



Part of the **Hurst** Family of Schools

**PENNTHORPE**  
NURSERY PRE-PREP PREP

# *ISI INSPECTION REPORT*

November 2025



*Read our full ISI inspection here*



We are delighted to share with you a collection of highlights from Pennthorpe's recent Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection, carried out in November 2025. This report represents a proud moment for our entire community, and we are thrilled to celebrate the findings with you.

Under the current ISI framework, schools are no longer graded; instead, they are assessed on whether they meet a series of rigorous Independent School Standards across key areas of school life. We are pleased to announce that Pennthorpe met every single standard—a powerful affirmation of the strength, care and ambition that define our school.

Inspectors praised the nurturing culture that underpins daily life at Pennthorpe, recognising both the breadth and quality of our curriculum and the aspirational approach that supports pupils to flourish academically and personally. They highlighted the strong sense of purpose evident in our learning environments, the respectful and kind behaviour of our pupils, and the exceptional pastoral care that sits at the heart of our provision. Our robust safeguarding approach was also commended as a clear strength.

This report reflects the dedication of our staff, the character of our pupils and the invaluable support of our families. As you explore the key findings in this booklet, we hope you feel as proud as we do of what this inspection says about who we are as a community.

Pennthorpe belongs to all of us, and this achievement is one we celebrate together.

**Jon Marler**  
**Head of School**




*"Children enjoy a well-planned introduction to school life that balances nurture and challenge in a stimulating learning environment."*








*"A diverse and inclusive extra-curricular programme allows pupils to develop their interests, talents and leadership skills."*



*"Supportive teachers help children communicate and collaborate effectively, fostering their confidence and promoting good progress in all areas of their learning."*



*"Teachers supplement the core curriculum with additional opportunities to promote collaboration, resilience, and communication."*

*"The curriculum builds on prior learning  
and enables pupils to benefit from rich,  
creative experiences."*







*"Experiences foster independence and help pupils to understand how their actions positively influence and support other people."*

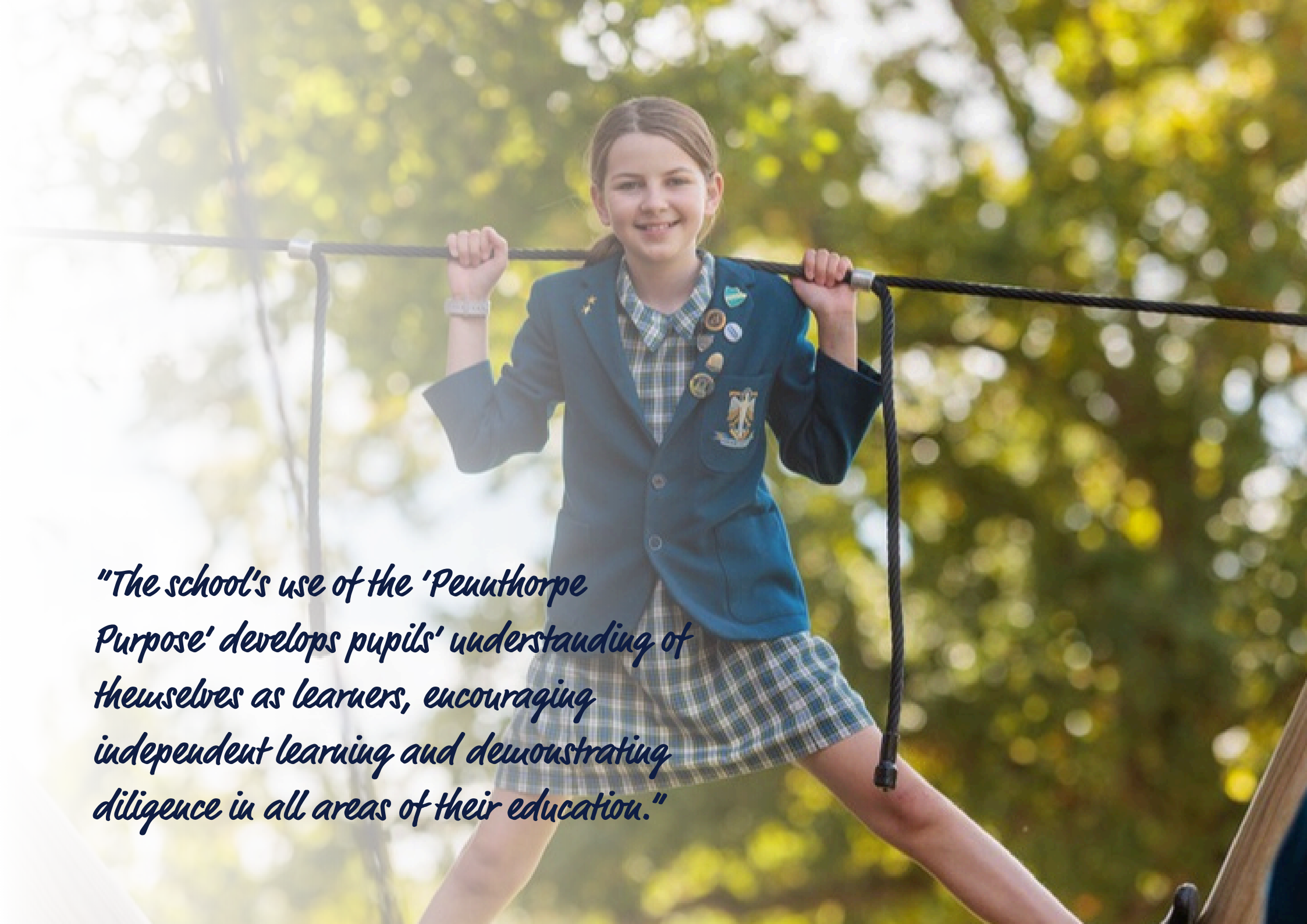


*"Children exhibit kindness and empathy, respond positively to praise and assist each other during play. They show regard for others, share materials, listen attentively and take turns."*




*"Staff guide and support children effectively so that they appreciate, understand, and value each other. They act as positive role models and help children to form inclusive and successful friendships."*



A young girl with brown hair tied back, wearing a teal school blazer over a plaid dress, is smiling and hanging from a thick black rope. She is wearing a white wristband on her right wrist. The background is a soft-focus view of green trees and foliage, suggesting an outdoor school setting. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

*"The school's use of the 'Penwithorpe Purpose' develops pupils' understanding of themselves as learners, encouraging independent learning and demonstrating diligence in all areas of their education."*



A night scene in a park. Large, leafy trees are silhouetted against a dark sky. Warm, yellowish light from ground-level sources illuminates the scene, creating a cozy atmosphere. In the lower left, a group of people is gathered, some sitting on the grass and others standing. To the right, two more people are standing near a tree. The overall mood is peaceful and communal.

*"Leaders have recently reviewed the curriculum to increase the time spent on outdoor learning and strategies which promote pupils' resilience and problem-solving skills."*

*"Staff know the children well and provide well-planned opportunities for them to engage enthusiastically in creative activities."*





*"Teachers implement a thorough assessment and performance framework to evaluate pupils' progress. Robust systems enable leaders to monitor and track pupils' progress effectively. ... A Supportive atmosphere fosters reflection and encourages pupils to strive for improvement. "*

*"Teachers plan the curriculum methodically, designing programmes of study that broaden pupils' learning. This approach ensures that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education."*