

A new primary school, at the heart of our community



AN **ark** SCHOOL



ARK Atwood Primary Academy

A new primary school for north Westminster

ARK Schools

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

Our principles:

- **High aspirations** for every pupil
- **High achievement, high motivation, no excuses**
- **Talented and committed** teachers and staff
- **Perseverance** – we'll do whatever it takes to help our pupils succeed

Welcome

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you for reading our prospectus.

ARK Atwood Primary Academy will admit its first two reception classes (60 pupils) in September 2011. It will be a mixed, non-denominational, two form entry primary school for local children here in north Westminster. It will offer a great education in a friendly neighbourhood school with the highest possible aspirations for its pupils. We are working with Westminster City Council to identify a suitable site for the school and we will confirm the exact location as soon as possible.

Atwood will be 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. Just two years after it opened, King Solomon was rated outstanding by Ofsted.

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

Daniel Upfield
Headteacher designate
ARK Atwood Primary Academy

Sophy Blakeway
Director of Primary
ARK Schools





ARK Atwood Primary Academy

Our aims

We hope 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 will have the highest academic aspirations and a caring and family oriented culture. We are committed to making sure we know each of our pupils well and 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 Atwood Primary Academy to fulfil his or her potential. We will do everything possible to ensure that every pupil achieves year level expectations, every year. We won't accept excuses and we won'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 will teach pupils to be responsible for their actions and aware of their effect on others.

Behaviour

We will 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 will involve ARK Atwood Primary Academy parents in their children's learning and encourage them to be active members of the school community. We are happy for you to visit classes or come to our regular open assemblies.

Parents and teachers will each sign a home-school agreement, demonstrating our shared commitment to putting in the effort to ensure that every child succeeds. We will keep families in touch through face to face meetings, newsletters, reports and our website.





From high aspirations to high achievement

Small schools

ARK Atwood Primary Academy will admit 60 reception pupils in two forms each year. In our first year, 2011/12, we will have just 60 reception pupils. We will add 60 each year until in 2017 the school reaches its full complement of 420 from reception to year 6.

We believe you can only teach to a high standard if each teacher knows their pupils well. To maintain the feeling of a small school the academy will be managed as an infant school and a junior school. Keeping the school small will help us to create a strong school community where no pupil is left behind.

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.

A longer school day

To achieve our goals, we need to extend learning time. Our pupils benefit from a longer school day, giving them the opportunity to take part in additional learning activities, including musical instrument lessons, art and sports. To provide this extra time for learning the primary school day will run from 8.30am–4.00pm.

Assessment

We undertake regular assessments to support learning. These inform how we plan learning, enable teachers to provide appropriate challenges for pupils who are exceeding expectations and to identify needs and provide support for those facing difficulties. Pupils will understand how they are doing and be 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 will be taught to read, write and work with numbers fluently and confidently. Where pupils need extra support it will be provided, to ensure that every child reaches and exceeds nationally expected standards.

A focus on mathematics and the performing arts

ARK academies have a special focus on mathematics and we invest to attract and train the best teachers. Atwood Primary will teach a distinctive, world-leading maths curriculum. 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”.

Performing arts are at the core of the ARK Atwood Primary Academy community. They are key to our learning and how we have fun. Collective participation in the performing arts builds a sense of community and develops skills in self-expression and performance. Our performing arts programme enables pupils to gain the knowledge and skills to enjoy and develop their interests.

The primary programme focuses on dance, drama, singing and on instruments which are taught and played in groups. Our aim is for every pupil to play an instrument and sing confidently. Our young musicians will be encouraged to sit formal music examinations.

Enriched curriculum

Our longer day provides time for a rich curriculum, stimulating new interests and enhancing children’s learning experiences. We will 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 will 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 will provide a rich, age-appropriate learning experience across the curriculum.

We will give every child a firm foundation:

- **English** – focusing on speaking and listening, reading and writing using synthetic phonics and other reading strategies.
- **Mathematics** – our world-leading mathematics programme uses practical and written activities that help children develop their numerical and problem-solving abilities.

Across the primary curriculum we aim for our pupils to exceed national expectations for achievement.



Every child will succeed

ARK Atwood Primary Academy will be 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 Atwood Primary Academy.

We will 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 will 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 will follow 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 to cater for each pupil's unique situation. Support may be given in class, in a small group or through withdrawal classes, delivered by a skilled team of teachers and learning support assistants.

English as an additional language (EAL)

Pupils for whom English is an additional language will 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 will have full access to the learning opportunities.

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 will ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful identification and assessment will enable us to provide suitable challenge and differentiation to extend the learning of all our pupils.





What happens next?

- We are working with Westminster City Council to identify a suitable site for the school and we will confirm the exact location as soon as possible
- We will invite parents and the local community to meet us and hear more about the proposals before the end of the year, when the detailed design work has progressed further.
- Applications for September 2011 admissions through the Westminster City Council admissions process close on 15 January 2011.
- Throughout the spring, our new headteacher, Mr Upfield, will be completing the opening preparations, from completing the staff team to detailed curriculum planning for the first pupils.
- ARK Atwood Primary Academy will open its reception classes in high quality temporary accommodation while the permanent school is developed.



Admissions

ARK Atwood Primary Academy will be a non-denominational, non-selective school for local children. If the academy is oversubscribed, priority is given to pupils 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 (from 2012) 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, by straight line distance from the main entrance of the academy to the main entrance to the child’s home.

The 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 must be made on the Common Application Form which can be obtained from the Westminster City Council Primary School Reception Class admissions team. You can contact the team in any of these ways:

- telephone 020 7641 1817
- write to School Admissions Team, 1st Floor, 215 Lisson Grove, London NW8 8LF
- download a form at <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/educationandlearning/>

If your child is due to start in the reception class in September 2011 your application must be received by the council admissions team by 15 January 2011.

Open days

We will be holding a series of information sessions before the end of the year for parents to come and visit the school, meet the Headteacher Designate and Director of Primary, and find out more. For further details and to keep in touch as the project develops, please contact us as detailed overleaf.



Contact us

If you would like to talk with us about
ARK Atwood Primary Academy
or request a visit, please call
Sophy Blakeway,
Director of Primary,
ARK Schools,
on **020 3116 0800**
or email
info@arkatwoodprimary.org

Visit our website:
www.arkatwoodprimary.org

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