



# Prospectus

Aspiration  
Integrity  
Resilience  
Exploration



Compass  
School  
Southwark

**Compass School was set up with one goal: to provide an outstanding school for pupils, teachers and parents, delivering inspirational education to young people. This means the very best teaching standards, the highest aspirations for every pupil and the highest expectations of each and every boy and girl.**



**“Everyone in the  
Compass community  
will confidently reach  
the destination to  
which they aspire.”**

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## Principal's Welcome

Compass School Southwark opened in September 2013 with the ambition to become an outstanding local school. In a short space of time, Compass School has already become the school of choice for many families in our local community, and we are providing a unique education to the children that we serve.

We aim to be a first-class school, renowned for delivering outstanding academic results, developing exciting opportunities for our pupils and staff, and ensuring a global outlook and high aspiration in our pupils from all walks of life.

Everyone in the Compass School community holds the unshakeable belief that every child can achieve their full potential given the right support, inspiration and challenge. This is reinforced in our vision that “everyone in the

Compass community will confidently reach the destination to which they aspire”.

There are four core values that we strongly believe will help to deliver this vision – aspiration, integrity, exploration and resilience. All aspects of school life, including the school day, the curriculum and our enrichment opportunities, are focused on supporting these core values.

I look forward to welcoming you into our learning community and working with you to ensure that Compass School provides a truly outstanding educational experience for your children.

**Marcus Huntley MA, NPQH**  
Principal



**"I felt from day one,  
this was the correct  
school to send all  
my three children;  
the staff are all  
very caring and  
want what's best  
for the children."  
Parent, Year 9**



## Our Vision and Ethos

At Compass School Southwark, we believe that education is about more than just academic achievement. We want to engage with our pupils, inspire and motivate them; and in doing so help them to determine their own course, with a positive understanding of the world and the opportunities around them.

We are able to deliver this vision by focusing on our four core values:

### Aspiration

All pupils should aspire to reach a particular destination in their lives. Our role at Compass School is to support pupils in ensuring that their aspiration is both ambitious and achievable, while doing our very best to ensure that they reach that goal.

### Integrity

We expect our pupils, staff and parents to act with integrity at all times. Day to day this means courteous and constructive communication with each other, always being honest with themselves and others, and representing themselves and the school in a positive way.

### Exploration

Pupils should have fun, be curious and want to explore beyond the subject matter they are taught in the classroom. At Compass School we develop this value through our enrichment programme which encourages boys and girls to try new things, through our trips and visits which require pupils to explore and be curious, and through the challenging curriculum delivered by our superb staff.

### Resilience

Resilience is a core value at Compass School as we firmly believe that our young people need to be able to respond confidently to changes or uncertainties they may face in their lives. We also know that resilient children are happier children. Through developing self-management skills, promoting a strong tradition and culture in school, and broadening knowledge as part of our varied curriculum, we can ensure that Compass pupils are well-equipped for the ups and downs of life.

## A Unique Opportunity

At Compass School we have chosen to do some things differently:

- A small secondary school, with a strong sense of community
- Smaller than average class sizes
- A challenging and stimulating curriculum that enables pupils to reach their potential
- Timetabled enrichment options such as Duke of Edinburgh Award, table tennis, debating and leatherwork
- An early focus on the basics: numeracy, literacy and establishing our values
- Extensive Arts education with whole school productions including music, dance and drama
- Timetabled sport for all year groups
- A unique careers programme with seminars, work placements and professional mentoring
- Well-being and pupil engagement at the heart of all that we do, with Student Voice, free breakfasts and fruit for all.

**“The school’s values of aspiration, integrity, exploration and resilience are evident around the school.”  
Ofsted, 2017**



**“Teachers plan lessons well, considering the needs of pupils in their classes.”**  
**Ofsted, 2017**



## Academic Excellence

We are an inclusive school, with a core academic curriculum followed by all pupils. We set aspirational targets and challenge students to achieve them. Our curriculum is ambitious with EBacc subjects, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Modern Languages at its core. These are complimented by options in the Arts, Sport, Citizenship and Computing. A range of enrichment experiences complete our curriculum providing opportunities for the holistic development of Compass pupils through subject-specific trips and extra-curricular activities.

### Stretch and Challenge

Teachers plan the curriculum with the end in mind so all pupils are inspired at the outset to be thinking about the destination to which they aspire. Our teachers use differentiated activities, so learners are always challenged. In addition, our programme for high prior attainers ensures a range of bespoke activities are in place for our most able learners including mentoring, university trips, book clubs and our own lecture series.

### Relating

We believe students will flourish in a competitive global community if their academic qualifications sit alongside those skills, values and experiences that form a well-rounded individual. Our "Relating" programme covers a wide range of topics that allows them to relate to people, places, the past and future possibilities. Pupils learn about themselves and their own community as well as exploring other cultures and groups. In addition, we partner with ACET UK to deliver a five-year "Esteem" curriculum that promotes healthy relationships and sex education.

As a school, we play our part in national initiatives that promote mental health, Remembrance, Pride, Black History and many more. We are also passionate about giving to good causes and raise funds through pupil-led activities including our successful Year 10 project with First Give.



### Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and numeracy are at the core of the Compass curriculum. Pupils in all year groups study English and Mathematics for a minimum of 5 55-minute periods every week with additional time given to those who require further support. We promote a love of learning through guided reading, fun themed activities and numeracy quizzes, and there are opportunities to develop academic literacy in each lesson. Termly assessments help us monitor the progress made by each child and identify where additional support is required.

### Inclusion and the Personalised Curriculum

We are an inclusive school, welcoming pupils of all backgrounds, faiths and abilities, and regardless of learning or special educational need. High quality teaching in lessons and support from an additional adult where appropriate, enables pupils with additional needs to access our challenging curriculum. The school's mission statement that "Everyone in the Compass School community will confidently reach the destination to which they aspire" underpins our decisions to vary the curriculum for individuals where needed to enable focussed work to be done to ensure their goals are achieved.



**“We’ve started something fantastic at Compass, something we all can be proud of and something we all want to be part of; where individuals can flourish, and we can all count on each other for support. This something goes beyond the sport of table tennis; it becomes a part of who we are and shapes who we will become.”**

**Mr Hoang, Table Tennis Coach**

## Enrichment

Our curriculum is enhanced by a 55-minute period a week of timetabled enrichment activity for Years 7 and 8, as well as through a range of trips, visits and afterschool activities for all year groups. Our programme aims to encourage pupils to explore their potential by trying new and varied experiences such as community activities, additional sports and the arts. Many of these continue after school so pupils can really immerse themselves and enrich their learning.

Opportunities include:

- Boxing
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Table Tennis
- Leatherwork
- Trampolining
- Creative Writing
- Journalism
- Debate Mate

We have a programme of talks by visiting speakers and collaborate with external partners to enhance pupils' academic, social and personal understanding of their education and the world beyond school. These have included ESTEEM, Future Frontiers, Boyhood to Manhood, The March Foundation and The Old Vic Theatre Club.

**“Our leatherwork activities highlight our links with the traditions of our local area, as well as our growing association with the City of London livery companies.”**

**Mr Huntley, Principal**

## Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Throughout their time at Compass School pupils are exposed to opportunities which aim to broaden their horizons and help them make informed choices about post 16 education and future careers. The school uses the Gatsby Benchmarks of “Good Career Guidance” to plan its provision for each year group.

Our provision includes:

- Mentoring programmes
- Support with Sixth Form applications
- Work experience
- Careers fair visits
- Speaker visits
- Meeting with an independent careers adviser.



## Student Leadership and Student Voice

One of our values is “community” and we firmly believe that our pupils have a part to play in our school community including opportunities for leadership. Our elected Student Council has a strong voice and makes valuable contributions to enhance our provision. They have opportunities to meet with the principal and governors to discuss their work, and with external visitors as ambassadors for the school.

Our Student Council has been able to achieve real change such as extending the lunch break, having a broader menu of choices for lunch, reducing plastic usage through the Eco Committee and ensuring homework is set in advance at the start of each half-term. In addition, our pupil-led anti-bullying ambassadors ensure Compass pupils feel supported by their peers as well as staff.

## Pastoral Care

We understand that pupils will only reach their potential if they feel happy, safe and secure at school. Compass School is organised with pastoral care and support at our heart, and we pride ourselves on our supportive community.

Each pupil at Compass School is carefully assigned to a Learning Family. The Learning Family Tutor sees pupils every morning and is a consistent point of contact, taking responsibility for guiding their personal, social and academic welfare and maintaining communication with parents. Learning Family Tutors develop a close relationship with their Learning Family and have the clearest overview of progress, guidance and academic achievement.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who has overall responsibility for the well-being of pupils in their year group. Heads of Year are responsible for monitoring the progress of pupils and work with tutors to promote good attendance, positive behaviour and a vibrant community spirit. Together with our wider pastoral team, these colleagues provide support and guidance for each pupil.

Pupils are also allocated a House, and sporting, academic and other competitions are coordinated through the House system with prizes allocated throughout the year.

This strong, inclusive pastoral system promotes a sense of cohesion and belonging, and provides pupils with a smaller cohort of close peers with whom they will share their school experience. It facilitates friendly competition and opportunities for boys and girls to form close social bonds with pupils from different year groups.

**“Our focus on positive behaviour, attendance and safeguarding provides the foundation for your child’s success.”**  
**Mr Snoxell, Assistant Principal – Pastoral**





**“I enjoy the learning environment. It makes me learn in the best way possible.”**  
**Reid, Year 8**

## The Transition Process

The transition from primary to secondary school in Year 7 is a big step for any child. At Compass we have strong and lasting links with our local network of primary schools and provide a range of transition activities to help Year 6 pupils feel confident about their move to secondary school. This means that most of the children already know their teachers and will have visited our school prior to beginning Year 7.

In the summer term of Year 6 our Transition Team visit pupils in their primary schools, liaising with their teachers and introducing a group of ‘buddies’ who will support them in the following year. In June all incoming pupils are invited to attend an ‘Induction Day’ where they enjoy lessons, are introduced to some of their teachers and make new friends.

Parents are also invited for an ‘Induction Evening’ to meet staff, to hear about how parents can be involved with the school and to discuss their child’s start at Compass School.

## Keeping in Touch

We maintain high levels of contact with parents. Members of staff will often write to parents, contact them by telephone or invite them in to discuss issues of importance about their child’s welfare and progress. Likewise, we encourage parents to contact us if there is anything they would like to discuss.

There are regular Parents’ Evenings throughout the school year where parents can speak to their child’s subject teachers and there is a “CommuniTea” which meets regularly with the principal to discuss topics related to the development of the school.

## A New Building for Compass in 2023

Work is underway for our new state-of-the-art school building to serve the staff, students and community of Compass School. The buildings will be light and spacious with first-class facilities, enabling us to deliver our vision of a fantastic education for the young people of Southwark.



## Learning Environment

At the heart of a good school is an environment which allows for the development of confident, independent learners with an enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge.

At Compass School we offer a caring and supportive environment, which nurtures all pupils to achieve their potential and have high aspirations.

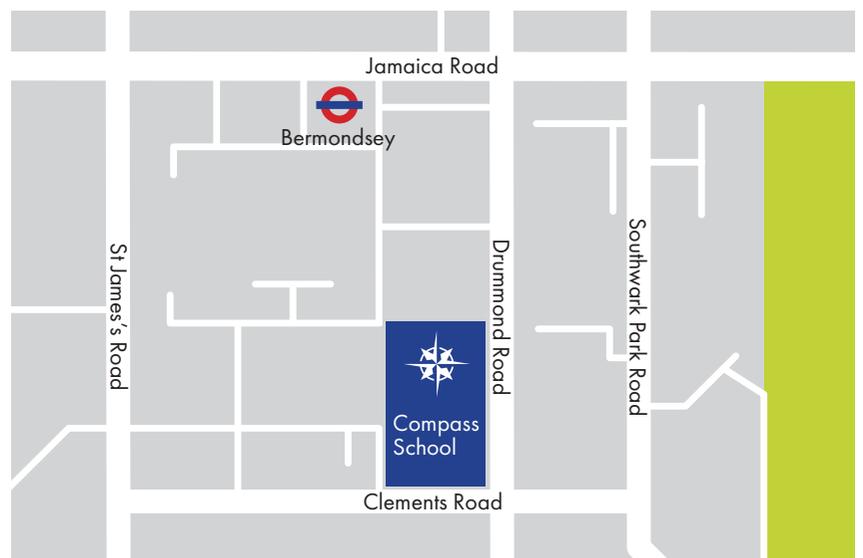
Compass School is located in a temporary learning village. Our temporary accommodation includes refurbished facilities which allow for inspirational teaching across the full curriculum. Specialist facilities for Sport, Science, Art and Information Technology are all provided.



## Convenient Location

Compass School is located on the former Southwark College site, a short five-minute walk from Bermondsey Underground Station.

In addition to the Underground, we are easily accessible by bus with major routes serving both The Blue to the south and Jamaica Road to the north of our site.



## Admissions

All children are welcome to apply to Compass School.

Compass acts in accordance with all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code. Our Admissions Policy is inclusive and non-selective and we are committed to ensuring that admissions reflect the full range of abilities, from those with special educational needs (including those with a statement or Education Health and Social Care Plan) to those who are gifted or talented. Compass School has no faith criteria.

Our Planned Admission Number (PAN) is 120.

Students with statements of special educational needs where the school is named on the statement will be admitted.

As demand for places at Compass School increases, we have the following over-subscription criteria and admissions will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in the given order of priority:

- 1 Looked after children (LAC), previously looked after children (PLAC) and internationally adopted previously looked after children (IAPLAC)
- 2 Children who have a sibling (full, half, step, fostered or adopted brother or sister) already attending the school at the time of the admission.
- 3 Geographical proximity to the school, as measured from the child's home to the front gates of the school in a straight line.

If having followed the criteria above a tie-break is necessary, random allocation will be used.

## How to Apply

If your son or daughter is currently in Year 6, you will be preparing to apply for a secondary school place through the London Borough of Southwark admissions process. You can choose Compass School as one of your six preferences.

### In-year applications

Compass School has spaces in Year 7-11 and will always consider students who wish to join us during the school year. If you would like to send your son or daughter to Compass School, please complete and return the application form.

Once the application form is completed, please return in person or by post to:

Compass Applications  
Compass School Southwark  
Drummond Road  
Bermondsey SE16 2BT

Please contact the school for more information or if you have any questions. Paper copies of all the forms that you require can be collected from Reception.

**“My favourite thing about Compass School is we are all a big community.”**  
**Kayla, Year 10**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What age groups does Compass serve?

We are currently operating as an 11-16 school.

### What did the latest Ofsted report say about the school?

Compass School was last inspected in June 2017 and achieved a Good rating. The inspection highlighted the good progress students were making as a result of effective teaching. Our curriculum was also celebrated as were the ways in which the Compass values of aspiration, integrity, exploration and resilience were embedded across the school.

### What is the extended school day?

We operate an extended school day for Year 10 and 11 pupils which aims to give them as much teaching as possible in these critical years. It is our strong belief that the extended day and curriculum has a significant positive impact on outcomes for our pupils. Additionally, all pupils have the opportunity to remain on site after school to work in the library or engage in optional enrichment activities.

### How big will Compass School be?

The school will grow to a maximum capacity of 600 students.

### What is the uniform policy?

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform including our sports kit for PE lessons. Pupils must be in uniform at all times including on their way to and from school.

### I have another question about Compass School. How can I get in touch?

If you have any more questions about Compass School or would like to have a look around the school, please do get in touch.

You can email [info@compass-schools.com](mailto:info@compass-schools.com), call 0203 542 6506, or complete the online form found on our website at [compass-schools.com/admissions/](http://compass-schools.com/admissions/)



**"My experience in school is  
very good and I love it here."**

**Year 8 pupil**



# Compass School Southwark



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