



PARK SCHOOL



Prospectus



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Above all, we are P.A.R.K. school. Our children understand that if they are Polite, Ambitious, Resilient and Kind, they will achieve their full potential in all areas of education and life.

Melanie Dowler
Headteacher



Headteacher's Welcome

We have built a very strong reputation for excellence in the education of young children.

Our carefully differentiated teaching and individual support means that all of our children progress quickly at their own level, whether they are academic high fliers or pupils benefiting from a steadier pace. Many of our children pass the test to one of our local Grammar schools, or gain scholarships to local independent secondary schools.

As well as our commitment to inspiring excellent academic progress, we are passionate about providing a broad curriculum, including a wide range of high quality opportunities in things such as sport, music, drama, art and design. It is our job to nurture the skills, abilities and talents of each individual, wherever these may lie.

Above all, we are P.A.R.K. school. Our children understand that if they are Polite, Ambitious, Resilient and Kind, they will achieve their full potential in all areas of education and life. What more can we ask of them as they develop into well-rounded individuals with a joy for learning?

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” Words and pictures can only give you a flavour of the Park School ethos. Please do come and visit, to meet our enthusiastic learners and staff in their happy school environment. It will be my pleasure to escort you on a tour of our lovely school.

Melanie Dowler
Headteacher



“ Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions that you as a parent will make for your child. If you are looking for a school that combines great academic results with special care for each individual, then you may like to consider Park School.



Park School was established in 1928 and has grown into a vibrant, thriving and very happy school of over 295 boys and girls.

We have two classes in each year group from Reception to Year 6, with a maximum of 21 children in each class. Below this, we have an extremely popular Nursery with the large majority of our Nursery pupils moving up into our Reception classes at the age of four. The school enjoys a reputation for excellence in many fields. At the heart of all that we do is the belief that children will achieve their best when they are happy. What we care about most is producing well-rounded and complete young people; children who will move on from us with confidence, prepared for life's challenges.

Work and Pastoral Care

Within the context of a broad multi-faceted curriculum, the school aims to provide a sound academic education for young people setting out on their academic, learning journey. We hope to encourage in every one of our pupils the qualities of an enquiring mind, respect for others, self-discipline and a commitment to hard work.

We use the National Curriculum as a base for study in school, developing a wide range of skills across all subject areas. Emphasis is placed on the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. In addition, the school timetable offers History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE & Time to Thrive, ICT, PE & Games, Music, Art and Design, Drama, Reasoning and Technology. French is taught in Years 1 to 4 with the upper key stage 2 children learning Spanish. Thinking skills, personal and social education and citizenship topics are also an important part of our curriculum.

The development of the whole child underpins all our work at the school. Teachers focus on the needs of each individual, catering for all pupils from academic high flyers to those who benefit from a steadier pace.

Learning support is provided for all those who need it and the progress of each child is monitored carefully. Every opportunity is taken to promote special academic ability and members of staff encourage each girl and boy to reach the highest possible standards.

The school is an open community whose ethos is founded on Christian principles and where children of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome. The school is structured to offer pupils excellent pastoral care and careful guidance. Small classes, a flourishing house system and, above all, a committed and enthusiastic team of staff, ensure that the needs of the individual are always to the fore.

We celebrate our pupils' successes in all aspects of their lives. Success builds upon success. All this takes place in an environment of care, support, good manners and fair discipline. "The pupils' personal development throughout the school, including in the EYFS, is excellent. They develop into confident and considerate young people who are very well prepared for the next stage in their lives." 2015 ISI Inspection Report.



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The excellent curriculum covers all required areas of learning and pupils of all ages benefit from a stimulating range of extra-curricular activities.

ISI Inspection Report



Bringing out the best in your child

As well as our commitment to ensuring excellent academic progress, we also provide a broad curriculum with a wide range of good quality opportunities in Sport, Music, Drama, Art and Design. We believe in nurturing the skills, abilities and talents of each individual, in whatever field or area these may show themselves.

Children enjoy playing sport and being coached to a high standard. There are inter-school matches in Football, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Rugby (tag), Rounders, Athletics and Table Tennis. Fixtures are arranged against local maintained and independent schools through the school's affiliation to BSSA (Bournemouth Schools Sports Association). Boys and girls are actively encouraged to play and are included in all sports, both team and individual.

Music plays an important part in the life of the school and in addition to timetabled lessons for every child, pupils are encouraged to join one or more of the music groups and to take up an instrument. We have a flourishing Senior Orchestra, the Training Orchestra, various ensembles such as the Jazz Band and String Group. The School Choir is also very popular. These music ensembles perform

regularly for the school and also give outside concerts. There are regular group recorder sessions and individual lessons are available in a wide range of instruments.

Pupils have regular opportunities to perform in productions on stage to both the school and to parents. Many opt for extra Speech and Drama tuition and are successful in the higher level LAMDA exams.

We organise a range of activities and clubs for our pupils. Children may choose from a selection including such favourites as Chess, Art, Karate, ICT and Science, plus a wide range of sporting and musical activities. The list varies each year and there is always plenty of choice.

Our children are encouraged to work in a variety of stimulating environments to expand their learning horizons. All children in the school benefit from regular educational visits. These outings and other courses throughout the year are carefully planned to enrich our teaching programmes. "The excellent curriculum covers all required areas of learning and pupils of all ages benefit from a stimulating range of extra-curricular activities." 2015 ISI Inspection Report





Our partnership with parents

The parents of children in all of our classes have daily contact with class teachers when children are delivered to, or collected, from school. Parents are also always welcome to make an appointment to see the class teacher or the Headteacher.

Parents are kept regularly and fully informed of their child's progress. Three formal parent/teacher meetings per year allow for detailed face to face discussions regarding each child's progress. These meetings give parents the opportunity to discuss their child's work. Four written reports per year provide regular formal assessments of effort and progress, test results and overall National Curriculum levels. These reports and meetings also set out the areas on which our teachers will be concentrating, in order to maintain the progress we are looking for.

Parental involvement in the teaching/learning process is seen as a crucial element to pupil success. Our philosophy is simple...we succeed together. Parents are regularly invited to assemblies and drama productions and are encouraged to accompany the children on educational trips and visits.

Park School Community Education Trust (PSCET) is a registered charity supported by the community of pupils, parents and staff of Park School. PSCET organises a range of fun, social and fundraising events throughout the year. The Trust supports community spirit within the school family and any funds raised go to local charities or to support PSCET initiatives focussed on "broadening educational experiences and enriching young lives" in the local area. All parents and families of Park School pupils are encouraged to get involved and there are plenty of opportunities for all.

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Links with parents, carers and guardians are excellent. The success of the school's interaction with parents is reflected in their highly positive responses to the pre-inspection questionnaire.

ISI Inspection Report



A place to learn

The main school site is situated in a quiet residential area near the centre of Bournemouth, overlooking Queens Park Golf Course. We are within easy reach of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch town centres, ideally placed with excellent road links nearby. The site has grown significantly over the years thanks to sustained investment. We currently occupy a number of large detached buildings and sizeable grounds with generous play areas.

Additional facilities include a sports hall, art/ science rooms, dining hall and kitchen, music rooms, an ICT suite and libraries. The school also have access to Dean Park, a magnificent 6.5 acre sports venue situated in the middle of Bournemouth, a few minutes drive from the main site. Dean Park used to be the County Cricket ground

for Hampshire. Our pupils use Dean Park for games lessons and sport, transported there in the school's fleet of minibuses.

Our buildings are light and well maintained and, although they have all been extended, they retain a 'family home' atmosphere which is particularly encouraging for younger pupils. The playgrounds on our main site adjoin the main school buildings and include a small astro pitch, several outdoor table tennis tables, a basketball court, an adventure playground and plenty of space to run around. Pupils may opt for a nutritious hot meal freshly cooked in our kitchens each day. Dietary requirements are carefully catered for. Alternatively parents can choose to provide a packed lunch.





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“Pupils are highly successful in competitive entrance examinations to local maintained grammar or independent schools, with a significant number gaining scholarship awards in a range of areas.”

ISI Inspection Report



The road to success

Each year pupils leave us at the end of Year 6 and go on to a wide range of secondary schools. Over the years our results have been first class. Many pupils pass the entrance tests to the local Grammar Schools or are awarded academic scholarships to senior independent schools. Our focus on developing the whole child across a broad curriculum means that a high number of non-academic scholarships are awarded to our Year 6 leavers.

By opting to participate in the national public examinations (SATS) in Year 6 we are able to measure how our pupils' academic progress compares to pupils from other schools nationally. More information about this and other matters will be given to you when you meet the Head teacher.

Pupils are encouraged to enter examinations such as Music, Speech, Drama and Karate. Many gain impressive results in examinations at advanced levels for pupils of their age.

Sports and Dean Park

Dean Park, a beautiful 6.5 acre sports ground situated in the middle of Bournemouth, is Park School's dedicated Sports facility. A few minutes' drive from the main site, our pupils are transported there for Games lessons and competitive fixtures in the school's fleet of minibuses.

In the past academic year alone, over 800 children have competed at Dean Park in sports ranging from Tri Golf to Athletics and rounders, netball, football and rugby. We have also installed a series of all-weather training pitches to enable Games lessons and fixtures to be held all year round, regardless of weather conditions.

Sports and team games are an important and integral element of our school's curriculum. In addition to

competing against other preparatory schools, we take part in many local maintained school leagues and competitions. We actively encourage the children to participate in team and individual events. Park School children achieve success at town, county and national levels. We believe that sport for all children develops skills, self-esteem and social interaction. It also helps them learn to cope with disappointments.

Park School offers a broad and balanced programme of physical education and sport. From Reception to Year 6 all children have one PE lesson per week, during which they focus on gymnastics, dance, table tennis, core strength and balance. Children in Years 1 to 6 enjoy additional games sessions every week.



Art, Drama, Dance and Music

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children become involved in interacting with their environments through art and design activities. They learn to make informed judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has had on contemporary life and that of different times and cultures. The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives.

Through drama and dance we aim to extend children's knowledge and skills, develop understanding of the art form, provide opportunities to develop their appreciation of performances, support their ability to appraise drama and see its value in the curriculum and most importantly develop confidence. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 take part in annual performances to the whole school and their families. These include whole school assemblies, Nativities, Christmas shows and musicals. By performing to an audience from an early age, children gain confidence and appreciate the value of all areas of the curriculum.

We have strong musical tradition at Park with teaching led by a qualified team of specialist music teachers.



“ Many pupils enter for LAMDA and Drama examinations with great success.

for pleasure and for those who wish to obtain their singing grades.

The Orchestra, Choir and Jazz Band perform at outside venues throughout the year. The children also form their own ensembles and small groups to perform to parents at School events.

As well as the pupils' weekly class music lessons, the children may go on to join our School Orchestra or Jazz Band. There is also a flourishing Training Orchestra.

All children are encouraged to play a musical instrument. Specialist individual lessons are available in woodwind, brass, strings, piano, recorder, guitar, percussion and singing.

Children from Year 2 upwards can join the School Choir. Our choir performs in concerts at local venues and provides musical input at all kinds of school events. We have a specialist peripatetic singing teacher who offers coaching for those children who like to sing simply

Drama is a flourishing aspect of life at Park School. Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate their talents at class assemblies and performances. Each year the Year 6 pupils perform a Summer play for the entertainment of both parents and pupils. Reception classes perform in nativity shows while Years 1 and 2 take part in annual Christmas Stories and Year 5 take the starring roles in the Christmas Show put on at the Salvation Army Hall. Years 3 and 4 alternate a show in the Lent term each year. Many pupils enter for LAMDA and Drama examinations with great success. The children also take part in the Bournemouth Speech and Drama Festival. Many of our children perform with local theatre, ballet and dance groups.





Breakfast Club and After School Care Club

Breakfast Club is available from 8.00am until 8.30am each weekday for a small charge. A light breakfast is available. A light breakfast (toast or cereal) is served. After School Care Club runs from 3.45pm until 5.45pm daily, during term time, for a small charge. A range of activities are offered, with the children being taken outside to play when the weather is fine. Pupils can also do homework set in class that day if they wish but please note that this is not a supervised homework only club. A snack (fruit and drink) is served. It is recommended that regular sessions are booked in advance as places are limited. You can request that your child attends on an ad-hoc basis by contacting the School Office and checking on availability. The direct contact number for this club is 07935 211 988 (during open hours only). Children can be booked into Breakfast club/After School Care Club for the whole term via the termly sign-up form, alternatively ad-hoc bookings may be possible for both clubs subject to availability by emailing office@parkschool.co.uk or by calling the main School number.





Holiday Club

We run a holiday club during most weeks of the school holidays. These are run by familiar, experienced members of staff. Most clubs are held in the school grounds and include a range of craft, sport and ICT activities. Specialist clubs also run alongside Holiday Club, for example Art and Craft week. Holiday clubs are popular. The environment carefully created by the staff means the children love coming along. They make new friends and take home the treasure they make. Holiday club runs 9.00am-3.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays and School INSET days). Please note that you can drop your child off at 8.30am and collect him/her up to 4.00pm. Holiday club communications will be sent to all parents in the lead up to the next holiday club (during term time) – this will include the cost per day, specific dates around when to book and guarantee your place(s), and the last day that you or the School can cancel the course by. Please note if you cancel after the given date you will still be charged and you are unable to swap dates once a booking has been made. Park School Holiday Club is subject to staff availability and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.



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Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul.

Friedrich Froebel



Park School Nursery

Park School Nursery is set within the grounds of Park School in leafy surroundings with a vast amount of outdoor space.

The children enjoy playing and learning inside and outdoors in all weathers; in our large nursery garden, in covered gardens, on the Astro pitch, in the school hall, the adventure playground and the school playground.

The Nursery is open 51 weeks of the year, closing for bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Days are split into a morning sessions 8:00am – 1:00pm, an afternoon sessions 1:00pm – 6:00pm and an all day session 8:00am – 6:00pm.

We follow the statutory guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and create an environment of safe care and support, providing a sound basis for your child's future schooling. We follow the Early Years Curriculum – birth to five matters.

At Park School Nursery, our aim is to create happy, confident, active and sociable children. We believe that children should be able to thrive in a stimulating, clean and well-resourced environment, where they are praised and respected.

The nursery staff are all passionate in early years education and strive to great a happy and stimulating environment. They are all DBS checked, safeguarding and first aid trained.



Teachers from the main school also support the nursery children's development by offering music, sport and dance sessions within the nursery day.

We work closely with our families to develop a great understanding of the children and their needs. Developing close bonds with the children helps to settle them joining us and gives them a source of comfort throughout their day.

The number of sessions a child attends is flexible; however, we have a minimum session policy meaning your child is required to attend for at least four sessions per week. For children under 3 they are able to begin on three sessions for the first term. One session is equivalent to half a day. This will help your child to settle in well and to establish a sense of belonging in the nursery setting. It will also allow children to integrate well with their peers, understand the daily routine and have continuity in their learning and development.

Additional sessions – subject to availability, additional sessions and flexible days can be arranged with prior notice.



We are a registered provider with several childcare voucher companies. We are a registered provider for the government tax-free childcare scheme.

Early Education Funding (EEF) is available for all children from the term beginning after a child's third birthday until the term in which a child turns five.

Fees include snacks, drinks, breakfast, a two course lunch and tea. We offer breakfast if your child is with us between 8.00am-8.30am. A morning snack is available from 9.30am – children are given a choice of milk or water and a snack - usually fruit and crackers. Lunchtime is at 11.45am – a hot meal and a pudding, freshly prepared by the School Chef. A weekly menu is displayed in the Nursery for your reference. Please refer to our sample menu on page 12. Afternoon tea is served at 4.00pm, consisting of sandwiches or a lighter meal followed by fruit and/or yoghurt. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day.

Before your child starts at Park School Nursery, we will invite you and your child to attend for a minimum of two settling in sessions. This is an opportunity for you and your child to get to know your allocated nursery practitioner and for them to get to know you and your child, as well as the other team members and children at the nursery. This also gives you the opportunity to leave your child for short periods of time before building up to a full session. We ask you to help us gather as much information about your child as we can during these sessions.

“ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.





Babies

We are delighted to have extended our nursery provision to accept babies from 3 months old.

Our baby room is in a beautiful and calm self-contained unit. The room is spacious, with plenty of natural light and full of wonderful toys and equipment to support each baby's developmental needs. The baby unit has an adjoining sleep room where the babies can take their naps according to their own routine. The unit is staffed by kind and passionate staff who have created a home- from-home experience for your baby to thrive in.



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