



# Welcome to Ash Croft Primary Academy



**THE HARMONY TRUST**

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

# Welcome to Ash Croft Primary Academy

**Our families are at the heart of Ash Croft. We are committed to helping every child achieve their full potential and know they are a valued member of our Ash Croft family.**

Our Academy offers a friendly, caring and nurturing environment for your children to flourish. Success is celebrated and children are encouraged to reflect and challenge one another to make continuous improvements. We see each child as an individual who is discovering their abilities and we are dedicated to inspiring them to develop as successful learners.

We encourage mutual respect, support and collaboration between all adults and children, both within the academy and the wider community and the highest expectation of behaviour is expected at all times.

We believe through our guidance, nurturing and parental partnership, we provide the platform and skills needed for your children to be successful learners in their current and next stage of learning and to succeed in their future life. Our pupils leave as happy, confident and successful children ready to continue their learning journey.





# Our Principal

I am delighted to be the principal of Ash Croft Primary Academy. I am very passionate about educational excellence and you and your children will get my full commitment to get the very best learning experiences.

I will strive to give your children that spark, that knowledge and that determination to achieve their dreams. At Ash Croft, we are one big family on a life long journey of learning.

We welcome any new families to join our wonderful Academy and experience everything that Ash Croft has to offer which makes it a great place to learn.



*"My children absolutely loved being at Ashcroft. They would have been overwhelmed at a bigger school but Ashcroft is perfect for their needs. The rapport I have built with teachers is reassuring as I know they take the time to listen to me and any concerns I may have."*

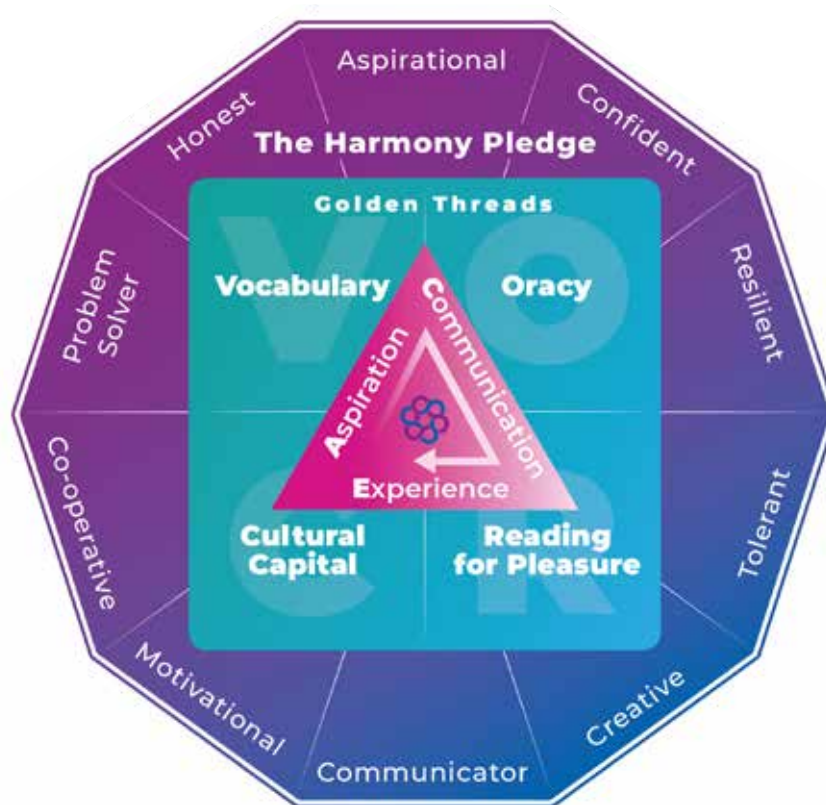
Parent

# Our ACE Curriculum

We aim to provide an excellent education for our children, which develops the highest possible standards.

We have an ACE curriculum at Ash Croft Primary Academy. Everything children do in our academy is part of this curriculum. The total learning experience is designed to maximise achievement within the National Curriculum and develop skills, attitudes and attainment in the widest sense.

**A** – Aspiration **C** – Communication **E** – Experience



Through our ACE Curriculum we aim to:

- Provide pupil with academic excellence.
- Provide children with opportunities to engage with the world beyond Sinfon.
- Ensure reading is a priority as we see this as the cornerstone for all learning.
- Ensure our children have mathematical fluency and confidence in numeracy.
- Give children high aspirations, opportunities to become competent communicators and offer a wide range of experiences.
- Increase cultural capital by specifically giving children experiences of authors, artists, music and theatre.
- Increase children's knowledge of cultures and those from different faiths and backgrounds.
- Provide a broad and balance curriculum for all year groups which builds progressive skills and knowledge of which the children can base their future learning.
- Deliver a curriculum which allows children to commit learning to their long term memory.
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development.
- Build our pupils confidence to have the highest expectation of themselves and their future.

# Excellence in the Early Years

**In the early years at Ash Croft Primary Academy we offer a curriculum rich in awe and wonder. We want children to be happy, confident, well rounded individuals with a love for learning.**

We believe in providing all children with a safe and stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities, promotes independence, challenge, exploration, and adventure! We care deeply about the children in our school and form warm and positive relationships with pupils and families. It is our intent that all children develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally in an enabling environment which values all cultures, communities and people. We aim for our children to be confident and resilient, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

## Prime Areas of Learning

- **Physical Development (PD)**
- **Gross and fine motor skills**
- **Communication and Language (CL)**
- **Listening, attention and understanding**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**
- **Self-regulation, managing self and building relationships**

These areas are key to any child learning and making progress. The prime areas are taught through learning and playing together during 'Discovery Time'. The children share and take turns, develop an understanding of feelings of others and know the difference between right and wrong. We believe that the correct mix of adult directed and uninterrupted child initiated play ensures the best outcomes for pupils. Adults provide high quality interactions, they are role models for learning!

## Specific Areas of Learning

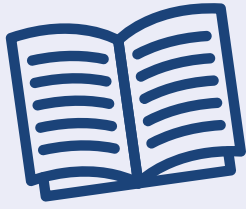
- **Literacy**  
Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing
- **Maths**  
Number and Numerical Patterns
- **Understanding the World**  
Past and Present, The Natural World, People, Culture and Communities
- **Expressive Art and Design**  
Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive

The specific areas reflect individual children's life experiences including their cultural and social background. Through active learning, we encourage children to concentrate and problem solve. Creating and thinking critically is developed through children's own ideas and exploration of the world around them. We recognise the crucial role that early year's education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based. All children are capable of amazing things here at Ash Croft Primary Academy.



# Great Place to Learn

Our school ethos promotes a love of reading through the trust wide initiative.



**READ**



**ACHIEVE**



**SUCCEED**

Reading for Pleasure is a whole school initiative and we foster and develop a passion for reading across the school.

- Daily Story Time
- Termly reading events
- Author visits
- A gift of a book for every pupil, each year
- Inviting book corners in every classroom
- Access to a range of high quality books and texts
- Reading Ambassadors in every class who make recommendations
- Books to take home to develop reading and share stories with families

## HTML Harnessing Technology Maximising Learning

Being innovative with the use of technology supports learning and equips the children with the skills they need for their future. Through this initiative, all Key Stage 2 children receive their own iPad to maximise their learning in school and at home.

*"Everyone is kind, our school is safe and the teachers are great"*

Pupil



# The Harmony Pledge

## Show Your True Colours

We want our pupils to have drive and tenacity, to stick at a task and to understand how to work towards long term goals, and to be able to pick themselves up and bounce back from life's challenges. By the time our pupils reach the age of 11 they will have completed each of the following pledges to;



- 1 take responsibility for their own safety, health and well-being.
- 2 engage in fundraising and charitable events.
- 3 take part in a presentation, sporting event or performance to an audience or in a public place.
- 4 contribute to environmental sustainability.
- 5 understand and learn from and about other cultures and faiths in our diverse community.
- 6 help others through volunteering activities.
- 7 be involved in a democratic process.
- 8 experience educational visits/overnight residential trip.
- 9 take an active role as a learner.
- 10 understand the world of work and have high aspirations for their future.

These pledges are designed to support pupils develop of the following character traits:

Resilient | Problem-Solver | Compassionate | Cooperative | Aspirational  
Confident | Effective Communicator | Motivated | Tolerant | Honest

*"All the staff want the best for the children -  
the children are well mannered and hard working"*

Teacher

# Our School Day

During a day at Ash Croft, the children will experience an array of activities, typically start with Phonics/English, Reading and Maths in the morning, with Topical lesson and story in the afternoon.

## Nursery & Reception (EYFS)

8.45am	School starts
11.30am	Lunchtime
11.45am	Morning nursery children finish
12.15pm	Afternoon nursery children start
12.30pm	End of lunchtime
3.15pm	Home time

## Years 1 - 6

8.45am	School starts
11.45- 1.00pm	Staggered lunchtimes
3.20pm	Home time

Unaccompanied children must not be on school premises before 8.45am.



“The outdoor environment has lots of trees and plants...  
we care about the children’s mental health”

Teacher



# Other Information

## Lunchtimes

We are proud of the varied menu on offer at Ash Croft, all of which are freshly cooked on site. Each day there are 2 hot meal options, at least one of which is vegetarian, as well as jacket potatoes with a range of fillings and a choice of sandwiches. All infant age children are receive a free school meal at lunchtime. Children in Key Stage 2 may choose to bring a packed lunch from home. We are a cashless school and use ParentPay for all payments.

## Illness and Emergencies

If your child is unwell and not able to come to school we ask you to contact school by gam on the first day of their absence so inform us of the reason for the absence. If a child has sickness or diarrhoea they need to be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode of illness. When your child joins the school you will be asked to provide a minimum of 2 emergency contacts so that we are able to contact you should your child become unwell during the school day.

## Medicine

If it is essential that a child has a prescribed medication during the school day staff are trained to support with this. All medication must be brought in in it's original packaging with the pharmacy dispensing label on showing the child's name and the dose prescribed. This must be handed in at the school office and a consent form signed by the parent before it can be administered in school.

## Uniform and Jewellery

All our children wear a school jumper or cardigan with the school logo on as part of their school uniform. We also have PE uniform which children wear to school on the days they have PE. The only jewellery allowed in school are small stud earrings and these must be removed on PE days. Long hair should be tied back (with a hair band of school colours, and there should be no make up or nail polish)

## Child Protection & Safeguarding

All staff have a legal duty to safeguard children's welfare. Parents and Carers should be aware that the Academy is required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the Academy has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies are obliged to follow the Child Protection procedures established by the Derby & Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and inform Social Services of the concern.





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