



Blanchelande College

PARENTS' HANDBOOK



NURSERY DEPARTMENT
2026-27



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PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF INFANTS' WELCOME

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Blanchelande's Nursery department!

We are committed to giving your child an outstanding beginning to their educational journey. This handbook has been written with the intention of sharing with you all the information that you will need during the school year.

At Blanchelande we aspire to get the best out of your child each and every day! Here are some of the ways we do this:

- We like to chat to our parents and pride ourselves on always being available, either before or after school, via email or at the end of a phone line.
- Our small class sizes ensure we have time to give each child attention.
- We have a caring philosophy and a family feel, which runs throughout the entire school.
- We are excited to teach your child and take them on their learning journey as far as we can each day. We have high expectations of your child's learning progress.
- We provide specialist teaching in music to help foster your child's love of music.
- Your child's happiness, development and welfare is our entire focus and passion!

We look forward to working with you and your child during their time in the Infants.

Yours faithfully,

Alexa Yeoman
Principal

Sharon Carvill
Head of Infants



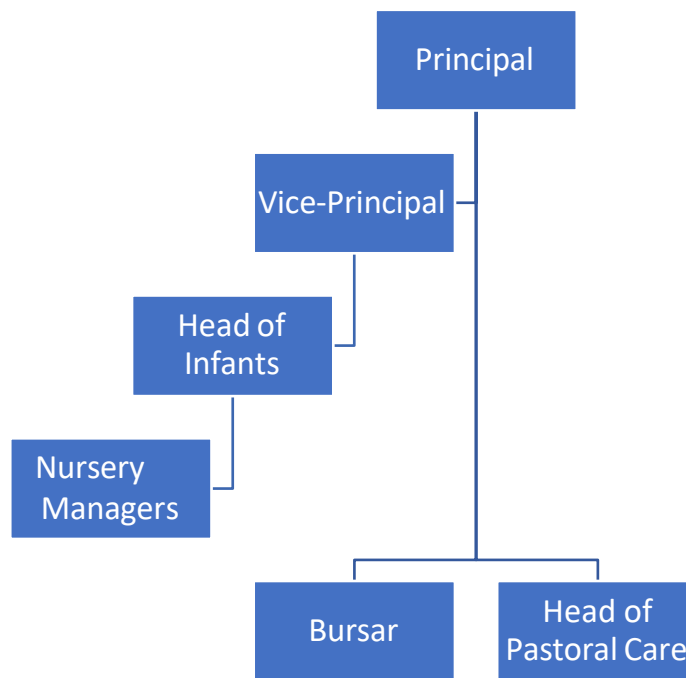
WHO'S WHO AT BLANCHELANDE

Our management structure

Blanchelande's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) consists of the Principal (Alexa Yeoman), Vice-Principal (Vanessa Mitchell) and Bursar (Mark Lewis), Director of Academic Studies (Jane Grane) and Director of Staff (Sarah O'Leary). These roles have oversight over the whole College. The Senior Management Team (SMT) consists of the SLT and Head of Pastoral Care (Hugh Tabel), Head of Infants (Sharon Carvill), Head of Juniors (Mark Allison), Head of Lower Seniors (Jo Harman), and Head of Upper Seniors (Annie Batiste).

The College is then divided into Phases: Infants (R-Y2), Juniors (Y3-6), Lower Seniors (Y7-9), Upper Seniors (Y10-11) and Sixth Form (Y12-13). Each has a Head of Phase who oversees the day-to-day running of their year groups and the well-being of the children in their section of the school. The Head of Phase works closely with the Form Tutors in their Phase.

The Head of Infants is Sharon Carvill



Parents are welcome to contact the member of staff they feel is most appropriate, but for day-to-day issues concerning their child, please start by contacting Mrs Scarlett Le Page our Nursery Manager.

All staff contact details are available on the Contact Us page of the website: click [here](#).



The Infant Team

Led by Head of Infants, Sharon Carvill, the Infant department consists of a team of teachers, Learning Support Assistants and Nursery staff. Our staff are approachable and always available to listen and assist you and your child.

Scarlett Le Page – Nursery Manager

Hi, I'm Scarlett. With over thirteen years of experience in early years education, I am dedicated to providing a nurturing, engaging, and inspiring environment where children can flourish.

Originally from Staffordshire, I gained my degree in Education while working as a Deputy Nursery Manager. Since relocating to Guernsey in February 2020, I have enjoyed becoming part of the local community and exploring all that island life has to offer. I am passionate about supporting children's learning through play. I believe in encouraging confidence, creativity, independence, and curiosity in every child. I look forward to getting to know you and your family. Please feel free to speak to me if you have any questions or need any support.



Kate Taylor – Nursery Deputy Manager Hi, my name is Kate Taylor and I am very excited to be part of the Nursery team at Blanchelande College as Deputy Manager. I have been working in Early Years for the best part of fifteen years and I am a busy mum to three children.

I have a passion for children's learning and development and actively promote ways of learning through play. Last year I completed my CACHE Level 3 SENCo qualification and am the Nursery ALNCo.

I especially enjoy being outdoors with the children and learning in nature and look forward to exploring the Blanchelande grounds as much as possible come rain or shine with your little ones!





Access to the school building

Please note that, while parents of children in Nursery may enter the school through the designated route at designated drop off and collection times, other parents are not permitted to enter the school building without being accompanied. This is not at all because we are an unfriendly school and is entirely to keep the children safe. If you, for instance, need to collect your child for an appointment, please go to the office and your child will be brought up to meet you.

Nursery opening hours

Parents are kindly requested to enter Nursery through the double red doors. A member of staff will open the red door for you, and you are then able to take your children directly into the Nursery classroom. The same room can be used at the end of the day to collect children.

Nursery clubs

The optional before and after school clubs take place in the Nursery classroom and are run by Nursery staff.

8.15 am – 8.45 am - Optional Early Bird Club

8.45 am – 2.45 pm – The Nursery day

2.45 pm – 3.50 pm – (*optional*): the Nursery After School Club



OUR ETHOS

Our mission

Together, learning to become all that God wants us to be.

Our aims

- Joy through learning
- Joy through service
- Joy through faith.

Three Rules for Life

1. Use your talents to pursue what is good.
2. Treat other people as you would like them to treat you.
3. Be tolerant and open to respectful debate.

History of the College

For the history of Blanchelande College – which stretches back to the Middle Ages – click [here](#).

Religious life

Children from Reception onwards, participate in some form of collective act of worship each day, either as a class, a year group, a department, jointly with Juniors or as a whole College. These acts of worship, in the Roman Catholic tradition, may be led by pupils, teachers or a visiting chaplain from the local parish. Children in the Nursery will also learn some short, age-appropriate prayers.

If you have any questions about the school's religious life or RE curriculum, please contact the RE Coordinator (Primary), Mrs Gaudion, or the Principal.

Email gaudiona@blanchelande.sch.gg

Christmas production

Nursery children participate in the Infant Christmas production. The production is usually performed twice, once in a morning and once in an afternoon, to enable parents and grandparents to attend at a convenient time.



PASTORAL CARE

Blanchelande staff are committed to the well-being of every child at the school, and the partnership between home and school is essential.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is defined in law as, protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.'

Responsibility for safeguarding lies with the Principal and is overseen by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Hugh Tabel (Head of Pastoral Care) and the Safeguarding lead for Nursery, Scarlett Le Page. All members of staff at Blanchelande have a responsibility for reporting any safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The College will liaise closely with parents and external agencies, as appropriate.

Scarlett Le Page is the Early Years Designated Adult for Operation Encompass.

For the College's full Safeguarding policy, please click [here](#).

Raising a pastoral concern

If you are concerned that your child is being bullied or is having difficulties relating to other staff and children, or you notice a worrying change in their behaviour or attitude, please contact the College.

You may wish to contact one of the following:

- Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager
- The Head of Infants, Mrs Carvill (carvills@blanchelande.sch.gg)
- If the matter concerns safeguarding/ child protection, the Designated Safeguarding Lead lepages@blanchelande.sch.gg
- The Principal, Mrs Yeoman (principal@blanchelande.sch.gg)

Anti-bullying policy

Blanchelande has a strict no-bullying policy, and we recognise that bullying is damaging to both the victim and the perpetrator. If you have a concern about bullying, please immediately raise it with the College. [policies page](#) Refer to **Nursery Promoting Positive Behaviour and Behaviour Management Policy**



Attendance and absence

Regular school attendance is vitally important for every child to flourish.

- **Planned absences:** Parents should email Mrs Le Page and the Primary Secretary in advance stating the reason and duration of the planned absence.
Email chiltonc@blanchelande.sch.gg
- **Sickness:** If a child is unwell during the school day parents will be contacted and collection arranged.

Return to College after sickness – the 48 hour rule: A child who has been off-school with a contagious illness must be *symptom-free for 48 hours* before returning to school. Any child returning to College prematurely will be sent home. Refer to **Nursery Sickness, Exclusion, Healthcare and Medication Policy**

Medication

The College will always try to support families in the administering of routine medication. If your child is on medication, please contact the Nursery Manager, Mrs Le Page
lepages@blanchelande.sch.gg

WHAT TO BRING

Pupils in Nursery:

- Uniform (see uniform list)
- Book bag
- Water bottle
- Healthy snack for morning break (no nuts, crisps or chocolate – fruit, crackers, nut-free cereal bars are recommended!)
- Spare clothes – please include pants and socks
- Wellies
- Blanchelande sun hat

The following items are kept in school:

- Wellies
- Blanchelande sun hat
- Spare clothes including underwear and socks



WELCOME

Welcome to Blanchelande Nursery.

Come and see what childhood can be.

Here, children garden, shape clay, weave with wool and build with blocks. They ask questions, tell stories, notice patterns and discover how the world fits together.

This is the beginning of an education rooted in joy.

What is a Kindergarten?

A Kindergarten, meaning children's garden, is an approach to early childhood education inspired by Friedrich Froebel. It recognises childhood as a unique stage of life, where children learn through play, imagination, meaningful activity, close relationships, nature and the guidance of knowledgeable teachers.

Our approach has been carefully designed to reflect these principles. Beautifully prepared learning environments, children's gardens, thoughtfully chosen resources and specialist teaching in Music, French, Cookery and Forest Kindergarten provide rich opportunities for first-hand learning.

Children:

- care for their own garden plots and learn from the changing seasons
- build with Froebel's Gifts and blocks, discovering mathematical ideas through play
- sew, weave, model with clay, fold paper, work with wood and create with natural materials
- bake, prepare food and care for their environment through purposeful, practical work
- enjoy stories, books, daily phonics, songs, music, role play and imaginative play, laying strong foundations for language, literacy and communication
- work and play alongside one another, learning to cooperate, share ideas and become part of a caring community
- return to projects over days and weeks, deepening their thinking through sustained exploration and reflection

We follow both the English Early Years Foundation Stage and Guernsey's Early Years Quality Standards Framework. Our Froebelian approach enriches these frameworks by giving children the time and space to explore ideas, make connections and develop understanding.

A Beautiful Place to Grow

The beautiful grounds of Blanchelande College are an extension of our Kindergarten classroom.

Set within the 40-acre Les Vauxbelets valley, children spend their days surrounded by fields, orchards, gardens and green spaces. Nature is not something they visit occasionally; it is part of everyday life.

Inside, thoughtfully prepared learning spaces include areas for construction, imaginative play, reading and creative exploration, with carefully chosen wooden resources and open-ended materials that encourage curiosity and independent thinking.

Outdoors, learning continues every day on our own play patio and across the wider College grounds, where children explore the fields, mud kitchen, tree-stump classroom, Eco Hut, nature trail and children's garden plots.



Blanchelande College

The Blanchelande Family

From their very first day, children become part of the Blanchelande family. They are known as individuals and supported to grow in confidence within a caring, close-knit community.

As part of Blanchelande College, children enjoy the warmth of a dedicated Kindergarten while sharing in the life of our wider community. Whether meeting older pupils, taking part in celebrations or exploring the estate, they quickly feel at home.

When the time comes for the next step, Reception is quite literally next door. Children move into a familiar classroom with familiar friends, supported by adults who already know them well.

It is simply the next chapter in their Blanchelande journey.

The Early Years framework

Blanchelande's Nursery follow the Guernsey's Early Years Quality Standards Framework (EYQSF), and we use the Development Matters guidance from the EYFS to support each child's learning. While following this framework, we recognise that every child is unique and develops at their own pace; our high staff to pupil ratio enables us to take each child's development into account when constructing the curriculum.

Our approach

Inspired by Friedrich Froebel, our approach values play, purposeful hands-on experiences like gardening, building with blocks, shaping clay, telling stories, singing, preparing food and exploring the natural world, while building close relationships with knowledgeable adults. Teachers introduce new ideas, extend language and know when to guide or step back.

Children learn through first-hand experience. They plant seeds, build with blocks, shape clay, tell stories, sing, prepare food and explore the natural world. Daily learning focuses on communication and language development, pre-phonics skills, early mathematical understanding, creativity, independence, physical development, and positive social and emotional development, complemented by specialist teaching in Music, French, Cookery, and Forest Kindergarten.

Inside, thoughtfully prepared spaces invite children to read, construct, create and much more. Outdoors, the 50-acre Les Vauxbelets valley becomes an extension of the classroom and allows the children to embed their learning in nature, through awe and wonder.

Communication with parents

As your child's Nursery, we are committed to working closely in partnership with you to support your child's learning, development, and wellbeing. We value the important role families play in a child's early years and believe that children thrive when home and Nursery work together.

We are always happy to speak with you and welcome open communication. Whether it's during drop-off and collection times, via email, or Class Dojo. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or information you would like to share.



Family board

We love hearing about the special moments, achievements, and experiences that take place at home. Sharing these with us helps us build a fuller picture of your child and creates meaningful opportunities for learning and conversation within the Nursery.

We have a dedicated family display board where children can share photographs, celebrations, holidays, family events, and other treasured memories from home. These displays provide valuable opportunities for children to develop their communication and language skills, build confidence, strengthen their sense of belonging, and celebrate the people and experiences that are important to them.

By working together and sharing information regularly, we can provide the very best support for your child and ensure their Nursery experience is happy, secure, and enriching.

In the second half of the Trinity Term, Infants participate in Primary Sports Day, to which parents are warmly invited.



ENRICHMENT

As mentioned, our infant children perform in class assemblies, go on educational trips and enjoy listening to a range of guest speakers. Throughout the year children also participate in a range of annual enriching activities and events.

Michaelmas Term	• Harvest festival • Christmas production • Christmas party
Hilary Term	• Book week - Daily activities to celebrate reading and books in a variety of ways. This includes a visit from an author, a dress up as a book character day and a competition. • Lent fundraising activity • Mother's Day Breakfast • Easter Egg Hunt
Trinity Term	• New Reception children welcome afternoons • Father's Day Breakfast • Activity week – Daily activities • Sports Day • Transition morning – all pupils spend a morning in their new class



SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE

As Blanchelande parents you already support the College in the most important way; thank you for entrusting the education of your son or daughter to Blanchelande.

Becoming a benefactor

Blanchelande College is a not-for-profit charitable organisation. The Trustees and Governors of the College offer their time as volunteers, without remuneration. Any surplus generated by the College is reinvested in the estate and educational provision. As such, the College welcomes the support of families and members of the community who would like to donate time, funds or material gifts to benefit the College. Should you wish to support the College in this way, please contact the Principal.

Email principal@blanchelande.sch.gg

Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)

Blanchelande's PTFA is run by a committed group of volunteers and coordinates fundraising and community events. The PTFA has its own website: <https://blanchelandeptfa.co.uk/>

The PTFA raises essential funds for school resources, and in recent years has enabled many improvements.

The PTFA Committee is always keen to welcome further volunteers and committee members. The time commitment is very much based on what each parent can give. To express your interest, please send the committee an email.

Email: ptfa@blanchelande.sch.gg



PARENTAL INFORMATION

Fees and extras

For information regarding fees and extras for the current academic year, click [here](#).

Parents receive one full term's notice of changes to fees; this is normally given at the close of the Hilary term with effect from the following September.

Notice of withdrawal

In the event of withdrawal of a pupil from the school, a full term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal. In the absence of such notice, one term's fees is payable in lieu.

Policies

All statutory policies are available on the policies page of our website [here](#).

Nursery Policies on health and eating can be found below.

[Eat well policy.pdf](#)

[Healthy Early Years policy.pdf](#)

Complaints

We hope that you will always be able to informally resolve any cause for dissatisfaction through a meeting with the member of staff concerned, or with the Principal. However, should you wish to make a formal complaint, our Complaints policy is available on the policies page of our website [here](#).