

Laxton Junior School

When the private school sphere is more competitive than it has ever been and parents' standards are pushed ever higher, schools are wondering: how can we continue to stand out?

We are blessed locally with a number of excellent private schools, many in stunning grounds, surrounded by rolling countryside. Laxton Junior School is situated in the heart of Oundle (with easy access to the senior school's fabulous facilities) but don't let that fool you. With a spectacular woodland area and plenty of green space between classrooms and the A605, you could be forgiven for thinking you're in a remote village in the heart of the Northamptonshire countryside.

The outdoors is important at Laxton: they recently installed a canopy in Reception's play area so they weren't so reliant on the weather for their outdoor time. In their woodland garden, weeds, nettles and thorns are left untouched: they provide the perfect opportunity to teach children about risk and staying safe outdoors. Laxton's indoor learning environment is just as impressive. Students benefit from a dedicated art studio, music classrooms and a modern, open sports hall, perfect for burning off energy! The highlight however was the stunning reception classroom (see below), designed perfectly for learning-through-play.

Of course Laxton also benefits from its direct link to senior school, Oundle. While they are keen to reiterate that they have their own identity, leadership team and purpose, students at Laxton benefit from having access to many of Oundle's fantastic facilities: for example, every student receives weekly swimming lessons at the school's outstanding sports centre. Their pride at being linked with such an illustrious senior school is reflected in their decision to undertake a rebrand: from 2027 Laxton Junior School will be known as Oundle Prep School.

When talking to Laxton's headteacher, Lydia Waller, it was striking how the student is placed at the heart of every decision made. The school recently moved to having subject specialists teaching in years 4-6, a rare occurrence in primary schools. And clearly it's working. Whilst Laxton remains non-selective, 95% of their students went on to study at Oundle last year through the preferential pathway system.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about our visit to Laxton was the atmosphere: children were learning keenly but calmly, they were happy to talk and answer questions and were clearly enthusiastic about what they were learning and the opportunities they have at their school. It's a place where children get to be children: to learn, explore, play and develop in the most safe and nurturing of environments.



Laxton's Reception Discovery Afternoon is Saturday 3rd October, 1.30-3.30pm
To register or find out more, contact admissions@laxtonjunior.org.uk

To discover more about Laxton, see www.laxtonjunior.org.uk