

THE
PRIMARY
FIRST
TRUST



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Parents Guide and Statement

First for Primary Education

In Partnership with



UNIVERSITY
of
GREENWICH



UNIVERSITY OF
DERBY



Dear Parents/Carers,

Steve Pollard and Nabil Mugharbel, your Co-Chairs of Governors, have written to you announcing the school's intention to join The Primary First Trust as an academy in 2025.

Today, as the formal consultation process begins, I am writing to you to introduce our Trust in a little more detail to give you a flavour of what it means to join The Primary First Trust community. Further information can also be found on our website, www.theprimaryfirsttrust.co.uk

We are a highly successful primary-only Multi-Academy Trust, founded in 2013. We fundamentally recognise and respect Parkwood Primary School's unique ethos and identity and our aim is to harness all the skills and expertise at our disposal to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of the whole community.

The Trust has grown in recent years and I am proud to say that all our schools are now graded Good, or Outstanding by Ofsted.

Being part of our Trust will have many benefits for your school and your family. Our Head Teachers have the freedom to create a compelling vision for their school and to drive it forward. They work closely with our other Heads in the Trust, as well as the Executive Team to ensure that best practice is shared, our schools are safe and secure, and that we squeeze every ounce of value from each pound that we spend. I want to assure you that, at both school and Trust level, your child's happiness, progress and well-being are at the forefront of everything we do.

Ultimately, what drives us as a Trust, is that we believe in the truly transformative power of education itself - one of the most powerful forces for good on earth. Only education creates genuine opportunities, opens up exciting possibilities and offers real choices in life. Great primary education gives children the keys to unlock all this, so that they are able to realise their full potential and shape their future on their own terms.

Together, let's help them to do so!



Lorna Hamilton

Chief Executive Officer, The Primary First Trust



WHO WE ARE

The PFT is a Multi-Academy Trust that truly celebrates and nurtures the diversity and distinctiveness of its partner schools. Founded in 2013, we are a growing network of 10 individual primaries across Bexley, Gravesham and Medway.

OUR VISION

Our vision is simple – to be **First for Primary Education**. And that means:

- First Class** - for outcomes and overall pupil experience
- First Choice** - for parents choosing a school and for staff developing their careers
- First Voice** - as thought-leaders, pushing boundaries and raising standards

HOW WE WORK

Our values drive us forward, centre us as a team and underpin all that we do. Above all, as an organisation we strive for:

- Adventure** - to be bold, courageous risk-takers
- Creativity** - to embrace ideas, demand clear-thinking and inspire innovation
- Excellence** - to set high standards, champion ambition and reward dedication

These values are at the heart of every decision we make.

WHAT WE DO

We work directly with schools to implement our collaborative framework, offering dedicated guidance to ensure children are happy, confident and capable. A strong Central Team provides the backbone to the Trust, allowing our schools to

draw upon real expertise in Education, Finance, HR, Estates Management, Compliance, Marketing, Governance and General administration. The benefits are manifold: sharing best practice, economies of scale, commercial acumen, statutory and regulatory compliance, people planning and robust accountability - all add so much to overall school performance. Crucially, they also create much needed 'headspace' for our School Leaders, so that they can focus much more effectively on teaching, learning and pastoral care. Our schools work together to get stronger together.

OUR LEADERSHIP

We are a Schools Group - so much more than the sum of our parts - adding real, tangible value across the portfolio, allowing our schools to grow stronger than they ever could in loose affiliation. The result is a collaborative leadership model that eschews 'one size fits all' in favour of distinct voices, open minds and shared learning. At the heart of our education leadership is the School Development Group chaired by our CEO and led by our Education Director. Headteachers from each school complete the group and together they create, develop and deliver the Trust's Education Strategy, known as The PFT Education.

THE PFT EDUCATION

We work within the core concepts below, to provide a clear framework that unites us. In curriculum design, our schools consider:

- Knowledge** - know the world
- Personal Development** - know yourself
- Connectivity** - Know how it all fits together

In doing so, our schools nurture happy, confident and capable young people ready to play their full part in the wider world.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

At Primary First, we talk of School Development, rather than the more familiar School Improvement, because we believe that all schools can develop regardless of where they are on their own particular journey - even 'Outstanding' ones. We look at the whole school to develop the whole child. And this demands more than a narrow focus on academic outcomes - that's a given. It embraces curricular and extra-curricular development, optimisation of the learning environment, the innovative use of IT, outdoor-learning and wellbeing. Part and parcel of this, of course, is a relentless focus on teaching and learning and a deep commitment to the career and professional development of our staff.

OUR CULTURE

We believe in the power of culture to drive performance. We don't have layers of management and endless committees. Decision-making is brisk and based on the practical application of our core values - Adventure, Creativity and Excellence. We survey our staff, parents and pupils regularly to identify quick wins and address longer term priorities. We favour Career Development over Performance Management and pride ourselves on 'growing our own' developing strong career pathways at all levels of the organisation.

OUR SCHOOLS



Barnehurst Infant and Junior Schools were the first to join The Primary First Trust at its beginning in 2013. Both schools were re-graded Outstanding by Ofsted in 2023 and have a long history of improving the life chances of children.

Their curriculum is underpinned by education for global citizenship. Leaders believe that the curriculum must equip their children with the knowledge, skills and values they need to embrace opportunities and challenges; must connect with their children so that they know where they fit in the world and how they can contribute back; must promote thinking and provide opportunities for children have an emotional link with their learning.

"At Barnehurst, we strive to unlock the potential of every child. We deliver an inspiring and challenging curriculum providing children with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge to succeed. At Barnehurst, we know that together everyone achieves more."



Lessness Heath Primary School joined the Trust in 2015 when it was graded Inadequate by Ofsted. Since then the school has gone from strength to strength, gaining a Good (with Outstanding In Early years) Ofsted grading in December 2017 and again in 2023.

Their curriculum aims to equip children with the skills and powerful knowledge they need to be part of the wider global conversation. The objective is to nurture and develop resilience, confidence and aspiration through a relevant and purposeful curriculum that puts wellbeing at its heart, with children inspired to be critical thinkers and natural enquirers who question and challenge the world around them.

Lessness Heath was the first school nationally to receive the National Wellbeing Award for Schools and is extremely proud to be an Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship school.

"At Lessness Heath we strive to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where pupils are given every opportunity to develop both academically and personally, achieving their full potential and finding their own way to shine."



Mayplace Primary School joined the Primary First Trust in September 2014, with an Ofsted Grading of Requires Improvement. Having made rapid improvement, it gained an Ofsted grading of Good (with Outstanding for EYFS) in June 2017 and in 2023.

The curriculum has learning outside the curriculum threaded throughout and leaders have reviewed the timetable in order to provide sustained and meaningful opportunities for children to experience science and the wider curriculum.

Mayplace has a specialist provision for children with Autism and a local reputation for excellence in inclusion.

"At Mayplace we believe that teaching and learning should be bespoke..., the curriculum we deliver, prepares our children for their next steps in life by supporting them in being enthusiastic learners who understand the importance of collaboration, problem solving, risk taking and resilience."



Opened in September 2020, **Springhead Park Primary School** was graded Good by Ofsted in May 2023. The school, built to serve the community of Northfleet has a state of the art building offering opportunities for the best sporting, music, computing, performing arts and outdoor learning experiences possible.

With children already in Nursery through to Year 6 the school has established itself firmly in the local community ensuring that, through an experiential and meaningful curriculum, children will achieve excellent academic standards.

"At Springhead Park we believe that to succeed in school and beyond, children should love to learn, be inspired to reach their full potential and feel empowered to make a positive impact on the world around them- whether upon their local community or the further afield."



The Academy of Cuxton Schools joined the Primary First Trust in September 2014. Both schools are graded as good by Ofsted.

Staff have devised a curriculum that develops skills relevant to 21st Century living, builds knowledge and provides rich, memorable experiences. Through this curriculum, children will become aware of their individual and collective responsibility and contribute positively to our school community, local community and society at large.

"At Cuxton we embed 'foundations for life', focusing on key skills and knowledge which will support children in being ready for the next stage in their education. We work hard to develop individual potential through academic and personal achievement, and to raise self-esteem and confidence."



Wainscott Primary School joined the Trust in September 2019 following an Inadequate judgement from Ofsted. The school has gone from strength to strength since that time, recently achieving IQM Inclusive School Flagship Status and graded 'Good' by Ofsted during their inspection in March 2024. Wainscott's curriculum is enriched through meaningful trips, theme days and visitors. It is often delivered through short whole school topics, reinforced through high expectations for themed learning environments, books and public exhibitions

"Our vision is to be the school of choice for our community where every member strives to be the very best they can through a fearless approach to learning and development; a school recognised for its outstanding outcomes, high quality teaching, innovative, creative practices and rich, engaging curriculum."

Wayfield Primary School joined the Primary First Trust in



September 2016, with an Ofsted Grading of Inadequate. Having made rapid improvement, it gained an Ofsted grading of Good (with Outstanding for behaviour and EYFS) in May 2019.

At Wayfield, leaders aim to offer an irresistible curriculum, built around experiential learning opportunities, based on the 21st Century skills of communication, collaboration and critical thinking, aiming to provide the children with opportunities that will develop resilience, independence and innovation, having the highest aspirations for themselves.

In October 2019 Wayfield was first recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for its outstanding transformation and integration of Apple technology. In 2022 the school was re-awarded this accreditation for a further three years.

"At Wayfield we inspire our children and staff to be 'Proud to Achieve.' Wayfield is an incredible school and we believe we are all capable of so many amazing things. We believe that our children get the best deal and we inspire greatness from all."



Westcourt Primary School joined the Primary First Trust in 2017 with an Ofsted grading of Good. This grading was reinforced when Ofsted visited again at the end of 2019.

The curriculum aims to provide inspirational experiences and opportunities creating aspirational learners who have the skills and motivation to fulfil their emotional, personal and academic potential - leading to happy, confident citizens. It is planned to ensure that all children receive a wide range of educational experiences with real life experiences built in. High achievement of all pupils is at the heart of the curriculum whatever their starting point.

"Westcourt is a community school in which all children are valued and differences are celebrated. We have a dedicated staff team, committed to developing the knowledge, skills and understanding which will enable our children to enjoy learning, achieve success and become a contented and fulfilled young person of the 21st Century."

To learn more about The PFT.



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First for Primary Education

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