



Ark Academy
Primary School





ABOUT ARK ACADEMY

Ark Academy is a mixed, non-denominational, “all-through” academy. We take pupils from age 3 in our Nursery to age 18 in our Sixth Form and we have specialist status in mathematics and citizenship. We are part of the ARK Schools network and subscribe to ARK’s core principles

Ark Schools:

Ark Academy is one of 35 schools in the Ark network. Ark is an education charity that exists to make sure that all children, regardless of their background, have access to a great education and real choices in life.

Our schools follow the same set of underlying principles. We call these the Six Pillars:

- High expectations
- Exemplary behaviour
- Excellent teaching
- Depth before breadth
- More time for learning
- Knowing every child

- We prioritise enabling all pupils to meet and exceed expected levels of achievement in English and mathematics as the basic blocks for academic success
- We create small, nurturing schools with positive social norms and a strong school culture
- We support outstanding and dedicated teachers who believe in their pupils’ potential

Each year our primary school has places for 60 Reception pupils placed in two classes.

Our Mission:

Here at Ark Academy, our mission is:

“That every child can go to higher education or the career of their choice and participate fully in our democratic society”

WELCOME

Dear Parent/ Carer

Thank you for considering Ark Academy Primary School for your child.

Ark Academy is a two-form entry primary school with 60 places in each year group from Nursery to year 6. Our pupils enjoy both the nurturing environment and social benefits of a small school and the range and resources of a large, well equipped academy.

Ark Academy is an “all-through” academy, teaching pupils from 3-18. Our primary pupils are guaranteed a place with us from Reception right through to completing secondary school – there is no requirement to re-apply for a secondary place in year 7.

We have high ambitions and high expectations for all our pupils. We aim to provide an excellent education that offers every pupil real choices when they leave school. The foundations for that achievement are laid at primary school.

Ark Academy makes a ‘no excuses’ commitment to achieving the best we can for every pupil. We put mathematics and literacy at the heart of our primary curriculum and we will provide the teaching and support every pupil needs to meet and exceed national standards every year.

Ark Academy is a friendly and happy school because we place a high value on behaviour and discipline; we work closely with families to support them in helping our pupils do well.

Please read through this prospectus to see what Ark Academy can offer your child and come to meet us at the parents’ days or evenings. If you can’t make these please contact me to visit another time. We look forward to meeting you.

Peter Watkins

Primary School Head Teacher

Ark Academy



OUR CULTURE

Academic achievement – no excuses

Ark Academy has high expectations of all its pupils. We believe every child can realise their potential given the right encouragement, teaching and support. We do everything possible to ensure that every child achieves year level expectations, every year. We don't accept excuses and we don't make any either.

Personal responsibility and mutual respect

We maintain a happy, respectful and orderly environment throughout the academy. We believe that we share the responsibility for developing and nurturing the personal qualities of every pupil and we will teach pupils to be responsible for their actions and their effect on others.

Behaviour

We emphasise the importance of good behaviour. Our values programme, meal times, manners and behaviour expectations are important parts of our education programme. Children are encouraged to accept responsibility for their actions or behaviour. Only the highest standards of behaviour are accepted.

Values

We ask pupils, parents and teachers to sign a home-school agreement, demonstrating our shared commitment to putting in the effort to ensure that each child succeeds.

At Ark Academy our key values are

- Excellence
- Citizenship
- Participation
- Persistence

HOW WE OPERATE

Ark Primary School

We want every pupil to feel part of the academy. The primary school is very much part of the academy as a whole but also has its own strong identity. It has its own headteacher and senior leadership team as well as its own separate buildings and play areas.

An “all-through” education

With classes from nursery through to sixth form, Ark Academy pupils can stay with us throughout their school career, building strong bonds with friends and easing the often difficult transition to secondary school. Pupils have a guaranteed place until they are at least 16.

School / home partnership

We encourage parents' and carers' involvement with their children's education and hope to build strong relationships with our pupils' families. We send regular newsletters and progress reports and we're happy for you to visit classes or come to our open assemblies, performances, coffee mornings and parent workshops. We also have a very active Parent Forum that meets to work on behalf of the parents and carers of the school.

By working with parents and carers we can provide the most effective educational experience for pupils. We will provide regular opportunities for you to be involved in your child's learning and school life.

Our staff

We provide our staff with the tools and support they need to instil a strong learning culture in their classrooms. Members of the senior leadership team and class teachers be available to discuss his or her needs with you or any concerns you have.

Assessment

We undertake regular assessments to support learning. These inform how we plan learning and enable teachers to provide appropriate challenges for pupils who are exceeding expectations and to quickly identify needs and provide support for those facing difficulties.

Pupils are kept informed of how they are doing and encouraged to self-evaluate, understand and take responsibility for their own progress.

Members of the Senior Leadership team have an “open door” policy and are always willing to discuss any aspect of your child's education with you.



THE CORE CURRICULUM

English and mathematics are the foundation for all other subjects and are critical to success at school and in life. We focus on developing strong readers and communicators who love to use their skills and children who are confident working with numbers in everyday life.

Our curriculum is structured to ensure that all children master essential knowledge in these core subjects. Where pupils need extra support it will be provided to ensure that every child can reach and exceed national standards.

Nursery and reception

In the foundation stage we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The areas of learning are;

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Understanding of the world
- Mathematics
- Expressive arts and design

A carefully planned, broad range of activities delivers a stimulating, 'hands-on' and age-appropriate curriculum, promoting rich learning experiences for the children.

Our Reception has a high expectation for children yet in a positive and nurturing environment. As well as learning through exploratory play, all of our reception children take part in a full literacy and numeracy lesson every day.

English

This is divided into three areas:

Phonics

The teaching of phonics is given a very high status here at the Academy. From Reception, children take part in a daily phonics lesson. We believe that the teaching should be fun and the assessment of learning should be rigorous, so that we can best provide for the children to be great readers from a young age.

Reading

Our aim is that every child should enjoy reading; both for pleasure and to find out information. Children read every day either individually, in a small group or as a class. Children learn to read through sight words, phonics and being taught reading strategies. We strongly encourage parents to read with their children on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to be more independent readers as they move through the school.

Writing

Our aim is to make each child an independent writer, able to write using different styles and for a variety of situations. Initially, children are encouraged to write in play situations and as they become more confident, to use writing in a more structured way across all subjects.

We follow the "Talk For Writing" approach that has been devised and designed by much-loved children's author Pie Corbett. Children are immersed in high-quality texts that they learn to gradually adapt and make their own through a programme that emphasises the importance of talk alongside giving children the "tools" of writing, like handwriting, spellings and grammar skills.



Mathematics

Mathematics is taught using a mastery approach across the whole school. This ensures that we provide depth as well as breadth in the children's learning. The subject is taught through a range of practical and written contexts that have real meaning for children, enabling them to develop their numerical skills and problem solving abilities.

We use the three fundamental skills of:

- Practising
- Using and applying
- Reasoning

Science

Science is taught separately and through a themed approach. We have adapted a curriculum based on a model provided by "Rising Stars" that incorporates our own principles of outdoor learning based on the National Trusts "50 Things To Do Before You Are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The focus is on practical science that children actively take part in as well as learning core facts and knowledge.

Computing

Children have access to the latest technology. Interactive whiteboards are installed in all classrooms and the children have access to laptops to enhance their learning experiences and learn computer skills. The children are taught to use a range of programmes including word processing, data handling and graphics. Children are also taught basic coding and also use programmable toys. We actively incorporate the use of ICT into other subjects.

Religious education

We focus on developing children's social, moral and community spirit, by exploring a range of cultural beliefs. Our children are taught to be understanding and considerate to others within our school and the wider community. Our RE curriculum is expansive and inclusive, giving all children a chance to learn about all religions as well as the themes that are common to us all.

Citizenship

Success depends on the ability to work with others and to take responsibility for oneself. Our students learn the value of Citizenship, underpinned by the importance of British Values. They learn to engage with the society in which they live. They work together, play together; learning to solve problems, share ideas and take risks.

Giving our children meaningful experiences that have a positive impact on their communities enables every student at Ark Academy to become an engaged citizen and a positive role-model.



Foundation subjects

History, geography, design and technology, personal, social and health education, music, art and drama are taught through a creative and themed approach as well as in distinct lessons. Parents are given details of the curriculum at the beginning of each half term, with advice and ideas on how they can help or contribute.

Physical education

Regular PE lessons are part of the curriculum and we encourage active play every day. Children will be taught gymnastics, dance and athletics as well as team sports. Children attend swimming session from Year 3 onwards. We aim for every child to be able to swim at least 25 metres by the time they reach 11. We also teach pupils how to live healthily as well as providing pupils with a nutritious lunch each day.

Foreign languages

Our modern foreign languages programme starts at primary school and we are fortunate to be able to draw upon the expertise from the secondary department. Our pupils are able to begin to learn an additional language in years 3 and 4.

Music

Our music programme enables pupils to gain the knowledge and skills to enjoy and develop their interest. The primary programme focuses on singing and on instruments which are taught and played in groups, for example Ukulele or Djembe drums. We also offer additional paid music tuition to those children who wish to participate.

ENRICHMENT

Education is about creative as well as academic achievement. Through art, design, drama and music, children learn to express themselves creatively and develop skills such as leadership, teamwork, perseverance and patience that will make them successful young people.

Children take part in a weekly enrichment session that changes throughout the year and takes place on a Friday afternoon.

Additionally, we offer a programme of after school clubs, ranging from football, roller skating and gymnastics to cooking, street dance and ballet.

There is a breakfast club that takes place before school from 7.50am and we can offer after school child care provision daily until 6.00pm (additional charges apply).



MORE ABOUT ARK ACADEMY

Our school day

School begins at 8:30am sharp and finishes at 3.40pm for all children from Reception to Year 6.

Uniform

We believe that school uniform fosters a feeling of belonging and encourages children to take pride in their school. Every pupil must wear our attractive red and grey school uniform which is available from our local uniform supplier. Full details are available from the school and on our website www.arkacademy.org. We are grateful to parents and carers for supporting the wearing of uniform.

Lunch

A healthy lunch is central to a child's ability to learn. We encourage our pupils to eat a healthy meal each day at our school dining room which caters for a variety of diets. Pupils may bring a healthy packed lunch, if preferred. We do not permit fizzy drinks or sweets at school.

Assembly

Children assemble formally during the week, to celebrate good work or to hear stories with a moral or spiritual theme. We hold periodic assemblies to which families are invited.

Home learning

Home Learning is given every week in every class, from reception to Year 6. This focuses around reading, spelling, vocabulary work and maths. Teachers also set longer pieces of science work or work that is centred on a specific topic that the class may be studying.

Admissions

Ark Academy primary school is a two-form entry, non-denominational school. We offer 60 reception places each year. After admitting children with statements of special educational needs that name the school on the statement, we offer places to siblings of children who already attend the academy. The next priority is given to those who live nearest to us. For a reception place for September 2019, parents should apply to the London Borough of Brent Admissions Service. Please call the Brent School Admissions Service on 020 8937 3110 for an application pack or email School.admissions@brent.gov.uk

Please see our website for full details of our admissions policy:

www.arkacademy.org/admissions-policy

Transition to secondary school

Pupils at Ark Primary Academy are guaranteed a place at Ark Secondary Academy. As an "all-through" academy we can provide stability and continuity through the important transition to secondary school. Please refer all enquiries

with regard to secondary transition to Mrs Clodagh Boyle in Ark Secondary Academy c.boyle@arkacademy.org

Special needs provision and English as a second language

Our provision for pupils with special needs and pupils who have English as an additional language is carefully co-ordinated, working with external specialist agencies where appropriate. We are happy to discuss with parents how the academy can support your children.

Equal opportunities

We respect and reflect equal opportunities throughout the academy. Ark Academy recognises pupils' different needs and the entitlement of all pupils to equality of opportunity. The ethos of the school encourages mutual respect and the expectation that everyone will fulfil their potential.

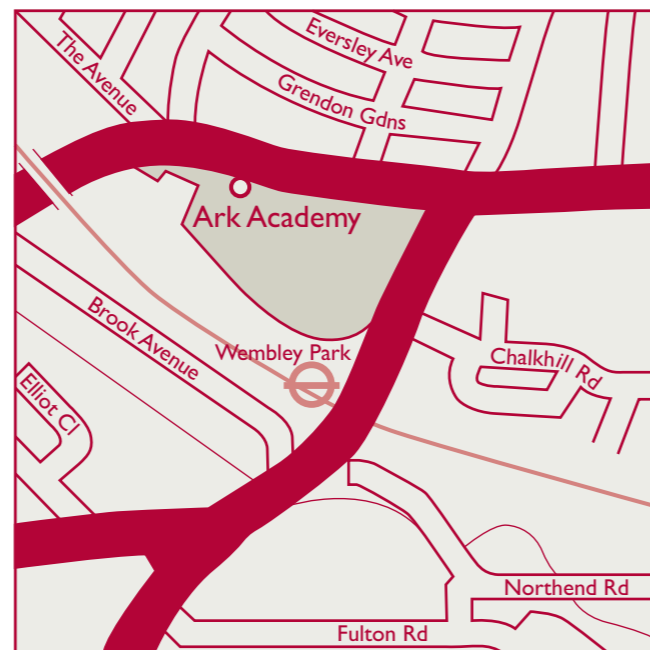


BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The school is based in high quality, specialist-designed, accommodation. Leading architects, Studio E, have designed our academy buildings which have been carefully planned to support calm and ordered learning. This includes a two storey primary school and nursery which is separate to the nearby four storey secondary school. Our brand new, state of the art, sixth form building was opened in 2016. Pupils have access to specialist indoor and outdoor sports facilities, ICT rooms, music and drama studios and a well-stocked and up to date library as well as inviting and well-equipped classrooms.

The excellent sporting facilities will also benefit the surrounding community. The existing playing fields have been retained and upgraded as part of the school and are available for community use outside school hours, at affordable rates.

The school will be innovative in design and built to high environmental standards.



To contact us please write to:

Mr Peter Watkins
Primary School
Headteacher
Ark Academy
Forty Avenue

Wembley

HA9 9JR

Or email: info@arkacademy.org

Or call: 0208 385 4370

www.arkacademy.org

Ark

