



Pilgrims

English Language Courses
for Children and Teenagers



An overwhelming desire to create an environment that would stimulate and inspire their students is what drove Mario Rinvolucri and James Dixey to open Pilgrims in 1974.

Concerned by the fact that teachers in traditional schools focused more on the course books and a method, they identified that a more immediate result could be achieved by putting the learner at the centre of the learning process.

Their ethos – Pilgrims does not teach a language but teaches people.

This pedagogic philosophy is now celebrated throughout the world as the ‘Humanistic Approach’; it inspires thousands of children & teenagers, business professionals and teachers. Indeed Pilgrims has published over 50 teachers’ resource books on the subject and continues to guide teachers worldwide through the Pilgrims pioneering online magazine ‘Humanising Language Teaching’.

People come to Pilgrims not just to focus on their English, but to focus on their relationship with their English: this transformation at a deep personal level empowers them to take responsibility for how they learn and how they can communicate powerfully in the global language.

Gary Luke

Inspiration behind Pilgrims Young Learners since 1998

The Spirit of Pilgrims

We specialise in the personal development of each and every one of our students. From the meet and greet service at the airport, during the course experience, to the emotional goodbye, we unlock the unrecognised potential that we know exists in all of our students. The essence of every Pilgrims course is to get the student to where they want to be through a carefully scheduled and highly imaginative programme delivered by inspirational leaders.

Our carefully managed mix of nationalities ensures a rich variety of cultural backgrounds on the course, where all are allowed to blossom.

Students leave Pilgrims with so much positivity and passion for activities, for new friendships with teachers and students that they are transformed as people with greater confidence in themselves and in manoeuvring the global society that they have become a part of.

The Pilgrims Philosophy

We believe that successful language acquisition is based on a strong relationship between the learner and teacher. Our passionate coaches go beyond traditional teaching and make the individual learner's goal central to their study in a motivating and inspiring environment. It is the thrill of being part of a culture that oozes enormous learning energy.

From the moment all of the students arrive at the airport the teachers are challenging and encouraging all to succeed. They sense a very special, safe environment where teachers know their names and make them feel like they belong.

The Pilgrims schools are decorated with a clear purpose to inspire excitement and curiosity over how the course will unfold. Under the guise of a motivating theme the student enters a challenging and rewarding environment.

We go beyond the traditional teaching and learning classroom to create a family of inspired learners. We wake them in the morning, guide them through the learning in class, challenge them in team activities and even unwind with a cup of cocoa before bed.

The most powerful feature of a Pilgrims course is the passion, pride and commitment of all the teachers who live and breathe Pilgrims.





Morning meeting



Lessons



Afternoon activities



Arts



Sports



Evening activities

Daily Routine

Morning

07.30 Wake up

Students are woken up by the teachers and start speaking English straight away. A morning jog is also available to those who want to kick start their day.

08.15 Breakfast

Students enjoy a varied breakfast in the school dining halls where all students and teachers sit together and continue to practise their English.

09.00 Morning meeting

Before class all students and teachers take part in the much-loved Morning Meeting. The morning meetings are the first lesson of the day where we find out what exciting activities we have planned for the day. Morning meetings ensure that we are all energised while learning lots of English.

09.30 Lessons

As part of our integrated day the morning lessons give students the very best English language training. The morning lessons focus on learning language that students can then use confidently in order to participate in and enjoy the days activities.

Afternoon

12.30 Lunch

Students enjoy a hot or cold lunch in the school dining halls with their teacher and classmates where they continue to practise their English.

14.00 Afternoon activity

During the afternoon students choose from a variety of activities such as sports, art, drama and team building exercises. The activities are led by teachers who offer fun ways to practise and learn English.

15.15 Break

Refreshments are provided between activities to allow students to refresh and prepare for the next activity.

15.30 Afternoon activity

Students participate in the second activity of their choice.

17.00 Free time

Students are given free time before dinner to shower and prepare for the evening. Students use this time for quiet reading, speaking to family members on the phone or relaxing with teachers and students in the common room.

Evening

18.00 Pre-dinner activity

A quick activity to bring everybody together again, and energise for the evening ahead.

18.15 Dinner

A hot dinner is eaten in the school dining hall with teammates and teachers where students continue to practise their English.

19.15 Evening activity

Our much loved evening activities are great ways for students to work as a team and practise their English. The evening activities include a Talent Show, Challenge Night and Casino Night.

21.15 Cocoa

Every evening we provide cocoa in the common room to give students time to relax before bed and chat to friends and teachers in English.

22.00 Bedtime

Students go up to their room to start getting ready for bed and get some much needed rest for another jam-packed Pilgrims day. Bedtime may vary depending on the students age.

Pastoral Care

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority at Pilgrims. From the moment we welcome them at the airport we make sure all pupils feel recognised and supported.

All of our teachers live in residence with the students and are attentive to their well-being 24 hours a day. The safe and family environment is enhanced by the wake up call in the morning, the meals taken together and the involvement of all in team games. The ratio of no more than 4 pupils to every member of Pilgrims staff allows us to recognise and respond to each student's specific needs and interests.

International Mix

Pilgrims attracts students from all over the world, representing over 35 nationalities. This rich variety creates a truly international community where all flourish through this exposure to different cultures and backgrounds.

At Pilgrims we bring these different cultures together through the use of English and we learn from each other's strengths and insights. To be open to the world and celebrate all its different cultures is a highly valuable skill to have.

Each and every one of our students will be speaking English in the class, the activities, and during meal times. Students are fully immersed in the language and culture, giving all a well-rounded learning experience.





A Love of English

Pilgrims Language Courses promote English from 'Breakfast to Bedtime'. The students are immersed in an English environment littered with exciting lessons and activities. Through friendly competition, either as a team or individually, all are challenged to succeed.

Teachers are always engaging with students in English inside and out of the classroom. This creates a real desire to use the English language to communicate and get involved, despite being a second or third language to all pupils. By creating a real need on so many different levels the true love of English is developed.

By the end of a Pilgrims course our students have internalised English, valuing it as a language associated with new international friends, exciting activities and lots of laughter. They leave with a love of English because of their love for Pilgrims.



The Programme

Teaching and learning is a human endeavour. There are differences between what works for one person and what works for another. At Pilgrims we understand this diversity and focus on the individual needs of each of our students. Creativity is the key to helping our students reach their aims.

This tailored approach to learning spills into every part of the programme, thus making the entire Pilgrims experience a pedagogic process. The classroom is not the only place where our students learn and practise their English. Our highly imaginative and exceptionally fun activities are a way to explore the English language.

Students choose between a variety of activities such as sport, art, drama and team building exercises. These enjoyable facets of the programme allow students to discover something entirely new while practising and perfecting their language skills. Two full day trips and one half day trip form part of the exciting programme. As students visit cities and explore the English culture, they shape their cosmopolitan identity.





Bradfield College

8-13 & 14-17 years

Set in the village of Bradfield, amidst unspoilt Berkshire countryside, Bradfield College enjoys a well established reputation for being one of the country's leading co-educational, independent schools. Recent developments to the college have added to its rich portfolio of outstanding facilities. During the summer this Pilgrims course has an incredible atmosphere as a result of so many returning students and staff.

Location

Bradfield College is situated near Reading and less than an hour away from the cosmopolitan capital city of London and the historic city of Oxford, making it an ideal location for great trips to some of the UK's most loved cities. It is only 40 minutes drive from Heathrow Airport and 60 minutes from London Gatwick.

Facilities

- Sports centre
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor tennis courts
- Art block
- Music centre
- Drama/dance facilities
- Playing fields
- Single and shared rooms

Kent College Pembury

8-13 & 14-17 years

Kent College Pembury is surrounded by beautiful green countryside on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells in Kent. The school campus comprises an elegant Victorian manor house and modern purpose built facilities. Comfort, safety, beautiful scenery, modern technology and exceptional facilities create the perfect place for students to learn efficiently and grow personally.

Location

Kent College Pembury is set in beautiful countryside just 3 miles from Tunbridge Wells. Tunbridge Wells is a small picturesque town in an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is also within one hour of the vibrant city life of London and the historic cathedral city of Canterbury. The school is only 40 minutes from London Gatwick and 60 minutes from Heathrow Airport.

Facilities

- Sports centre
- Indoor swimming pool
- Drama studio
- Tennis courts
- Playing fields
- Art studio
- Music centre
- Single and shared rooms





Harrow School

10-13 & 14-17 years

Harrow School, founded in 1572, remains one of the UK's most well known and respected independent schools. Harrow has been home to a long list of celebrity graduates including politicians, sportsmen and actors. With its quintessential English buildings and stunning grounds, Harrow provides students with a real insight to life in an English boarding school.

Location

Harrow-on-the-Hill is one of the most attractive areas of London. Central London is only 20 minutes away making it the perfect location for some great trips to the city. Harrow captures the buzz of London life with spectacular views of the city and its surrounding areas. The school is just 30 minutes from Heathrow airport and 60 minutes from Gatwick.

Facilities

- Sports centre
- Indoor swimming pool
- Athletics track
- Impressive theatre
- Tennis courts
- Playing fields
- Art block
- Single and shared rooms

Our students say ...

“ Pilgrims has been a part of my life for so many years. I keep coming back because the staff are exceptionally good. The activities are absolutely brilliant as well and so are all the Pilgrims students. My English has improved so much thanks to Pilgrims! Going to Pilgrims is probably the greatest experience you'll ever have and it changes you in the best possible way. ”

Natasza Parzymies
Poland


“ The first time I went on a Pilgrims course, I was very scared as it was something new for me. I remember the first words of my course director: “You may not know anyone in this room right now but in two weeks, they'll be your friends”. I must say those people not only became my friends but also my family. The Pilgrims experience is something that I wouldn't change for anything. ”

Theodosia Christodoulidis
Greece

“ Being a student at Pilgrims for three years has been one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had in my life. I had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people from all over the world. We lived all together and it was hard to say goodbye at the end of it. We shared wonderful moments and made memories that surely will last forever. ”


Graziana Masiello
Italy



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