

The logo for Wildwood Nature School features the word "Wildwood" in a large, dark green, serif font. A stylized green branch with several leaves is positioned behind the letter 'i'. Below "Wildwood", the words "Nature School" are written in a smaller, dark green, sans-serif font.

# Wildwood

Nature School

## Draft Operational Management Plan

St Mary Brookfield Hall  
York Rise  
London  
NW5 1SB



## About the school

Wildwood Nature School will be an independent primary school offering an innovative education based upon the principles of Forest School and putting children's well-being at the forefront of everything we do. The children will spend at least 50% of their time outside in nature: we will visit Hampstead Heath, Queen's Wood and other local green spaces. The children will have a lot of choice over what they learn and how they learn – this is possible because of very high staff ratios and a project-based curriculum. Phonics, literacy and maths will be taught daily, but in small groups and paced according to each child. A core focus at the school will be on fostering children's self-awareness, emotional intelligence, involving the body and movement in most of what they do, and learning to communicate using Nonviolent Communication.

Wildwood Nature School will be registered with the Department for Education and will meet all of the Independent School Standards. The school will offer mixed-age learning for 20 children in Reception up to Year 6 (ages 4-11). Initially, we will have 4 teaching staff and this will grow to 6 members of staff and 40 students when we reach full capacity in 2027. A similar example of this type of school is Liberty Woodland School in Morden, South London.

We aim to open in September 2023 with 20 places. 4 of those places (20%) will be free places available to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those struggling to thrive in mainstream education. The rest of the places will be offered on a sliding scale of fees, so that those who are able to pay more can support those who pay less. Our offering will grow by 5 places each year until we reach a capacity of 40 students in our 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation (2027-28). At this stage, 12 places (30%) will be free places.

Our catchment will include the local areas of Dartmouth Park, Highgate, Tufnell Park, Gospel Oak and Kentish Town.

We will be open 9am-4pm on Monday – Friday during Camden term times.



## Management and day-to-day operations

Wildwood Nature School will be managed by the founder and head of school (Tara Royle), as well as a co-head (yet to be hired). The school's management will be overseen by a board of trustees - currently comprising the two other founders, Emma Shaw and Stephen Tromans. Further trustees will be added to the board prior to the school opening in September 2023.

The co-head will be responsible for the day-to-day management of staff and children while at school. Tara will be responsible for the strategic and administrative operations of the school.

At least half of each day will be spent outdoors away from the hall. Nearly 2 full days a week will be spent at Queens Wood. Please see the proposed weekly timetable below.

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Location	School	Queen's Wood	School	Queen's Wood	School
9 – 9.30am	Arrival and walk to Heath	Morning circle – Well-being	Morning circle – Well-being	Morning circle – Well-being	Morning circle – Well-being
9.30 – 10am	Morning circle – Well-being	Phonics & Literacy	Phonics & Literacy	Phonics & Literacy	Phonics & Literacy
10 – 12pm	Phonics & Literacy Forest School	Cross-curricular topic exploration and project work	Cross-curricular topic exploration and project work	Cross-curricular topic exploration and project work	Cross-curricular topic exploration and project work
12 – 12.30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Walk to Dartmouth Park Secret Garden and Lunch
12.30 – 1pm	Walk to school	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
1 – 3pm	Cross-curricular topic exploration and project work	Forest School	Walk to Heath P.E.	Forest School	Forest School
3 – 3.30pm	Maths	Travel back to school	Walk back to school	Travel back to school	Walk back to school
3.30 – 4pm	Closing circle – Well-being	Closing circle – Well-being	Closing circle – Well-being	Closing circle – Well-being	Closing circle – Well-being

The children and staff will travel between green spaces and the hall either by foot or via bus (the 134 to get to Queens Wood). The school has a very high ratio of adults to children, which will ensure that children remain safe, orderly and quiet through these transitions in and out of the building.

The outside area in front of the hall, both behind the fence and in front of the fence on the pavement, will be kept clean and tidy of waste and other debris by the school's management and cleaning teams.



## Transport and traffic

Wildwood Nature School is committed to sustainability and improving our environment. All staff will use public transport, walk or cycle to school. A car will occasionally be needed to transport resources but this will not be a regular occurrence. As a requirement of our [Admissions Policy](#), all students that are accepted to the school must commit to using public transport, walking or cycling to get to the school, unless there is a physical disability or other exceptional circumstance that requires using a car. Another factor affecting admissions is location, as we are committed to accepting students who live as locally as possible to reduce the possibility of cars being used.

On the 2 days a week that we attend Queens Wood, the children will be dropped off at Queens Wood. So morning drop offs at the school hall will only be on 3 mornings a week.

In these ways, we believe that Wildwood Nature School will not increase the levels of traffic on York Rise from their current levels. We are committed to reducing our reliance on cars and will continually monitor the school's impact on traffic levels and work with Camden Council and the community as much as possible to ensure this.

## Community

As part of Wildwood Nature School's ethos, we are committed to becoming a part of the local community. As well as seeking to create relationships with the local library, Wood that Works, and the proposed residential home at Mansfield Bowling Club, we want to open St Mary Brookfield Hall to the local community in a beneficial way.

We will have a range of after-school clubs until 5pm which will be open to the wider community. The Dartmouth Park Forum Neighbourhood Plan has identified that more after-school clubs are needed in the area and we believe we can help to fill this gap. Some of the clubs will be run by members of our staff, but we will also hire out the hall to external groups who wish to hold after-school clubs that are open to the local community. The after-school clubs will be for a maximum of 15 children, with the hope that there will be 1 club each day Monday - Friday during term times. They will be hosted inside the hall, and will be supervised by 1-2 qualified adults.

We would also like to host other events for the wider community in the evenings such as yoga classes, parent education and talks. So far there has been interest from local businesses such as Moon: Three Age Women's Health on Chetwynd Road to host talks and events, and a popular local violin teacher, Alice Bowmer, to host termly concerts.



## Noise

Wildwood Nature School is committed to ensuring that the levels of noise created by the school remain acceptable to the neighbouring properties.

The additional fencing and planting proposed to the front of the building will serve to greatly reduce any noise created by families dropping off and picking up their children from the school in the mornings and afternoons. There will always be a member of staff at the entrance to supervise morning drop offs and afternoon pick ups. The school has a very welcoming approach to families, so they will be invited into the building at these times rather than expected to congregate outside, as is the case with many schools. This should also serve to reduce noise levels.

The side alley which abuts the back of the houses on Laurier Road will be used as an outdoor classroom for small groups of 5-10 children at any one time. There will always be a minimum of 1 member of staff to supervise the children. The alleyway will be in use as an outdoor classroom either between 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm on school days. Most days, it will only be used for 1 of these 2-hour windows, as the children will be out in the woods for the rest of the day. This space will only be used Monday-Friday during term times, between the hours of 10am and 3pm. This should create significantly less noise than the neighbours will have been used to from York Rise Nursery, which used the alleyway as their main outdoor play space throughout the day.

The school is not proposing to add any external plant rooms or other features which would add to the noise levels of the building.

## Services

Services to the building will include daily cleaners (Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm in term times), maintenance visits (e.g. 6-monthly fire alarm checks, yearly gas heater checks) and occasional deliveries.

The cleaners will not use a vehicle to get to the school as all the equipment will be on-site. Efforts will be made to ensure that maintenance visits and delivery vehicles are respectful of keeping the road as clear as possible and using the parking bays outside the hall.