



AN **ark** SCHOOL

# ARK Schools

ARK Schools is an educational charity committed to creating outstanding schools which radically improve the life chances of our pupils. Our vision is that all our pupils will do well enough to go to university.

Our principles:

1. High expectations
2. Exemplary behaviour
3. Excellent teaching
4. More time for learning
5. Depth before breadth
6. Small schools

# ARK Oval Primary Academy

**Dear parent /carer,**

Thank you for reading our prospectus. ARK Oval Primary is a mixed, non-denominational, two form entry primary school for local children. We aim to offer a great education in a friendly neighbourhood school with the highest possible aspirations for our pupils.

ARK Oval is an ARK primary school. ARK academies are happy, well-run schools characterised by high ambitions, high achievement and good behaviour. Our other primaries, Globe in Southwark, King Solomon in Westminster and Ark in Wembley are all achieving impressive results, with pupils comfortably out-performing national expectations for their age.

We want ARK Oval Primary to be an outstanding local school whose pupils are cheerful and successful. Please read the prospectus to find out how we do it and come and meet us to find out what we can offer your child.

Venessa Willms  
**Executive Headteacher**



Sonia Rutherford  
**Headteacher**



# ARK Oval Primary – a school at the heart of its community

Welcome to ARK Oval Primary Academy. We aim to create not only an outstanding school, but a community of pupils, parents and teachers with shared determination to do whatever it takes to achieve success.

Our school has the highest academic aspirations and a caring and family orientated culture. We are committed to making sure we know each of our pupils well and to involving their families in the life of the school.

## High aspirations

We want every pupil to achieve as highly as they can. We concentrate on depth before breadth so that every child masters a firm and fluent understanding of English and mathematics early in their school career. Our knowledge of every pupil and frequent assessment of their progress ensures that every child is challenged and those who can go faster or who need more time receive the appropriate support.



# Our culture

## Academic achievement – no excuses

We want every child at ARK Oval Primary to fulfil his or her potential. We do everything possible to ensure that every pupil achieves year level expectations, every year. We don't accept excuses and we don't make any either.

## Personal responsibility - mutual respect

We want to create a happy, respectful and orderly school. We take responsibility for nurturing and developing the personal qualities of every pupil and we teach pupils to be responsible for their actions and aware of their effect on others.

## Behaviour

We emphasise the importance of good behaviour. Our values, meal times, manners and behaviour expectations are important parts of our education programme. Good behaviour is praised and unacceptable behaviour dealt with immediately.

## Partnership with parents

We believe that children whose parents are involved and interested in their learning do well. We involve ARK Oval Primary parents in their children's learning and encourage them to be active members of the school community. We're happy for you to visit classes, or come to our open assemblies.

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

We keep families in touch through face to face meetings, newsletters, reports and our website.





# From high aspirations to high achievement

## Small schools

We believe you can only teach pupils to a high standard if each teacher knows their pupils and their families. We maintain the family friendly ethos of a small school.

## Outstanding and committed staff

We provide our staff with the tools and support to instil a strong learning culture in their classrooms. Your child's teacher will always be available to discuss his or her needs or any concerns you have.

## Assessment

We undertake regular assessments to support learning. These inform our planning, enabling teachers to provide appropriate challenges for pupils who are exceeding expectations and identify needs quickly to 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 progress.

# Our curriculum

## Depth before breadth

All children need a firm mastery of English and mathematics as early as possible. Our first priority is to build a secure foundation in literacy and numeracy as the basis for all other learning. Pupils are taught to read, write and work with numbers fluently and confidently. Where pupils need extra support it is provided, to ensure that every child reaches and exceeds nationally expected standards.

## A focus on mathematics

ARK academies have a special focus on mathematics and we invest in attracting and training the best teachers. ARK Oval Primary is developing a distinctive, world-leading maths curriculum based on the Singapore approach. Our aim is to ensure that every child achieves mastery of mathematics concepts, computational skills, problem solving and application of mathematics to daily life activities. Children learn drawing strategies to solve complex problems and build strong links between objects, pictures, and abstract numbers. We teach mathematics topics in depth, so children understand the “how” as well as the “why”.

## Enriched curriculum

We provide a rich curriculum, stimulating new interests and enhancing children's learning experiences. We invite professional artists, actors, writers and musicians into school and offer a range of trips and events to stimulate learning and broaden pupils' interests and experience.



### Foundation stage

Reception pupils follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The six areas of learning are:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Creative development
- Physical development

We provide a stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environment where children will be motivated to communicate, explore and learn independently. A carefully planned range of activities provides a rich, age-appropriate learning experience across the curriculum.

### English

This is divided into three areas:

#### Speaking and listening

Pupils are given opportunities to experience different kinds of speaking and listening so that they can learn how to express themselves and how to listen to others' opinions. We use drama techniques to provide opportunities for children to express themselves in different situations

#### Reading

Our aim is that every child should enjoy reading, for pleasure and to find out information. Children read every day, individually, in small groups and as a class. Children learn to read through synthetic phonics and a wide range of reading strategies. We strongly encourage parents to read with their children on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to become independent readers as they move through the school.

#### Writing

Our aim is to ensure that every child can write appropriately for a variety of situations. Initially children are encouraged to write in play situations and, as they become more confident, to write in a more structured way. We combine teaching spelling and handwriting with phonics. Knowledge of letter sounds helps a child to spell correctly and to tackle unknown words when reading. Handwriting is taught on a regular basis, with a clear progression each year.

## Mathematics

Mathematics is taught through practical and written activities that have real meaning for the children, enabling them to develop their numerical skills and the ability to solve problems. In mathematics we will teach three separate areas:

### Using and applying

Children are taught how to choose appropriate strategies, explain their ideas and ask questions using appropriate mathematical vocabulary.

### Number

Children learn about counting, place value, strategies for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. The emphasis is on developing mental recall of number facts to enable them to carry out mental calculations accurately and confidently.

### Shape, space and measures

We provide “real life” experiences to enable children to develop their understanding of the names and properties of shapes, learn about time and to estimate and measure the length, mass and capacity of objects using non-standard and standard units.

## Science

Children take part in investigative activities and experiments through which they acquire and develop scientific knowledge, skills and understanding. Science is taught separately as well as through cross-curricular links.

## Modern foreign languages

All pupils learn an additional modern language from year 3 upwards.

## ICT

Pupils have access to the latest technology including interactive whiteboards and wireless laptops to enhance their learning and learn computer skills. Children learn programmes including word processing, data handling and graphics. We also 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. Pupils are taught to be understanding and considerate to others both in the school and the wider community.

## 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. We keep parents up to date on the topics being covered across each phase through our regular newsletters.

## Physical education and healthy living

Regular PE is part of the curriculum and we encourage active play every day. Pupils are taught athletics and dance as well as team sports. We teach pupils how to live healthily and provide pupils with a nutritious lunch each day.



# Every child will succeed

ARK Oval Primary is an inclusive school and our team of dedicated teachers is completely committed to all our pupils' success. We believe we can be sure that every child will do well academically at ARK Oval Primary.

We ensure this by keeping track of pupils as individuals and by regularly assessing where pupils are in terms of their learning. If pupils do not understand we intervene quickly and provide appropriate support.

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We are committed to enabling every pupil to achieve his or her potential. The academy follows the Government's "Revised Code of Practice" in identifying, assessing and supporting pupils with special educational needs. Through Individual Education Plans we provide support which is tailored for each pupil's unique situation. Support may be given in class, in a small group or through withdrawal classes and is delivered by a skilled team of teachers and learning support assistants.

## English an Additional Language (EAL)

Pupils for whom English is an additional language benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum, gaining extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English. Through careful assessment and a combination of small learning groups, our pupils have full access to the learning opportunities provided by the school.

## Gifted and talented pupils

We want all our pupils to maximise their potential and we are not content with gifted and talented pupils simply achieving the expected level for their year. We ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful identification and assessment enable us to provide suitable challenge and differentiation to extend the learning of all our pupils.





# *A healthy, happy place*

## *A caring philosophy*

We want to create a safe, caring school where pupils are happy in each others' company. Each family will have a named teacher as their main school contact. Parents are our most important partners and we aim to know our parents and their families well.

### **Lunch and nutrition**

All pupils are able to enjoy a healthy, freshly-cooked lunch and healthy snacks at break times, at a reasonable price. Pupils may bring a packed lunch if their parents prefer.

### **Attendance**

Missing school seriously disrupts pupils' learning. Children are expected to attend school on time every day. If a child is unwell we request that parents inform the school immediately and we will provide the child with the necessary support and catch up materials on their return. Holidays during term time are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the headteacher.

### **Homework**

Homework is critical to learning. It extends pupils' independence and self-discipline. Primary pupils have regular reading and maths practice to do at home.

### **Uniform**

We believe a uniform develops a sense of community and belonging and we encourage pupils to be proud and aware of their appearance and presentation. We have a smart, affordable uniform which pupils are expected to wear every day.

# Admissions

ARK Oval Primary is a non-denominational, non-selective school for local children. If the academy is oversubscribed, priority is given to students with statements of special educational needs where the academy is named on the statement. The remaining places will then be offered in the following order of priority:

- children who are in public care;
- children who have a sibling who already attends the academy and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-brother or step-sister resident at the same address);
- children who live closest to the school, using straight line distance from the main entrance of the academy to the main entrance to the child's home.

The Croydon Council admissions team will manage a waiting list to fill casual vacancies occurring if pupils leave during the year or withdraw from a place that has been offered.

Applications to the academy must be made on the Common Application Form which can be obtained from the Croydon Admissions Team.

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/>  
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