

www.theashcroftschoool.com

LOCATION

The Turks and Caicos Islands is a country made up of 8 major islands and numerous cays located 575 miles south of Miami. The Turks and Caicos Islands are south of the Bahamas. The Ashcroft School is located in the Leeward development of Providenciales.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ashcroft School is a co-educational, non-profit day school, offering a rounded education to an international community of children, aged 2 – 11 years (Pre-school - Year 6).

The Ashcroft School follows The British National Curriculum, enhanced and adapted to meet the varied needs of our truly multi-cultural school community and the region that we are so fortunate to belong to.

The Ashcroft School provides an international education for tomorrow's world citizens.

The School is a Charitable Trust administered through the Ashcroft School Trust and supported by the Michael A. Ashcroft Foundation.

The school is non-denominational.

The Ashcroft School aims to provide a broad and well-balanced academic and social programme, based on the British National Curriculum for children from 2 to 11 years of age. We aim to enhance our curriculum with experiences drawn from our wonderful natural environment within the Turks and Caicos Islands and from the experiences of our International community.

We strive to provide a differentiated curriculum that meets the varied needs of all children, within a caring, happy and stimulating environment. We aim to adapt our curriculum to meet regional needs.

The Ashcroft School encourages enquiry and investigative learning. We promote an active awareness of our multicultural environment and encourage the holistic development of our future World citizens.

We strongly promote care, consideration and cooperation at all levels and a belief that the positive aspects of life are communicated through unselfishness and thoughtfulness. To promote good relationships throughout the school community, it is encouraged that good manners are practised at all times. Mutual respect for others

we meet and talk to is encouraged in order to maintain the harmonious feel that belongs to The Ashcroft School.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Formerly known as the International School of the West Indies, The Ashcroft School was originally founded in 1986 in Tranquility Villa, with a staff of three and a student body of fourteen, ranging from 3 to 17 years of age.

The Trustees delegate the management of the school to an executive board, which includes the Principal, the Chairman, a financial member, one parent representative and one teacher representative.

We are extremely proud of a professional, qualified and experienced team of teachers and support staff, recruited from various locations on the globe, from the Caribbean to UK, Canada, the Far East and Australia. With great expertise, our staff work collaboratively and with dedication, striving for continued success and professional growth.

The Ashcroft School is truly blessed with a strong support in its PTA, a team of parents and teachers dedicated to the well being of the whole school community.

CURRICULUM

The Ashcroft School provides equality of opportunity through a relevant, broad and balanced curriculum, with the provision of first hand experience. Our objective is to educate all children both academically and socially. We plan study programmes that encompass the multi-national composition of The Turks & Caicos Islands.

Our curriculum is based on the British National Curriculum, adapted to meet our regional and international needs.

Core subjects, such as Science and Mathematics are generally taught separately. The foundation subjects are integrated through topic work. This is a very effective way to help children to understand that disciplines are interconnected and that very little is able to exist in isolation.

Assessment is continuous throughout the year in all subject areas. Formal end of term and end of year tests are administered from Grade 2 up.

Each child owns a 'Pupil Profile' folder, which contains information about his/her progress. Time is set-aside during the school year for parents to take part in formal consultations with the class teacher.

Homework is given at the discretion of the teacher and in accordance with the school's homework policy.

All students are encouraged to read at home and parents are asked to read with their child whenever possible. Parents are also asked to help their children with homework tasks, and to ensure all assignments are completed on time.

Pre-School and Foundation Stage

When children enter Preschool at the Ashcroft School, a dynamic transition between the home and the school begins. Through constructive activity and within a colourful, safe environment, children are inspired and encouraged to develop the learning skills required to successfully access the Foundation Stage.

The Foundation Stage is a stage of education for children aged from 3 to the end of the reception year. This stage presents a progression of learning skills throughout the Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten classes. The Foundation Stage is organised into six early learning goals:

- personal development;
- communication, language and literacy;
- mathematical development;
- knowledge and understanding of the world;
- physical development;
- creative development.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Key Stage 1 covers the programme of education for our Grades 1 & 2 children and Key Stage 2 covers the programme of education for Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. The curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 further develops the independent learning skills, knowledge and understanding gained in The Foundation Stage. Each child at every level is encouraged to take greater responsibility for personal targets set. The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies are employed as strong benchmarks for the successful delivery of these two core subjects. Great consideration is given to our regional needs within teacher planning and all children are encouraged to understand how our locality relates to the rest of the world, thinking and enquiring as future world citizens. Children are encouraged to develop self-motivation and encouraged to capture 'Excellence with Enjoyment'.

End of Key Stage 1 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) in Mathematics and English are administered. At the end of Key Stage 2, SATs are administered in Mathematics, English and Science and sent off to an external marking agency in UK. Optional tests are also administered to Grades 3, 4 and 5. Tests are set and provided by Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA) and the results, when combined with ongoing teacher assessments, will determine each pupil's level of achievement in the core subjects.

The curriculum is divided into core and foundation subjects as follows:

- Core Subjects:
Mathematics, English and Science
- Foundation Subjects:
Geography, History, ICT, Art and Design, Design Technology, Physical Education, Music, French, Drama and Citizenship

RESOURCES

Our facilities consist of a self-contained pre-school, with soft play centre, our Nursery and Reception classrooms (known as JK and SK), a well-stocked library, a computer suite with the latest software and internet access, a wealth of outdoor climbing and recreational equipment including a climbing wall and basketball court. Our Year 1 to Year 6 classrooms are well resourced and now feature the phased introduction of interactive whiteboards. We have a specialist Science lab and a French room.

All classroom and specialist rooms have air conditioning.

TESTING AND REPORTING

All children new to the school are assessed in English and Mathematics to ensure that any academic gaps are recognised and so that they can be placed in a class

appropriate to their needs. Every effort is made to place students according to their chronological age. Tests are administered to all children from Year 2 to Year 6.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We have a very loyal and supportive Parent-Teacher Association, which organises a full programme of social and fundraising events throughout the year.

Parents are also welcome to help with curriculum enrichment and take part in the daily life of the school.

We seek to establish strong links between home and school, and believe that a strong supportive partnership helps to give children the best possible opportunity to succeed.

CALENDAR

The school is closed for all the Public Holidays, including a 3-week break at Christmas and a 2-week break at Easter. The School Calendar can be found on the school website.

SCHOOL HOURS

Pre-school:	Half day	8:20 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Junior Kindergarten – Year 6:	Full day	8:20 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

UNIFORM

The school uniform consists of a white polo shirt with collar, navy blue shorts or skirts, white socks and sensible shoes. The school provides a PE kit that can be purchased from the school office. Children are placed into one of three house teams, Arawaks (Yellow), Caribs (Red) or Taino (Blue). Trainers/running shoes are required for all PE lessons.

The school does not allow open toed sandals, crocs or flip flops of any description.

FOOD

The staff of The Ashcroft School requires that all families assist us in promoting healthy eating. Focusing as a team on the healthy body at home and at school, we will see an improvement in our children's healthy minds. Healthy choices in snack boxes are strongly requested for all children.

The school provides an optional and extremely popular hot lunch programme or children can bring in a packed lunch and large cooler of drink if preferred.

SCHOOL RULES

Discipline in the school operates on the basis of consideration and care for other people. Each staff member has a copy of the working document used to ensure a consistent approach when dealing with any behaviour problems.

FEES

There is an established fee structure in place for parents wishing to send their children to The Ashcroft School which can be viewed on our web site.

Scholarships are awarded at the school's discretion for Turks and Caicos Islands Nationals (Belongers), subject to availability. An application package is available for our scholarship programme.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CLUBS)

In addition to standards of academic excellence set by all teachers, parents and pupils of the Ashcroft School, specific goals are strived for in personal and social development for all children. The Ashcroft School is truly committed to developing each child holistically and it achieves this through its well established Extra Curricular Activity Programme. As a unified team, our teachers aim to provide a great variety of activities that will offer interest, stimulation and fun for all children from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 6. As children learn new skills outside the classroom, they will enjoy the satisfaction of seeing a group 'product' during the activity programme. We strongly encourage all children to participate in our programme in order to really grasp the opportunity of a full school experience. Children are encouraged to participate in more than one activity during the week.

The fee for each activity is \$5 per child per session with the number of sessions available each term clearly stated within our programme booklet, available at the reception office. The Staff of The Ashcroft School have decided to contribute all funds generated during the academic year to the improvement of school facilities.