing out the best in every child. Most importantly, our children love going to school every day and, as a result, we have seen them flourish.”

Current parent

“I love Ripley Court. The teachers are so kind, and they make the lessons fun. I love the grounds too – my last school had a much smaller playground, and here there is so much space to play and explore. My favourite thing about school is the swimming pool. I love swimming and I’ve done really well since joining Ripley Court. I have lots of friends here and I even miss school during the holidays!”

Pupil





Where happiness and excellence go hand in hand



RIPLEY
COURT
School

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