



Aspire Enjoy Achieve

Soar Valley College is an Outstanding school, as judged by Ofsted and as shown through our results each year. Whilst very proud of our achievements we are far from complacent, always striving to improve the provision and outcomes for the young people in our care.

At Soar Valley College, every individual is highly valued. We are committed to providing a stimulating and caring environment, within which ALL

ASPIRE to reach the highest standards,

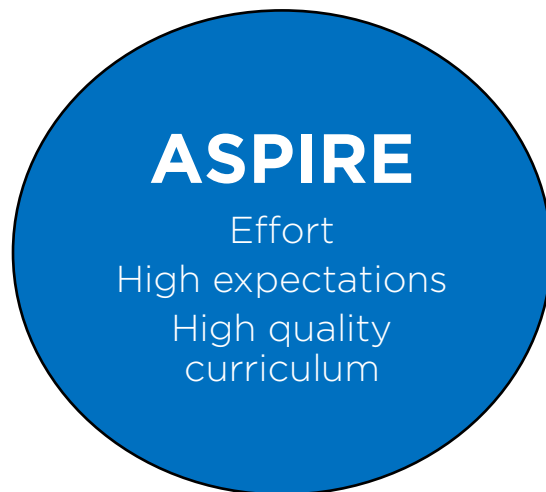
ENJOY every aspect of school life and

ACHIEVE their full potential.



The following pages contain further information. Should there be anything else you require, do please refer to our website or contact us. The details contained in this booklet are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



It's all about effort!

At Soar Valley we value effort above all else. We expect every student, regardless of ability, to do their best and to be the best they can be. We know everyone can try and expect this to be the case. We celebrate effort and will talk to students and parents/carers about this first and foremost, and then about grades. In this way, every child can be a success!

High expectations for all aspects of school life

High expectations of behaviour are essential for students to do well at school. We are all guided by 'The Soar Valley Way' which is a shared set of expected behaviour and attitudes that underpin our college ethos of 'Aspire Enjoy Achieve'. If students stray from the 'Soar Valley Way', staff may use a variety of sanctions to address and attempt to rectify this.

Like all schools we have some basic rules to which we expect our students to adhere. These are linked to the principles in 'The Soar Valley Way'. For example, we do not allow mobile phones, which can be lost and/or have a disruptive effect on learning. No responsibility will be taken by the school for any loss and if seen, heard or used, they will be confiscated.

Students can earn reward points in line with our ethos of 'Aspire, Enjoy, Achieve', with exceptional effort, participation and engagement in lessons being rewarded. They may also receive postcards home or be nominated as a Soar Valley Star for outstanding work or contributions. These achievements are publicly recognised and celebrated.

THE SOAR VALLEY WAY

Effort

Effort is everything at Soar Valley.

Effort is something that anyone can demonstrate, no matter your starting ability. You are expected to demonstrate excellent levels of effort in all aspects of your school life, within and beyond the classroom. With maximum effort, you can aspire to great things and ultimately make great progress.

How will you show excellent effort?

By being:
Organised, Diligent, Resilient, Dedicated, Committed, Reflective, Ambitious

Participation

You are expected to participate fully in the wide and rich experiences that Soar Valley offers to you. Participation, in its fullest sense, ranges from your academic contributions in lessons, attending a variety of extra-curricular opportunities and volunteering your time and effort to support the work of the whole school community.

How will you ensure you fully participate?

By being:
Courageous, Confident, Proactive, Reliable, Independent, Responsible, Enthusiastic

Respect

Our strong and positive relationships underpin much of Soar Valley's great success. Being respectful to all members of our proudly diverse community creates an environment where you, and others, feel safe and supported to achieve your very best.

How will you show respect?

By being:
Kind, Polite, Empathetic, Caring, Considerate, Thoughtful, Trustworthy

I agree to do my best to follow the Soar Valley Way

Name: _____ Form: _____

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school attendance has regularly been amongst the highest in the city, and we are very proud of this. Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for all students; it is no surprise that those with better attendance are more successful at school and so we work with parents and carers to ensure attendance is as high as possible. If, however, a student is likely to be absent, parents are asked to inform us by phone, email or in writing.

On the first day that a student is absent parents/carers will be informed through our messaging system. Parents are asked to keep the school informed of any changes to contacts/telephone details for this purpose.

Following changes to the law and as approved by the Governing Body, no authorised absence is granted to students in years 7 – 11 for non-educational purposes. It is therefore important that, as far as possible, medical and similar appointments are arranged outside school hours.

We have a 'Welfare Room' with trained staff for any child who is ill or injured during the school day. A First Aider will take appropriate action and contact parents if the student is too ill to stay at school or has to go to a doctor or to the hospital. It is yet another reason for parents to keep us up-to-date with any changes to contact information.

A letter/email is required immediately following any absence. A letter is also required if a student needs to leave the premises for an appointment.

Our Curriculum

"The ambitious curriculum is designed skilfully to enable pupils to achieve high levels of academic success. The school has ensured that the curriculum is sequenced and builds in complexity." Ofsted 2025

All tutor groups are mixed ability; that is they contain students of different levels of ability. In most subjects in Year 7 the students are initially taught in these mixed ability groups, of about 26 students. They are setted in Maths during Year 7 and in various other subjects in Years 8 and 9, for example, in Science and French. Class sizes are smaller in Design & Technology (approximately 20), and reduce in size from Year 9 onwards in English, Mathematics, Science and RE.

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) students at Soar Valley follow the National Curriculum. At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) there is a core of compulsory subjects and a range of courses from which students choose (see next page). The teaching of all courses is characterised by a variety of challenging teaching methods and the quality of teaching is consistently very high, as recognised by Ofsted in our last inspection.

"Teachers have excellent subject knowledge."

"Staff deliver the curriculum consistently very well." Ofsted 2025

Years 7-9 (Key Stage 3)	Years 10-11 (Key Stage 4)
English Mathematics Science French Geography History Religious Studies Design & Technology Computing Art Drama Music Physical Education/Dance Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)	Core subjects studied by all students English Language English Literature Mathematics **Science (2 GCSEs covering all sciences) Religious Studies Physical Education (non-exam) PSHE (non-exam) Plus 3 options, subjects, which currently include: Citizenship, *Computer Science, Creative Media, Fine Art, Food Technology, *French, *Geography, Graphics, *History, ICT, Music, Photography, Physical Education, Product Design, Physical Education, *Each student must choose at least one of these starred subjects. **The most able students study three separate sciences and attain 3 GCSEs.

Relationships and Sex Education

We help students to gain knowledge and understanding of how people grow and change as they mature towards adult life. In addition we encourage students to explore attitudes towards sexual relationships and to develop strategies for control over their own lives. We also focus on understanding roles within a family. Physical, social and emotional aspects of relationships are explored, including examining possible consequences of decisions taken, along with specific issues such as birth control and sexually transmitted infections.

A variety of teaching materials have been selected from approved health education authority sources. Parents are welcome to view these resources.

Most of the programme will be delivered as part of the Science curriculum and during PSHE lessons.

Religious Education

Religious Education is taught as a discrete subject throughout Years 7-11.

Under statutory requirements for a daily act of collective worship, students meet as a year group once a week for an assembly. On all other mornings, registration time with the Form Tutor provides a time for reflection, for group reading, reinforcement of basic rules, sharing of information, etc.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from Religious Education or morning assembly they should contact the relevant Head of Year to discuss the issue in the first instance.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of each student's curriculum. The homework could be, for example, revision, reading or research. The amount of time spent on each subject will vary and in Years 10 and 11 the amount is increased.



Students are given a student planner which reminds them when homework for individual subjects should be handed in. All homework is also recorded on the online school homework calendar. Students and parents can use this to see what homework has been set, information on particular tasks and when the homework is due in. There is a link on the school website which takes students and parents to this homework calendar. It helps students to plan so that they give themselves adequate time in which to complete their work and do not leave all their homework tasks until the last minute! Parents are asked to check the online records on a regular basis and support the school and their child with homework completion.

Students are able to arrive early in the mornings or stay in college after 3.00pm and use the Learning Resource Centre to complete homework tasks.

ENJOY

Respect and
relationships

Community
Participation

Working Together in Partnership

Communication

"There is a very strong sense of community at the school, where pupils and staff genuinely care for one another. Pupils are especially respectful of each other. Relationships are particularly strong." Ofsted 2025

We believe that the happiness and success of students in school depends heavily on parents and teachers working together. We have a Parent-Student-School Agreement that recognises the importance of this partnership. We encourage parents to take an active interest in the development of the College and in the progress of their child.

Parents are kept informed, usually by letter/email, of events going on in school, of the school's achievements, of their child's progress and of any particular problems we might be having. We may also send text messages to alert parents to particular events. The website is an additional source of information, and we hope parents will follow us on X (formerly Twitter) too!

Similarly, we encourage parents to keep us informed about the development of their child and never to let worries or concerns linger. Very often what can appear to be a major problem can be solved by a phone call or visit to the school. We are always happy to talk with parents, discuss their concerns and help in any way we can. We hope that in this way we can forge a real partnership from which we all benefit.

The Pastoral System

Students are placed into a tutor group of approximately 26 students. The Form Tutors, who usually move through the school with their forms, take responsibility for the well-being and progress of the students in their form. They check their attendance and punctuality, their appearance, their attitude to work and their behaviour. They advise students who have problems, offer them support and, where appropriate, consult parents/carers.

In this important pastoral role, the Form Tutors work closely with all their colleagues including Heads of Year, Associate Heads of Year, Learning & Behaviour Mentors, Assistant Principals, Vice Principals and the Principal.

"Pupils demonstrate exemplary behaviour. Pupils are respectful, courteous and highly considerate towards both peers and adults." Ofsted 2025



Reporting to Parents



A report on each student's progress is issued once per term. The report includes teacher assessments, effort scores and target grades, as well as indications about behaviour and homework. The student's attendance record is also shared, along with the total number of achievement and behaviour points accumulated to date in the academic year.

Each year group also has a Parents' Evening where parents can talk to subject teachers about progress and targets for future improvement. Additionally, there is a Year 7 'Settling In' Evening during the Autumn Term, a useful opportunity to meet form tutors and discuss the transition to secondary school.

Participation in the wider life of the school

"The school's provision for pupils' wider personal development is exemplary. There is a very wide range of activities deliberately designed to enhance pupils' enjoyment of school and to support their learning."

Ofsted 2025

At Soar Valley College we are justifiably proud of the wide variety of activities available for our students on a daily basis that we feel bring a range of benefits and opportunities. These activities occur before school, lunch time or after school. Our Participation Passports allow students to be rewarded for the extra-curricular activities with which they engage and students have responded very positively towards this.

Activities include:



Breakfast Club	A variety of healthy food and drinks, both hot and cold are served in the Dining Room every morning from 8.10am until 8.40am. Toast and drinks are also provided free of charge for any student.
Before School Club	Students in Years 7 and 8 can arrive from 7.30am, play games, use laptops, etc., and get a free breakfast too.
Library Club	Students can access the Learning Resource Centre every morning from 8.00am – 8.40am. Students are able to learn and play together amicably in a safe setting prior to commencing the school day.
Homework Club	A calm, supervised environment in the Learning Resource Centre allows students to do their homework using school resources and computers. This is held every day from 3pm until 4pm.
Subject Based Activities	Most subjects offer sessions for the students to further pursue their interests and receive extra guidance from the teaching staff.
Opportunities to pursue particular interests	There is a wide variety on offer and for example may include chess, ICT, Art and Design, Book Clubs, Film Clubs, Games Club, Eco Groups etc.
Creative Activities	Music, street dance, drama, guitar and drum lessons are amongst those activities offered for students who wish to pursue creative activities. There are also music and drama performances throughout the year, as well as art clubs.

Physical Education and Sports	A wide variety of sports is offered for all students, including football, hockey, trampolining, cricket, tennis, rugby, table tennis, badminton, fitness sessions, netball, basketball, rounders, aerobics, street dance and athletics. They may be single or mixed sex, competitive or non-competitive situations. Students from Soar Valley have represented the city and county in many sports such as football, cricket, badminton, rounders, hockey, and school teams have been successful in these areas and others.
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	This highly valued award is offered to students in years 9, 10 and 11. Those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh programme also undertake expeditions as a part of their assessment. The success rate at Soar Valley is very strong, receiving special commendation.
National Citizen Service (NCS)	A great many students in year 11 take part in the NCS, a national scheme with the aim of building skills for work and life.
Study Support	Advice on how to study/revise and time to undertake homework or additional work is offered to Key Stage 4 students using the ICT facilities each day at lunchtime and after school.
Trips and Visits	We are very proud of the large number and variety of trips and visits offered to students. In the recent past these have included residential trips to France and Wales, visits to the theatre, museums, parliament, the Mathematics Team Challenge and ice-skating, to name but a few.

The House System

Our thriving House system is a great vehicle for increasing participation, with all areas of the curriculum offering activities and competitions for students to take part in. Students and staff are in one of six Houses, all named after Leicestershire parks – Abbey, Beacon, Bradgate, Castle, Victoria, Watermead. Each House is led by a member of staff and student House Captains. The competition between Houses can be quite fierce (amongst both students and staff!) and culminates in a Sports Day at the end of each academic year.

Recent competitions have included The Great Soar Valley Bake-Off, chess tournament, library quizzes, sports tournaments, reading competitions, an Eco quiz, and many more.

With the vast array of extra-curricular activities and various House competitions and events, there really is something for everyone!



Academic Excellence

We are very proud of the academic achievements of our students. Students at Soar Valley achieve some of the highest results in the city year after year, and progress measures are consistently strong.

“The school is unfailingly ambitious for the achievement of pupils. Pupils rise to and exceed the school’s high expectations and consistently achieve highly.” Ofsted 2025

Results in 2026 were again excellent! There is very little variation between subjects in school, with all performing equally well.

Progress Measures

A figure called Progress 8 is also reported by the Department for Education. This figure is a calculation based on the achievement across 8 subjects for each student based on whether they met, exceeded or were below their expected performance in each subject, from their attainment levels at the end of primary school. A figure is then calculated for the whole school. -0.5 is considered to be the ‘floor standard’, or the minimum expected standard set by the government, and national averages are just below 0.

	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Progress 8	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.7	+0.7	+0.6*	+0.5*

**This is not an official figure. Students taking exams in 2025 and 2026 did not sit SATs at the end of primary school and so no official data showing progress from Year 6 to Year 11 is available. The figures are based on data shared by a large number of schools nationally.*

This means our students make significantly more progress than their peers nationally on average and indicates very strong performance.

Attainment 8

	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Attainment 8	48.30	54.77	51.05	51.59	51.69	50

A key performance measure for schools is called Attainment 8. It is a measure of the average grade attained by a student across their best 8 subjects at the end of Key Stage 4. Given that our students have very varied starting points when they enter the school in Year 7, these represent very impressive outcomes and again demonstrate outstanding progress.

Results in 2021 and 2020 have been omitted as these were based on Teacher Assessed grades.

Another key performance measure for schools is 'The Basics', the proportion of students who attained a Good Pass in English and mathematics (Grade 4 or above) and a Strong Pass (Grade 5 and above). N.B. For English, it is the student's best grade of English Language and Literature which is included.

As can be seen from the table, Soar Valley's results are consistently strong. There are fluctuations each year to the differing abilities of cohorts, but Progress is very high again for 2026.

(Results in 2022 were higher nationally as part of a transition period from the Teacher Assessed Grades during Covid years of 2020 and 2021).

	English AND maths	English	Mathematics
% Grade 4+ 2026	68.7	78.4	73.2
2025	72	82	77
2024	71	82	72
2023	72	81	77
2022	76	86	76
2019	67	80	71
% Grade 5+ 2026	50.0	67.1	54.2
2025	48	67	57
2024	57	70	61
2023	53	69	59
2022	55	78	57
2019	45	67	50

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate, or EBacc, is a measure that continues to be reported on. However at Soar Valley we do not insist that students take the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects. Our policy is to not force any particular option choices on students, but to allow and guide them to follow their strengths and interests. At Soar Valley, students who are capable of doing the EBacc are advised that this is a pathway that they should consider but they are not made to do so if their interests and abilities lie in other subjects. The EBacc figure reflects this student-centred approach and the breadth of our curriculum. This year 22% of students entered the full EBacc suite of subjects, meaning they studied English, maths, science, and two from Geography, History, Computer Science and French or German. Many more entered most of those subjects but not all.

Destination measures

Another measure of a school's success is how well-prepared students are for the next stage in their life. In 2023 97% of our students were in sustained full-time education, employment or training by November of the year they left school. This reflects the strong emphasis in school on careers education and preparation for working life.

Valuing Everyone

"The curriculum is highly effective. It is planned to suit the needs of the individual. The provision for more able students allows them to be challenged fully and to achieve higher-level qualifications." Ofsted.

More Able Learners

Students identified as more able in each subject have a range of opportunities to extend and enrich their learning, both within and outside the curriculum. Their achievements are closely monitored as part of our formal review procedures.

Many students are very gifted in many subjects and are given a wealth of opportunities to succeed at the very highest level. This includes curriculum provision, for example, Triple Science is studied by many in Key Stage 4, and the most able mathematicians take an additional qualification as a stepping stone to A level.

There are numerous additional opportunities for students to develop their interests, abilities and talents, such as the national (and international!) Maths Challenges, visits and activities (such as debating competitions, links with the Space Centre, etc.).

Special Educational Needs

All schools and colleges in England have to identify children who have Special Educational Needs. This may be due to difficulties with learning, communication and interaction, behaviour or mental health issues, or a medical need. Students with additional needs will be named on a Special Educational Needs Register which will be shared with all staff to ensure that their needs are met across the curriculum and in all aspects of school life.

At Soar Valley we are determined to identify students with additional needs early, by liaising closely with primary schools and through assessments when students start with us. Students are supported in a variety of ways including in-class support and small group interventions, and targeted interventions focus on the development of reading, language, numeracy, communication and social skills, occasionally involving intensive support on an individual basis. We are keen to involve students and parents in addressing and supporting additional needs.

Language Development

Members of our SEN staff work in partnership with subject teachers to develop activities and resources to enhance the English language skills of all students. They provide support for students who have English as an additional language, helping them to acquire the English language skills that will enable them to achieve their full potential.

Preparation for Life

Careers Education and Guidance

We aim to provide all our students with the skills, knowledge and information to enable them to make decisions about their futures which are consistent with their abilities and needs. A variety of activities are in place to ensure students are well prepared for the next stage in their education or training, including:

- Personal Development lessons which cover Careers Education in all years. In Years 10 and 11 students follow a careers guidance programme covering key aspects of the world of work and post-16 education.
- One-to-one interviews, supported by an extensive careers library.
- Work Experience week in Year 10 which provides an opportunity to experience a real working environment first hand.
- Assemblies and tutor periods devoted to Careers Education throughout Years 7-11.
- Information evenings for parents and students, including a Post-16 Evening in October with representatives from Colleges of Further Education, Sixth Form Colleges, Training Providers (apprenticeships), local employers and local universities.



Guidance and support at transition points

Smooth transitions at other key points in a child's education are essential, both in terms of student wellbeing but also academic progression. We are very proud of our extensive transition procedures which are designed to ensure students and families feel welcomed, safe and equipped to flourish at Soar Valley.

Transition from primary school begins in March when we welcome all new students to the school, followed by a full transition day in July with a focus on building new relationships as well as communicating our high expectations. Each new tutor group is assigned trained Year 9 Peer Buddies, another supportive mechanism as they assist with the initial movement around our building, encouraging and forging new friendships, and support with class work.

Unlike many other schools our support programme does not stop here. All new Year 7s then experience an extended induction of team building activities, literacy workshops and a series of specially designed sessions which are centred around our core values and building on skills such as resilience, empathy and questioning, in order to be successful both in and out of the classroom.

Extensive support is also built in to ease the move to Key Stage 4 and exam courses, and then to post-16 provision.

Practical Information

The school day

The school building opens at 8.00am. The day begins formally at 8.45am with an assembly or registration in Tutor Groups.

The day is comprised of five one-hour lessons, with a 20 minutes' break during the morning (split, with Years 7, 8 and 11 having an earlier break than Years 9, 10) and 40 minutes for lunch, 12.20 – 1.00pm for Years 7, 8 and 11, 1.20 – 2.00pm for Years 9 and 10.

The teaching day ends at 3.00pm, and there is then a wealth of after-school activities for students each day, including the Learning Resource Centre which is open for students until 4.00pm for students to complete homework, do research, or simply to enjoy reading.

Lunchtime arrangements

In the interest of the health and safety of all our students, we encourage all to stay on the school site at lunchtimes. Our school kitchens prepare a wide variety of hot food daily, offering a wide choice including hot meals, both meat and vegetarian options. Sandwiches, salads, jacket potatoes and pasta are also available each day.

Students load money onto their identity cards so that no money changes hands at the till point. This can be done in school with cash or online via the School Gateway app. Those eligible for free school meals have the designated amount loaded onto their cards automatically each day.

Students may of course also choose to bring a packed lunch from home.

Uniform

We have high expectations of all students at Soar Valley and standards of uniform are no exception. The uniform is very smart, and our students are a credit to the College. Items of clothing must conform exactly to the uniform. Branded items have been kept to a minimum and are available from Uniform Direct, online at www.uniform-direct.com or through the retail outlet in Leicester city centre. Details are available on the school website.



Admissions

The admission arrangements for this school are managed by Leicester City Council School Admissions Service, www.leicester.gov.uk/admissions

The number of preferences (1, 2, 3 or 4) received by the closing date for 2026 was **822**. As this was more than the number of places, they were prioritised and allocated as follows on 1st March 2026:

Order Of Criteria	No. of places allocated	Over subscription criteria
1	2	Children who have a statement of SEN or an EHC Plan
2	2	Children in the care of a local authority within England or who were previously in the care of a local authority within England.
3	0	Pupils who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic need.
4	81	Children whose home address is in the catchment area of the secondary school with a sibling at the school.
5	14	Children whose home address is outside the catchment area of the secondary school with a sibling at the school. By sibling we mean a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, or a child of the parent/carer's partner and in every case the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.
6	178	Children whose home address is in the catchment area of the secondary school.
7	0	Children who are sons/daughters of staff working at the school for at least 2 years at the time of application.
8	40	Children whose home address is outside of the catchment area of the secondary school and who have requested a place (furthest distance from the school 1.373 miles)
TOTAL	317	

The school's Planned Admission Number is 255. However, more places have been made available at the school, taking the total in each year group to 312. In addition to this, the school accepted some extra children initially to allow for 'drop-off' at the start of the academic year.

Published Admission Number	255
Agreed additional places for Y7	57
Total 2017 onwards	312

APPLICATION FORMS for 2027 entry are available from the Education Authority.
The closing date for preferences is **31st October 2026**.