

attain

The leading education magazine for parents and staff in the independent schools' sector



Facing disappointment

Why parents should not try to shield their child from failure

Preserving childhood

Keeping the best of childhood with the realities of the modern world

Don't worry, be happy!

Enabling your child to enjoy their educational journey

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In this issue

➤ **Facing disappointment**
Dealing with disappointment is a key life skill for children. *Alastair Speers*, Head of Sandroyd, looks at why parents must step back and try not to always shield their children from failure.

➤ **Preserving childhood**
It is easy for parents to look back on their childhood with nostalgia. *Sophie Banks*, Head of Eton End School, explores how we can preserve the best of childhood with the realities of the modern world.

➤ **Don't worry, be happy!**
Parents take comfort in the belief that the most important thing is for their child to be happy at school. But is this really enough? *Gareth Jones*, Head of St. Andrew's Prep, looks at both sides.



➤ **A voice in society**
Pupils have long sought to express their views through a school council but as *Sue Hincks*, Head of Bolton School Girls' Division discovers, the debates today are firmly focussed on big global issues.

➤ **The super-curriculum**
As pupils progress, the tendency to specialise should always be balanced with ensuring breadth of study. *James Priory*, Headmaster of Tonbridge, examines how 'super-curriculums' can help.

➤ **Acceptable ambition**
It is only natural to want the best for your child but how do you ensure that parental ambition is in line with your child's needs? *Matthew O'Reilly*, Head of St Mary's Junior School, explains.



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Opinion, News & Directory



➤ **Mind the funding gap**
Julie Robinson looks at the teacher pensions shortfall and its impact on our schools.

➤ **The way ahead**
Peter Tait takes a valedictory look at the changes in prep schools over the years.

➤ **The risks of tutoring**
Christopher King looks at the pros and cons of employing a tutor for your child.

➤ **The truly beautiful game**
Richard Cairns explores why the traditional image of chess is wrong.

➤ **Going beyond exams**
James Barnes explains why exam success alone is no longer a passport to success.

➤ **Views from Edinburgh**
John Edward discusses a report looking at the economic impact of Edinburgh's schools.

➤ **Good future citizens**
Tim Hands examines the ethos and wisdom underlying the rules at prep schools.

➤ **School News**
A round-up of the latest news stories sent to us from prep and senior schools.

➤ **School Open Days**
Find details of forthcoming prep and senior school open days in your area.

Behind the cover photo



The Junior pupils at St Andrew's Prep in Eastbourne head for Beach School on a Thursday afternoon, regardless of the elements, to enjoy stormy and calm seas, high and low tides and sandy and rocky

beaches. Using the beach and sea as their inspiration, the children rock pool, paint, identify creatures and their habitats, tell stories, create mythical creatures, craft pendants and write poems.

On some summer days, they venture to the Downs instead for an afternoon of bug hunting.
www.standrewsprep.co.uk

Photo: Bonjour School Photography

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For over a decade, *Attain* has been a defender of independent education. As the sector's leading magazine for parents and staff, we hope you find this edition useful. *Attain* is a unique publication, highly respected by Heads and schools alike.

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