

Ark Ayrton Primary Academy Prospectus



Welcome

The staff, children, governors and I would like to welcome you to our school – Ark Ayrton Primary Academy.

We are a 2 form entry primary school and nursery, situated in the heart of Portsmouth, close to the sea.

We are named after Hertha Ayrton – a British, female engineer, mathematician, physicist and inventor, born in Portsea. The ‘arc lamp,’ providing street lighting, was among many of her inventions and accomplishments.

Our children are wonderful. To help them be the best that they can be, to ensure they flourish at primary school, to ensure they have the attitudes, skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare them for secondary school, university or the career of their choice in later life - it all starts right here!

We have high expectations of our children and for our children of what they can achieve. Our priorities are to ensure all children are here, safe, happy and learning well at all times.

This means we also have high expectations of ourselves, our parents and carers and the other people who work with us in improving outcomes for our children. We work closely with our partners and challenge each other openly and honestly to be sure we never lose sight of the vision and the job to be done in achieving excellence for all.

We have a strong and dedicated staff team at Ayrton – all ready to provide the best education and environment for the children to thrive in every day.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful and look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school.

Mrs A H-Chapman

Head Teacher

School Values



You will see our new logo in and around the school site – our lovely new ‘lighthouse’ was a whole school community choice, representing Ark Ayrton Primary Academy as a beacon of strength in our community, guiding our children as well as recognising our coastal location and heritage.

The four dots under our lighthouse represent the 4 values that underpin all our thinking and doing –



.... **AIM HIGH** - aspiration is key to raising achievement. We aim high for all our children and teach and encourage them to be aspirational for themselves.



.... **WORK HARD** - we expect every member of our school community ie the children, staff, parents/carers and other stakeholders to work hard towards a shared goal – success for all our children.



.... **PLAY FAIR** – we teach, model, reinforce and praise exemplary behaviour. We expect all of our children to be responsible, to follow our rules and respect one another so we can all learn and work in a safe and happy school.



.... **SHINE BRIGHTLY** – we expect everyone to come to school on time every day, to make the most of every opportunity school has to offer and to make each day count. We do this by being the best that we can be for ourselves and for each other.

Our values are supported by our 6 key characteristics that were discussed and agreed as a school community:



Resilience – we support our children to never give up and to keep on trying even when they may find things difficult!



Confidence – we support our children to develop their feeling and belief that they can do something well and succeed. We also give them plenty of opportunities to be recognised and show when they have been successful!



Curiosity – we encourage and develop in our children a desire to want to learn and to know, to be inquisitive, to investigate, to explore and ask questions. This helps them take ownership of their learning.



Independence – we encourage our children to take pride in doing things for themselves and teach them to make the right decisions for themselves, whatever their age, never under-estimating their capabilities!



Respect – we teach our children to take care of everyone, to treat others as we would like to be treated, to listen when others are talking and to accept that others may be different from us. We celebrate our cultural differences and diverse community.



Motivation – we give our children reasons for doing things to help them develop enthusiasm and a life-long love of learning

The School Day

School starts at 8.45am. Children and parents/carers are welcomed on to the playground by staff at the gates from 8.35am. A bell rings just before 8.45am when children line up on the playground. The staff come and collect the children to bring them into school.

The school gates close at 8.45am and any late arrivals then need to go to the main entrance to be signed in at reception.

There is a 15 minute morning break and a lunch break of an hour.

The school day ends at 3.45pm – children are brought out by their staff to stand back in their lines. They then sing their class chant or the school chant together before being dismissed from their line.

Children attending after school tuition or after school clubs will be escorted to the correct area of the school. All children need to be collected from after school tuition/clubs from the main entrance at 4.30pm.

Uniform

Wearing school uniform reinforces our ethos of playing fair and our culture of high expectations and being smart, neat and ready to learn. It encourages the children to know and feel that they belong to our school community – it unites them in learning, playing and succeeding together and gives them their school identity to be proud of.

All children are expected to wear clean school uniform neatly every day unless there is a non-uniform day.

Our school jumpers, blazers and ties must be bought from the school office but all other items can be purchased from local high street stores and supermarkets.

Our uniform is:

Boys

- Grey trousers
- White collared, cotton shirt short or long sleeved (not polo shirts)
- School jumper with our logo
- Tie from Year 3
- Blazer from Y5

Girls

- Grey skirt/pinafore/trousers
- White collared, cotton shirt short or long sleeved (not polo shirt or frilled collars/sleeves)
- Red, grey or white socks/tights (not patterned)
- School jumper/cardigan with logo
- Tie from Y3
- Blazer from Y5

In the Summer, children may wear grey shorts and girls may wear red and white gingham summer dresses.

Footwear

Children should wear flat black shoes. Please note trainers, boots and open toed shoes are not part of school uniform and must not be worn.

Coats

Children need a warm coat in the colder weather, preferably waterproof.

PE

Children **MUST** have a full PE kit in school every day in a named PE bag. We suggest it gets brought home at the weekend for washing and back into school each Monday for the week.

Our PE Kit is:

- Black shorts
- White t-shirt

- Grey track suit for colder weather
- Black plimsolls

All items of school uniform must be clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Religious dress

If children wear head scarves, these must be plain red or grey.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons jewellery is not permitted other than a small wrist watch and small gold stud earrings for pierced ears. These must be removed for PE and swimming. We cannot accept liability for the loss of any jewellery.

Hair

Hair accessories may be worn but must be small and in the school colours of red, white and grey.

We ask that long hair is tied back and that children do not have extreme haircut designs.

Accessories

Children do not need to bring any stationery to school – we provide everything they need in their classrooms. However, we do encourage the children to have a school book bag to ensure reading books and homework are protected and transported backwards and forwards safely. These are available to buy from the school office.

School Meals

We have an onsite kitchen so all our meals are cooked freshly each day. A vegetarian option is always available and the kitchen is usually able to cater for special dietary (medical) needs by prior arrangement and notice – please contact the school office so we can help you organise this if necessary.

The menu runs on a 3 week cycle – your child will bring a copy of the menu home but it is also available from the school office. Children select and order their meal choice each day during registration.

All children having a school meal eat in the school hall at round tables. We run Family Dining where children lay their lunch places and share and serve water, bread and salad to accompany their meal. Good manners, politeness and social skills are promoted, taught and modelled daily.

Children bringing a packed lunch eat in the conservatory or under the canopy. Please ensure your child has a healthy and balanced packed lunch – we do monitor these and will contact you if we have any concerns about your child's lunch. Chocolate bars, sweets, junk food and fizzy drinks are not permitted at any time.

Water

All children are provided with a new water bottle at the start of each school year and are encouraged and able to access drinking water throughout the day to prevent dehydration, tiredness and to ensure they are alert and ready for learning.

Fruit Milk Snacks

All children in Nursery, Reception and KS1 receive a free piece of fruit or healthy snack each day. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring in a healthy snack for break time (this should not be crisps, sweets or chocolate.)

The Curriculum and Learning

Our primary curriculum is designed to excite and engage our children, fully prepare them for secondary school and to begin to equip them with life-long skills to make sense of and make the most of the world around them.

Depth before Breadth

We prioritise depth in reading, writing and mathematics and dedicate additional time to them so that our children can master the core skills that underpin the rest of the curriculum. This helps ensure our children can tackle their other subjects and learning with greater confidence.

Reading

We focus on teaching the *Read Write Inc.* phonics and reading programme. This teaches children the combinations of letters that make different sounds in English, how to blend these to make words and how to decode words. Children have daily RWI lessons from Reception into Y2 where they should exit the programme.

From Y2, children have daily reading lessons exposing them to high quality texts in a variety of genres to develop their comprehension skills and understanding of authors' purpose, skills and intent to engage their readers.

Children read regularly for pleasure across the school during our daily SURFing time (Sustained, Uninterrupted Reading for Fun) as well as also reading in groups with their teachers to read and learn more about the topics they are studying.

Writing

Children are taught the craft of writing daily, including specific handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons. We teach our children to become confident authors and carefully balance teaching them to master the skills needed with opportunities to write creatively and for a range of audiences and purposes.

Mathematics

We are committed to developing in our children, a confidence and love of mathematics alongside their ability to understand logical reasoning, problem solving and how to think in abstract ways. Children have daily mathematics lessons using or based on the Mathematics Mastery programme. This builds mastery of the essential knowledge and skills of mathematics using objects and pictures to understand concepts before numbers and symbols. Children are given plenty of opportunities to practice skills and apply them in a variety of meaningful ways that will help them in real life. The programme reflects the curriculum of the world's highest performing countries for mathematics.

In addition to their daily lessons, children also regularly practice and learn their times tables and develop their arithmetic skills through daily maths or arithmetic meetings – shorter bursts of focused content.

Horizons Curriculum

Our afternoons are led by our 'Horizons Curriculum' – all other subjects as well as further English and Mathematics opportunities are linked through cross curricular topics to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is engaging, high in expectations and both skills based and content rich, preparing our children for later life.

Through carefully planned topics, we 'broaden our children's horizons' through teaching the content of the national curriculum through:-

- a skills based approach
- providing exciting experiences and visits
- creativity – children learn to think for themselves and become adaptable, motivated, independent learners
- learning that challenges, stimulates and excites children's curiosity about the world around them
- encouraging our children to use their learning and skills imaginatively within meaningful contexts

Subjects taught through our Horizons Curriculum are Science, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Music and Computing.

We also teach French, PE (including dance and swimming) and RE. Wherever possible, we ensure these also link to the topics being studied but sometimes they are taught in isolation.

To enhance our curriculum and help it really 'come to life,' we take the children on educational visits in the local area and beyond as much as we can and invite visitors and experiential learning opportunities into school. We provide this for free as much as possible or at heavily subsidized costs.

Further and more detailed year group curriculum information is included on the relevant year group inserts for your child which we will include at the back of this prospectus.

Physical Education

Our children have regular PE lessons and active play opportunities are encouraged every day. Children learn athletics, dance, team and individual sports and skills. Children have swimming lessons in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 each year.

We are also proud to champion the Golden Mile – an additional daily 10 minutes of running or walking. Children build their stamina and add to their cumulative distance each day and are celebrated when they have achieved certain distances. This is highly motivational and rewarding for the children, further promotes our commitment to providing and teaching healthy lifestyles and further enhances the children's readiness for learning.

SMSC – Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural learning

Our teaching of SMSC across the whole school curriculum actively promotes the identified British values of respect, tolerance, democracy and freedom. We give our children opportunities to exercise their individual freedom and they are encouraged to make considered decisions for themselves – the choice of challenge they opt for in a mathematics lesson, how they record their topic work, whether they would like to run for School Council or other positions of responsibility or whether they would like to attend any of our extra curricular opportunities. We teach our children about their rights and responsibilities and enable our children to learn about and respect the beliefs of those from a number of different faiths and cultures.

We love being involved in fundraising activities – it helps our children learn and understand that they are part of something bigger and it helps to develop their local, national and global citizenship role and responsibilities.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

This helps give children the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead confident, healthy independent lives and to become informed, responsible citizens. Children learn to articulate their feelings, to identify the causes of their emotions and to develop good coping strategies for certain feelings. They learn to set themselves goals and to make good choices about their health and well-being including how to safely exercise their rights ie through the teaching of e-safety.

Religious Education

We teach our children non-denominational religious education including learning about different world religions that they and/or their class mates may follow through adopting the agreed Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton syllabus 'Living Difference.'

Collective Worship

In our assemblies we explore how our values relate to our school community and the world around us. Assemblies are non-denominational, end with a quiet time of reflection and often include singing together. On days where we do not come together for an assembly, the children have time to reflect and discuss something values based within their own class.

We commemorate the major festivals celebrated by our children and families.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality is vital to ensure your child learns well. Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school regularly. Any absence or lateness for which we have no acceptable reason will be classed as 'unauthorised.'

We will not authorise any leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances (holidays and extended stays to home countries do not fall into this category and are therefore classed as unauthorised.) We rigorously monitor attendance and lateness and Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) will be pursued and issued for unauthorised absence.

The school gates close at 8.45am. Any child arriving after this time must go to the main office to be signed in by a senior member of staff, giving a reason for their lateness. This is carefully monitored. Any arrival at school after the registers close is classed as an unauthorised absence.

We have an Attendance Officer and a Pastoral Team who can offer advice and support for families. We have a Walking Bus as well as initiatives for children and families to help promote and encourage good attendance and hold regular rewards to recognise excellent attendance.

Illness and Medicines

If your child is absent from school you must let the school know before the start of the school day. We have information in school regarding different illnesses so we can advise parents and carers of how long a child should be kept home, if at all.

It is very important that you keep us informed of any medical condition which might affect your child. They may need a specific plan drawn up to help ensure their condition is managed appropriately in school.

We can only administer medicine in school if prescribed by a doctor and if four or more doses are required each day. A consent form must be completed and signed by the parent or carer, this can be obtained from the school office.

If your child needs an inhaler and/or an epi-pen in school, you must ensure they have one in school that is in date.

Safeguarding

The safety of our children comes first. We work in close partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to ensure the safety and welfare of our children at all times. This may mean making referrals to Social Care without parental consent if we have a child protection concern.

All visitors must enter our building through the main entrance and buzzer entry system and report to the school office once the school day has started.

To keep everyone safe we request that bikes and scooters are not ridden on the playground and that dogs are not brought on to the premises. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site. Our play trail is only for the use of our children during the school day when supervised by school staff.

Behaviour

Our school is a safe and caring school where children are happy in each other's company.

Our behaviour policy is based on positive praise and recognition for demonstrating our values and characteristics. We have a system of sanctions to deter unacceptable behaviour and attitudes.

Everyone in our school is expected to follow our policy which helps to ensure everyone knows what is expected of them so we all get along with each other and treat each other with kindness and respect.

Pastoral Care and Support

We have a dedicated Pastoral Team – 'The Caring Crew' who work in 'The Newhaven' room. They are on hand to support the children with social, emotional, mental health, behaviour and well-being needs. They also work very closely with parents and carers and offer various courses and advice for parenting.

They work with children in class as well as running interventions for individuals or small groups to help children with a variety of needs including managing their feelings, developing their social skills, forming friendships or helping them deal with loss and bereavement and worries.

The Caring Crew are on the playground every morning and can also be contacted via the school office.

Inclusion

We aim to be a fully inclusive school and ensure children's individual needs are met be it English as an additional language, gifted and talented, medical or special educational needs. We have an Inclusion Manager who is also the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.) We support every child to access the curriculum and their learning in line with their own needs and development.

Children identified as having special educational needs are supported by a wide range of provision and programmes in addition to great teaching and highly skilled support staff. You can find more detailed information via our School Local Offer which is available on our website. This sets out the support and services we can offer children with special educational needs.

Through careful assessments, interventions and working closely with the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS,) we support children who have English as an additional language so they have full access to the curriculum until they reach the expected levels for their age.

Our Facilities and Environment

Within our grounds we have a treehouse, games tables, role play area, outdoor theatre area, 'Secret Garden,' play trail, outdoor eating canopy area and plenty of space for the children to explore and play in.

We run a free breakfast club each day from 8am and a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs, all of which are free.

We hold Tuition on a Tuesday after school for identified children and offer other exciting learning opportunities for children to take part in over the year such as inter-school competitions and Music Festivals and Galas.

At the top of our school sits our Lighthouse Library with an extensive range of books and magazines, laptops and tablets, as well as 'The Cube' – a multi-sensory room where we can bring learning to life for our children!

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are our most important partners and we aim to know them and our families well.

Parents/carers, children and staff sign our Home School Agreement on joining our school to show we are all committed to ensuring that every child succeeds.

We love to welcome parents and carers into school. We hold many events and opportunities throughout the year to do this so that parents and carers can follow their child's progress and celebrate their achievements regularly.

The Head Teacher runs a regular Parent Forum and there is a weekly coffee morning that all parents and carers are welcome to attend.

We regularly survey parents and carers and gather their views. This helps us know that we are getting it right for our families, ensures parents and carers have a voice and it helps us continue to improve together!