



GRAYSWOOD

Nursery and Forest School

Grayswood Village Hall, Grayswood Road, Haslemere, GU27 2DJ

We apologise for not attending in person. During the holidays we operate a holiday facility. It has not been possible to find the specialist staff we need to release someone to attend, whilst also maintaining the legal ratios required of us.

Grayswood Nursery School has been registered as a charity since 1995 (charity number 1046722) and has been in operation since 1981 as a village pre-school. We have been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted since 2010. Our school is managed by a board of Trustees drawn from current and past parents.

The nursery is a recognised Forest School Provider which is an accreditation illustrating our commitment to learning in the outdoor environment, it was the first Early Years provider in Surrey to achieve this accreditation. Forest School is a learning ethos (in the same way as Montessori, Froebel or Steiner are theories structured to educate children) working within 6 guiding principles. It is a planned process to educate children most effectively and we believe strongly in its benefits for all children.

There are 36 children on the register at present and during the last 40 years we have been in operation there have been between 38- 45 children on the roll each year. This means several thousand children have passed through the nursery.

We are currently operating at capacity with a significant waiting list until September 2026. The facility at Scotland Park will enable us increase our daily capacity and we also hope to increase the age range of our nursery, offering space not only to babies but also to open a small school for children to the end of Key Stage 1, or even 2, who are not able to attend mainstream education for a variety of reasons.

At present we offer local schools opportunities to visit our facility but our ability to do so is restricted by the space available. Our plan for Scotland Park would be to allocate days for both local schools and those from areas of deprivation outside the local area to visit and engage with their learning in the outdoor environment. We would also like to run family workshops at the weekends specifically to support parents who find it difficult to engage with their children.

Our teaching method supports the learning of all children but it is particularly beneficial to children with additional needs and perhaps most particularly those with a diagnosis of ASD. Children with additional needs often find indoor classrooms highly stressful and consequently their learning is adversely affected. Educating children within a woodland environment reduces the sensory stimulation thereby enabling them to engage with their learning productively.

The additional facilities at Scotland Park including the provision of a permanent classroom building and toilet facilities, will allow children of all ages and needs to be immersed in a natural setting in all weathers. The walkable access to National Trust Blackdown via Valewood and the availability of the adjoining/surrounding Scotland Park SANGs land of just under 30 acres, will allow a safe area for children to carry out projects and immerse themselves in nature.

We understand the differing opinions regarding the development of Scotland Park. Grayswood Nursery School is a small charity and the offer of this portion of woodland provides an opportunity to secure a woodland base into the future and expand in the way described. Our current facility is not available to us in perpetuity. In securing a permanent home we would be able to provide children with the opportunity to understand the value of the natural environment both locally and further afield.



Registered Charity Number 1046722

