Turves Green Girls’ School is a wonderful place to work and to study. We are a cooperative school, part of the Endeavour Cooperative Trust, which means we put values such as honesty, integrity and a belief in community at the heart of what we do.

We have three aims for all the children who are part of our school: that they are happy, that they feel safe and that they are able to fulfil their academic potential.

We believe in nurturing our children’s talents and supporting their ambitions. In order to do this effectively we ensure a calm and purposeful environment in our classrooms and around our school.

These foundations have seen our school’s achievements surpass all expectations - from the academic (amongst the best GCSE results in the city in key subjects, with young people making outstanding progress over their five years with us), to the sporting (recent years have seen our Under-16 Netball Team win the 2014 Regional Championship, and our Year 8 Athletics Team win the Birmingham Championships in the NIA through to our young people progressing into further and higher education (96% of our Leavers sustained a place in education, far higher than the Birmingham and National figures).

Our partners in the Endeavour Cooperative Trust include colleges and universities - this means that children at our school experience opportunities and facilities simply unthinkable compared with my own, now distant, memories of school.

“Students are happy and feel safe. They enjoy coming to school.”

Ofsted
The dramatic academic transformation of the school has happened because of our staff. Our teachers are committed, highly motivated and talented classroom practitioners. Many of our teachers are graduates from the Outstanding Teacher Programme, and all benefit from great staff training, often supported by our cooperative trust partners Cadbury College and Worcester University.

Our students make great progress because teaching is tailored toward individual needs. Our most able students are constantly challenged to further develop their knowledge and skills, whilst young people who arrive in our school with lower levels of literacy and numeracy are given the support they need to make fast progress, not easy work which would mean they fall further behind.

This approach has seen our school named as one of the 200 most improved schools in the country twice in the last few years, and has seen progress (how far children move from their start points) move well beyond similar schools, according to the DFE Performance Tables.

“Relationships across the school are strong and founded on respect.”

Ofsted
Because we understand that to be confident and successful you first need to feel happy, we devote a great deal of energy into making sure our new Year 7s feel at home, and that their parents don’t feel that sudden loss of connection that often comes with the transition to secondary school.

Head of Transition and Year 7, Erica Reeves, having experienced Year 6 to Year 7 transition as a parent, is always on hand to support the children as they settle in. She is constantly talking to staff, identifying children who are feeling the shock of the change of school and to parents, letting them know any minor issues that arise and being a friendly face for parents to raise any anxieties they may have about their daughter’s friendships or school work. Most of all, Mrs Reeves takes the time to talk to the children, to reassure and encourage, to help overcome the uncertainties and celebrate the small successes.

Mrs Reeves leads a team of specialist Year 7 Form Teachers, who strive to get to know every child in their form. Parents often comment on how much they welcome the chance to chat with their daughter’s form teacher at the Support Your Daughter Evening, early in their daughter’s time in our school. Pastoral support at Turves Green Girls’ plays a huge part in the success of our students. From the mentoring and support offered by our expert Learning Mentors, Luke Atkinson and Sharon Murphy, through to the high standards of behaviour actively encouraged by the Heads of Year.

We do not tolerate bullying and encourage our students to take on a full part in helping each other and the school. Our Year 10 ‘Aunties’ are always on hand to help our Year 7s find their way, build new friendships and to be a friendly face. Some students become ‘peer mediators’ helping younger students resolve fall-outs. Some Year 10s become ‘ARnties’, helping younger students in school develop their reading, as part of the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme.

Teams of Year 9s spend time in Cofton Primary School, helping the children there develop their literacy and numeracy. Meanwhile, some of our Year 11s step up to become Prefects - our school’s ambassadors. Students from all age groups work on charity fundraising, organising events for their peers and representing student views on the Student Cooperative Council.

“Students are courteous, polite and helpful.”

Ofsted
We believe that children need the chance to discover their strengths and passions. Therefore we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum, rather than an ‘exam sausage factory.’ The confidence and belief that some children find in Dance or Athletics or Drama or Art is not a distraction from Maths and English - it enables success in these core areas.

We are one of the few Birmingham schools to be awarded the ‘Arts Mark Gold’. Make sure you ask to see our Art Department when you visit our school!

Academic Success

Pupils at Turves Green Girls’ School achieved fantastic results in their GCSEs. The percentage securing a Grade 4 or better (equivalent to the old ‘C’ grade) rose to 69% in Maths and 79% in English.

The number of students securing higher grades, 5+ (equivalent to the old ‘B’) is also remarkable. Across a wide range of subjects, pupils achieved tremendous results, with over 60% achieving a 5+ in Computer Science, 54% in RE and 52% in History.

Our broad curriculum, which allows students to follow practical qualifications, has also allowed many students to secure a career path into public services with 96% securing a pass or better and 62% achieving a distinction or better in Health and Social Care. Btec Creative subjects, such as Performing Arts - Dance, have again seen huge success, with 83% achieving a merit.

A particularly pleasing outcome of the summer’s hugely challenging and stressful exams was the number of students who achieved the very highest grades, 8s and 9s. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Computer Science, English Language and Literature, History and Geography all saw a number of students reach these phenomenal heights - placing these talented and hard-working students amongst the best and brightest in the country.

Incredible Student Progress

Our Overall Progress 8 (how secondary school performance is measured by the government) continues to be one of the best in the area.
Fun Activities

Our list of clubs and enrichment activities is a remarkable testament to the enthusiasm of our students and the commitment of our staff:

- Cricket Club
- Junior Singing Club
- Homework Support
- Maths Club
- Singing Stars
- Spanish Club
- Computer Code Club
- Orchestra
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Tennis Club
- Football
- Street Dance
- Rock Band
- Art Enterprise Club
- Textiles Club
- Keyboard Club
- Rounders Club
- Athletics Club
- Debating Society
- Student Cooperative Council
- Dance Club
- Junior Drama Club
- Senior Drama Club
- Chess Club
- Rock And Pop Singers

Every afternoon we run a supervised homework club until 5.00pm (4.30 p.m. on Friday), providing a safe space for pupils whose parents are at work as well as a supportive environment for those challenging homeworks!

Sports Success

Despite being a small school with limited resources, our children enjoy a reputation across the city for sporting excellence. For example, for seven out of the last eight years we have won the District Indoor Athletics tournament in both Year 7 and Year 8. Our teams have gone on year after year to compete at the NIA at the all-Birmingham Finals. In 2015 our Year 8s won through to the National Championships! Not bad for a small school in Northfield!

Our record at Netball is impressive; our Senior Team in 2014 were County Champions, District League and Cup Champions, and one of the top teams in the Midlands. In 2016 our Year 8 and 9 combined team won the Linden Netball Club Open Tournament.

The key to our success is making sport fun and accessible for all our children, and creating an environment where our successes are shared. Our pupils enjoy a wide range of PE activities for two hours each week, twice as much as many other schools – we believe that an active lifestyle is key for our pupils.
Many of us have fond memories of school trips and when we look back on our school days it is often the trips and extra-curricular experiences that we remember most. On school trips you get to really know your friends, you get to really trust your teachers and you learn all sort of things that cannot so easily be learned in a classroom.

Students are fortunate at Turves Green Girls’ School to have so many staff members who understand how important trips are, and the school empowers them to organise trips and events. An audit of trips revealed that sixty-eight separate trips took place at Turves Green Girls’ involving almost 80% of our children on one or more educational visits. Everything from a Year 7 residential to France and Year 11 kayaking in the Brecon Beacons, through to visits to theatres, museums, art galleries and sporting events.

The Importance of Educational Trips

Whilst we are a small school, where we know all our students’ names, we are part of the Endeavour Cooperative Trust, together with Cofton Primary School, Cadbury College and Bournville College.

We are the only cooperative trust secondary school in Birmingham, and it allows our students to enjoy remarkable opportunities, such as our Year 10s using the radiation labs at Cadbury College, our entire Year 8 experiencing a day at college and so on.

As a cooperative trust school, we encourage all our stakeholders - parents, staff, students and the local community - to attend our Forum meetings to help shape the future of our school.

“The key to successful trips is careful planning to ensure trips offer best value for money and keep it affordable for families. Trips shouldn’t be just for some of our students - everyone should have these opportunities.”

Cecelia Prescod, Educational Visits Coordinator,
Educational Needs
The Special Educational Needs Department works exceptionally hard to make sure all of our young people are able to access their learning and find success in their studies. We do this through building close relationships with young people and their parents, making sure that parents feel part of their daughter’s journey through school.

Our team of Teaching Assistants combine experience with enthusiasm, with expertise ranging across a wide range of needs. Please contact our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Caroline Tuddenham, via the school office, to have a tour of our facilities and to meet the team.

Our Most Able
Deputy Head Jacqueline Hall, works with many of our students to tailor programmes of support, including working with Birmingham University and Worcester University, to make sure these children are pushed to fulfil their potential.

Contact Jacqueline via the school office, to discuss our Most Able programmes and how your daughter may benefit.
Here at Turves Green we pride ourselves on developing strong relationships between school and home. Just one example is our Year 7 Family Learning Project. This provides excellent personalised support across all subjects but especially in English and Maths to support both pupils and parents in making the best possible start to secondary school.

What we hope parents get from the project?
We hope parents:
• Feel welcome to engage with the school
• Be confident and assured that their views will be acted upon
• Better know how to help their daughter to achieve.

What we intend our pupils get from the project?
We hope our pupils:
• Know what they need to do to improve and to achieve
• Make rapid progress
• Grow more confident and aim high
• Enjoy school, new opportunities and her own learning.

What about the school?
We hope by doing this that we:
• Listen to parents and carers about their daughter’s learning
• Respect parent’s views
• Provide excellent information to parents and carers about their daughter’s learning;
• Use the outcomes of the conversations with parents, carers and pupils to improve the learning and teaching for all our pupils.

Breakfast Club
A warm breakfast for next to nothing (and free for students on Free School Meals) is available for all children in our daily Breakfast Club, open from 8.00am.

Our canteen serves a wide range of healthy and tasty options, which includes vegetarian and halal alternatives.

Please visit our website for a full list of school policies. Our website is also packed full of information about pupil achievements, the latest news from our school and useful info like term dates and times of the day.

“Parents and carers are very supportive of the school.”
Ofsted
Our uniform is straightforward and affordable. It is available to purchase from a number of stockists at very competitive prices including Tesco Online, Kids Essentials, Clive Marks and Colliers. Parents have the freedom to buy school uniform from other outlets.

We also keep a stock of second-hand uniform in good condition - please contact Sharon Murphy (0121 464 8346), if financial issues mean you require confidential assistance.

Supplier details:
Soccer Kings of Stourbridge
Main contact - Dave King
112 Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 4BS
www.soccerkings.co.uk
Contact Number: 01384 374004

Kids Essentials
762 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2NN
www.kids-essentials.co.uk
Contact Number: 0121 477 0736

Admissions, Open Evening, School Visits
We follow the Birmingham Local Authority guidance on admissions. For your daughter to join our school at the start of Year 7, please indicate a preference for our school on the Local Authority form (return by 1st October).

For in-year admissions (if you have moved into the area or have other reasons for seeking a change of school for your daughter), please call Donna Smith (0121 464 8346) or collect a form from our reception.

Visit our website for open evening details: www.turvgng.bham.sch.uk

We welcome visits during the school day - so you can see our school in action. Please call 0121 464 8346 to arrange a tour with the Headteacher, Neil Jones.
We are accessible from the Bristol Road with the 63 bus route running from Birmingham to Frankley along the Bristol Road and the 47 bus route running from Birmingham to Cofton Hackett which stops directly outside the school.

If there is demand for a school mini-bus from, for example, Waseley, we can arrange this. Please let us know if you would like to discuss transport from your area.