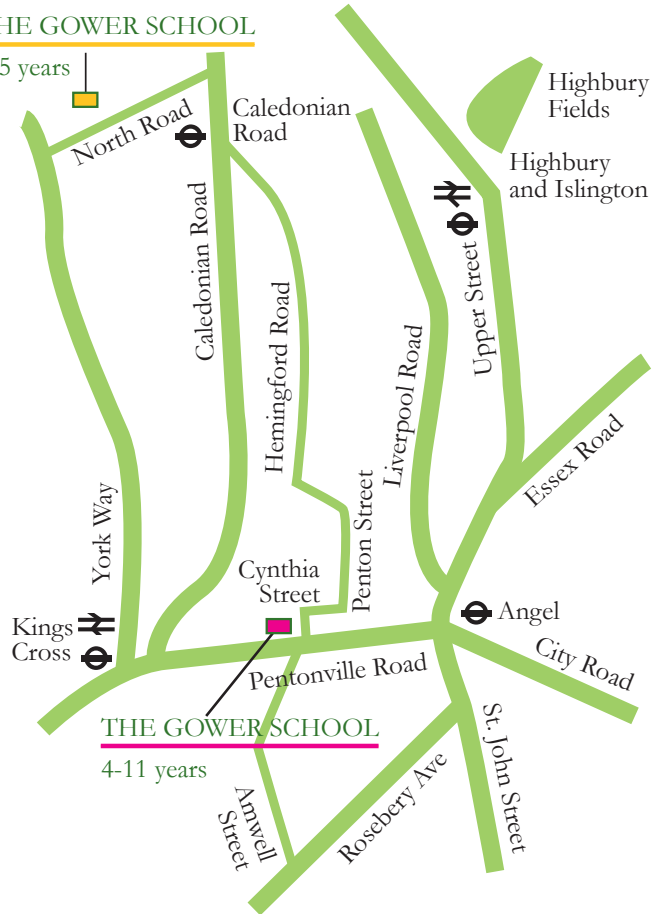


# THE GOWER SCHOOL THE GOWER SCHOOL

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0-5 years



## THE GOWER SCHOOL

4-11 years

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4-11 years  
10 Cynthia Street, Barnsbury  
London N1 9JF

### All enquiries to:

## THE GOWER SCHOOL

### 0-5 years and Administration

18 North Road, Islington  
London N7 9EY  
T: 020 7700 2445 F: 020 7609 1119  
E: [info@thegowerschool.co.uk](mailto:info@thegowerschool.co.uk)  
[www.thegowerschool.co.uk](http://www.thegowerschool.co.uk)



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B A R N S B U R Y

P R O S P E C T U S

# THE GOWER SCHOOL



Where every child matters

## A brand new school

The Gower School is widely recognised as the leading nursery and independent school in the area for children up to the age of seven.

*“Provision for pupils’ moral, social and cultural development is very good. It is good for their spiritual development. A warm and friendly ethos pervades the school and pupils feel safe and happy”*  
OfSTED 2005

Parents have welcomed the focus on individual attention to children, combined with high academic standards.

Building on the outstanding success of the school and in response to demand, the School has now expanded to meet the needs of children up to the age of eleven, by offering education right through Key Stages 1 and 2. The new school will cater for children aged 4 to 11 years old.

The newly converted, purpose-designed school building in Cynthia Street in south Barnsbury has wonderfully spacious, airy classrooms, dedicated science, information technology and art facilities, and a strong emphasis on an attractive social space for the children. There is a school hall and dining room for assemblies, dance and gymnastics, and quiet rooms for individual tuition.

The school combines the modern vision of Principal Emma Gowers with the world-renowned Montessori approach, offering your child a truly personalised learning programme, organised around his or her own interests and special aptitudes.

*‘The child has a hundred thoughts, a hundred ways of thinking, of playing, of speaking.’* (Loris Malaguzzi, one of the founders of the Reggio Emilia educational approach)



Children at the Gower School follow a structured and broad curriculum which combines an enhanced National Curriculum with the Montessori educational philosophy. This encompasses the National Curriculum core subjects, but also includes a broad range of other subjects, including cookery, woodwork, music and drama. Children also undertake specialist taught offsite activities such as football, tennis and swimming each week.

Outdoors activities form an integral part of the life of the school, for both education and recreation. Children learn about plants and wildlife, and are able to release energy in the outdoor play area, as well as through a range of sports.

## A tried and tested approach

The school’s approach is strongly informed by the Montessori philosophy, now widely recognised internationally as helping to educate young people to the highest modern standards, and gives children a life long love of learning.

The Montessori approach to education was first developed by Italy’s first female medical doctor, Maria Montessori, a century ago, based on her own direct observations of children. Today Montessori schools, educating children from birth to the age of 18, are found around the world. The approach is holistic, child-centred and inclusive. Based on a profound respect for children and understanding what they are capable of, it promotes enthusiasm and joy in learning and enables children to realise their full potential.

The Gower School now offers parents in Islington a personalised and high-achieving, proven alternative educational experience for their child.





Our modern kitchen is purpose designed to allow children to help prepare their meals. All foods are freshly prepared each day and a nutritious international vegetarian menu instils a life long love of food.

## How your child will benefit

Everyone learns best if they are deeply engaged in what they are studying. Following the Montessori approach, the highest priority is given to encouraging children to become independent learners and thinkers, who can take some responsibility for their own study programme. Your child will become inspired and enthused by their learning and passionate to learn more.

The responsibility which children in a Montessori school take for their own learning, means that they perform extremely highly when measured against expected levels of educational attainment.

*'We want ... to engage children in learning that secures the achievement of high standards for all children'* (Primary National Strategy, 2006)

The planning, negotiation and problem-solving skills taught are what distinguish the Gower School from other schools. This approach produces well-educated, balanced, and enthusiastic children who are considerate, socially aware, polite and responsible, and who are equipped to adapt easily to the requirements of even the most prestigious schools when they leave at the age of 11. Children are grouped in mixed age classes according to ability, and are taught by qualified experienced teachers.

The Gower School prides itself on a high teacher to child ratio, far exceeding most other schools.

The children's social skills are strongly developed by the experience of learning in groups mixed according to subject and interest, as happens in life, rather than age.



## How you will know your child is progressing

As parents you need reassurance that your child is making recognisable progress through the core curriculum areas, and in this respect the Gower School is structured to meet the requirements of both senior schools' entrance examinations and the Key Stages 1 and 2 National Assessments.

Children undergo regular national scale assessments and you are kept fully informed of their progress through regular parent-teacher meetings, reports and the weekly report card system. Because the curriculum is tailored to suit your child's individual needs exactly, we can challenge him or her to fly high, or give additional support immediately, whenever necessary.

## Partnership with parents

At the Gower School we place great importance on building effective home-school links, and value partnership with parents as central to children's learning and development. We are also eager to draw on the skills and experiences of our parent body to enrich the children's learning and to fuel their aspirations. We send out regular newsletters to keep you informed of school events, run workshops for parents on aspects of their children's education and our website at [www.TheGowerSchool.co.uk](http://www.TheGowerSchool.co.uk) is regularly updated. There is an annual calendar of parent's events ranging from Welcome parties to Sports Day and World Book Day.





## What people say about us

*“Our children consider themselves very lucky to have such a good school/nursery to start them off in their education. Thank you for laying terrific foundations, your enthusiasm, involvement, creativity and courage.”* (parent of 7 and 5 year old)

*“We are most impressed at the constant review and improvements being made to facilities and equipment.”* (parent of 4 year old)

*“As you know, our son spoke virtually no English before we came here...he started to use simple sentences very quickly and has improved his spoken English very much. We really appreciate the pedagogical style of The Gower School, especially that the pupils are encouraged to be friendly and helpful to each other.... due to the structure of the classes his interest in Maths, Science and other subjects has been successfully awakened.”*

(parent of 6 year old who moved to Islington from Czech Republic)

*“My highest praise must go to your teachers. They have nurtured and supported our daughter, and under their tutelage she has absolutely blossomed... respecting our shy little bunny’s boundaries... our child is treated with good humour, respect, affection, trust and honesty...challenged appropriately, and feels comfortable choosing her pace for taking on new things... If you open a Seattle Branch, we’ll be the first through your doors!”*

(parent of 4 year old)

*“We know our child is safe and happy there...we have been impressed with the range and invention of the cooks...trying new things and being fed good, healthy food...we are pleased to see teachers getting lots of training. It is very clear to us that you are investing in them, and supporting learning through the school community.”* (parent)

*“We can honestly say that in two and a half years she has never said she does not want to come to school – some praise indeed!”* (parent of 7 year old)

## Enrichment programme

In addition to core curriculum activities of English language and literature, mathematics, science and humanities, the Gower School offers a wide range of activities to add richness and balance to your child’s school day.

These include regular and varied sporting and team game sessions, including weekly tennis, football, yoga and swimming taught offsite. Music, drama, creative writing and poetry workshops and an extensive range of art and craft activities designed to meet the children’s individual urges for creative self-expression are available regularly. Individual music lessons are taught each week in purpose designed teaching rooms, and the school will operate a choir, string orchestra, recorder group, wind orchestra and percussion band. Modern languages are taught each week by native speakers; French is a key part of the curriculum.

## Out of school care

There is an extensive range of After School clubs such as Choir, Charity & Volunteering, Environment and Needlework & Knitting, as well as a daily breakfast club. There is a full programme of Holiday Fun Club during the traditional school holidays with sports, music, arts and outings enabling children to make the most of being in central London.

## Green

The Gower School is passionately committed to reducing all our impact on the environment, and school life is designed to teach and inspire children about this integral part of the curriculum.

We are at the forefront of environmental innovations and have won a number of awards.

*‘The secret of good teaching is to regard the child’s intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination.’*

(Maria Montessori, 1948)



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