

Ofsted March 2017:
'A Good school.'

Kestrel Mead Primary Academy

Be The Best You Can Be



KESTREL MEAD
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Welcome to Kestrel Mead Primary Academy

Foreword: Zoe Simpson, Principal, says...

It's my honour to welcome you to our fantastic primary school.

Community values

At Kestrel Mead we celebrate and demonstrate our core values of respect, curiosity, resilience and compassion in all we do. Our school motto 'be the best you can be' runs through all parts of school life.

On their first and last days at Kestrel Mead, children have a photograph in front of our school wings; each feather represents a different character trait we strive to develop in all the children who are part of our school community.

Learning for future success

Learning at Kestrel Mead is celebrated. We look to find every child's unique talents, abilities and strengths and build upon them. We are also on a journey to become a beacon school for links with local businesses to raise aspirations and ensure children are confident future citizens.

Dedicated staff

Our staff really make our school special. They are a group of dedicated professionals, with varied expertise and a wide range of skills. They strive to 'be the best they can be'. We all embrace professional reading and the continued development of our skills - passing the benefits of this onto the children.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, encouraging our children to continue their education outside of school and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

Pastoral care

Raising children's achievement in reading, writing and maths should be a given in all schools. Beyond academics, we are also proud to have developed a wider curriculum and have a growing emphasis on children's health and wellbeing. Our pastoral care is second to none; provided by a team of experienced family support workers.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! We champion the link between school and home and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here.

Get in touch

Our prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our school's culture and ethos, but this is just a start. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school so you can experience for yourself what makes it so special. Please call the school office on 0116 246 1732 for more information or to arrange a visit.

Mead Educational Trust

Kestrel Mead is part of the Mead Educational Trust, an energetic and dynamic family of primary and secondary schools in and near Leicester.

Within our family of schools, our staff work closely together to make a positive difference to the lives of our children and to our wider communities. We want all our pupils to grow up to be knowledgeable, conscious, compassionate and happy members of their communities and to make a positive difference wherever life takes them. Read more about the Mead Educational Trust at tmet.org.uk.



School day: settling in

School hours

Infant site: 8.20am - 3.00pm
Junior site: 8.35am - 3.20pm

Wraparound clubs

Breakfast club

Infants: 7.20am - 8.20am
Juniors: 7.30am - 8.30am
Final drop off: 8:00am for each site
Available for children from Reception- Year 6, £2.50 per child, per day, payable every half term. A full week commitment is required.

After-school club

Infants: 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Juniors: 3.20pm - 4.15pm
For children from Reception- Year 6, £4 per child, per day if only staying for the club.
Additional wraparound care is available until 5.30pm for all children from Reception- Year 6 and includes a light tea for an extra £6 per child.

Uniform

A school uniform gives children a sense of belonging and of taking pride in their appearance. Our uniform consists of grey trousers, shorts or pinafore, a white shirt or polo shirt and a red sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece with the school logo. Girls may wear a red gingham dress in summer. On PE days our uniform is black tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts; a plain white t-shirt and a red hoodie.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot, nutritious school dinner cooked on the premises or bringing a healthy packed lunch into school. We are a nut-free school due to several serious nut allergies. School meals cost £2 per day, paid in advance through our school money app.

Free school meals

Every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a free school meal every day as per the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. If you are in receipt of certain benefits you could be eligible for free school meals for your child's whole time at Kestrel Mead. Details of how to apply are available from the office.

Break-time and drinks

Children in Reception, and Years 1-2 receive a fruit for free every day as a snack at morning break, through the Government's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Juniors can bring in fruit from home for break time if they wish. We encourage children to drink water throughout the day.

Milk

All children under five are entitled to a free milk each day at break time. If you wish for your child to receive milk beyond their fifth birthday, contact the school office.

Inspiring and creative curriculum: foundations for success

High expectations

High expectations and ambitious learning are evident in our school; every child is encouraged to go as far as they can. This looks different for everybody, and that is exactly as it should be. We know that children learn in many different ways and aim to accommodate this in every subject area. We encourage risk-taking: embracing our mistakes and learning from them. Children in our infant building experience a continuous provision approach in their learning. Offering an opportunity for each individual to develop their learning through play in our enriched classroom environments.

Caring for our world

At Kestrel Mead, we have a conscientious team of Eco-leaders, who promote walking to school and being more aware of our role in protecting the world. Within this, our children help to save energy and reduce, reuse and recycle. In addition to this group, our sticky curriculum poses thought provoking questions, such as ‘Is Climate Change Such Big News?’ and ‘Why should we save the rainforests?’ within which, we teach both knowledge and create a moral understanding.

Mental health and wellbeing

Understanding our own mental health and well-being is important. Children are taught how to do this through platforms such as Learnful with Jo; Votes for School and our PSHE curriculum- Jigsaw. It’s important to promote a mentally healthy environment through compassionate, respectful and positive attitudes. We are an accredited Routes to Resilience school to allow us to foster character traits such as confidence, self-control, empathy and knowledge.

English

We take pride in ensuring all of our children are given the opportunity to become avid readers and writers: with a love for literature and a curiosity to explore a wide range of texts. Our English curriculum is book led throughout our school, providing high quality and exciting opportunities to write for different purposes. Our chosen texts reflect our community and provide strong male and female characters, epitomising what we want a child at Kestrel Mead to be. Early reading is an integral part of our English offer and creates secure foundations for our children moving through the school. This includes high quality daily phonics and reading sessions.

Maths

We believe that all children can be successful in mathematics and therefore employ a ‘no ceilings approach’ to learning, which is underpinned by interleaved learning. We use a range of manipulatives in maths, which not only support the initial learning of concepts, but are also used to challenge learners. At Kestrel Mead, maths is applied practically where possible to ensure children understand its importance and role within the world. This allows us to create a deeper understanding in maths to create links between concepts.

Sticky Curriculum

Our curriculum is underpinned by interleaved learning, where we develop five key concepts over their time at Kestrel Mead, which are: British Values, Citizenship, UN Global Goals, Developing Character and Critical Thinking. These allow us to create a deep understanding of these concepts in a variety of contexts. Geography, history, art and design and technology are taught around a big question, which combines the national curriculum knowledge with the moral issues surrounding the learning. Our aim is to inspire through awe, wonder and reciprocity, through trips, community events and working with charities.



Enriched curriculum: trips and visitors, P.E and clubs

Trips

At Kestrel Mead we value the enrichment opportunities that trips and visits can provide. Trips are planned through our curriculum to enhance understanding of the world, key skills and new life experiences. Our trips include:

- Theatres.
- Live sporting events.
- Visits to religious sites and places of worship.
- Historical landmarks.

Residential visits

In Year 6, the children have an opportunity to go on one residential experience for two nights at an Adventure Centre. During this trip, they have the opportunity to take risks and develop resilience completing activities like canoeing and climbing. They also learn valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication and responsibility.

Enrichment activities and visitors

Every year, each year group has three enrichment days. During these days we dedicate time to art and design. ensuring full coverage of the curriculum and allowing the children the chance to focus entirely on bringing a project to completion.

As well as enriching experiences in and out of school, we welcome many visitors into our school throughout the year to provide exciting, dynamic learning experiences for the children. These include visits from the emergency services and other outside agencies that are relevant to specific topics.

P.E.

We follow the National Curriculum for PE with each child encouraged to participate in at least two hours of physical activity each week. In Key Stage 2 children will also receive swimming lessons at a local swimming pool- this important life skill, is also part of the National Curriculum for PE.

Sports clubs and coaching

Sport has a high profile here and we have many sports clubs and a dedicated, professional sports coach on the team. Our children take pride in participating in many competitive fixtures throughout the year.

A confident voice

Music, oracy and singing are an important part of our school life. They help to build confidence and vocal skills, as well as contribute to the development of language and literacy. We spend a term focussing on a range of these skills through Friday Flair groups, allowing children to foster and develop talents and interests that build character and confidence. Each year, a year group learn how to play the djembe drums with a specialist music teacher.

Clubs

We use an external provider for our wrap-around care, which offers a wide variety of clubs and activities across the week. The clubs are available for children from Reception to Year 6.



Inclusion: *a curriculum for all*

Equality of opportunity

Every child is unique, and all the children at Kestrel Mead have their own strengths, talents, needs and challenges. We believe in equal opportunities for all, and that everyone in our school community deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and consideration.

Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND)

Kestrel Mead Primary Academy is proud to be an inclusive school, valuing the individuality of all children. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations of all our children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter and are celebrated.

We aspire for every child, from every starting point to fulfil their potential and have talents recognised. Physical, mental and learning needs are met, and social development barriers are reduced. Agencies work effectively with school to remove barriers and allow pupils to have a voice and ownership of their own independent learning journey. All staff are accountable and empowered to meet the needs of all children. Difference is celebrated and individuality is encouraged.

Interventions and targeted support

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all children in their class. Where necessary, we differentiate lessons and provide reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of each individual child. Interventions are planned as follows:

- Specific to the child's needs and linked to the child's pupil passports
- Are planned and amended after assessment weeks to provide accelerated progress
- Are assessed at entry and exit points to ensure accuracy

Stretch and Challenge

All elements of our curriculum provide stretch and challenge for our children. This can be seen on Mr Stretch tables in EYFS and KS1; in KS2 Mr Stretch challenges are seen in children's books. Mr Stretch gives children opportunities to explore their learning in more depth, developing understanding and critical thinking. Friday Flair on a Friday afternoon celebrates a wide range of talents; providing opportunities for sports activities, performance and creative expression.

Being part of the Kestrel community

Getting involved

Academy council

Our Academy Council is made up of volunteers, known as academy councillors, who commit their time to work alongside the senior leadership team to direct and raise school standards. They bring a diversity of experience to the school and help ensure we are running the school to the best of our ability. We will notify you of any parent academy councillor vacancies as they become available.

Admissions arrangements

Applying to start school for the first time

Kestrel Mead Primary Academy is its own admissions authority and sets the criteria for admission. We have a planned intake of 120 children each year. We have elected to remain part of the Leicester City admissions process, and therefore all applicants should apply for a place at Kestrel Mead through the regular admissions process at Leicester City Council.

In-Year Admissions

If you wish your child to move to Kestrel Mead outside of the normal admissions process, your application should be made directly to Leicester City Council. If there is a space available, your child will be offered it.

POCKET

Our Values, Ethos and Vision

Our vision

In partnership with our community and Mead Educational Trust, we develop happy, healthy, respectful and resilient children who are knowledgeable, aspirational and compassionate citizens with a thirst for learning and a curiosity to explore.

Our motto

'Be the best you can be.'

Our values

- Resilience
- Respect
- Compassion
- Curiosity

We teach and develop many other characteristics and behaviours that will create pupils who are ready to face the opportunities and challenges of the next stage of their lives. We promote healthy, active lifestyles and develop independence skills for life.



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