



# LABURNUM

PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

CHALLENGE • ACHIEVE • RESPECT • EFFORT • SAFE



# WELCOME FROM THE HEAD TEACHER



Welcome to Laburnum Primary School, and thank you for taking the time to read our brochure.

Laburnum Primary School is a lovely, one-form entry primary school at the heart of the local community. We have a friendly and professional team of colleagues, and wonderful pupils.

We work hard to ensure children develop a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that they can build on throughout their education. We place a strong emphasis on securing the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy, and focus on developing an understanding of science, history, geography, music and the arts in the wider curriculum. We believe this knowledge is fascinating, beautiful and worthy in its own right, and use the knowledge itself to foster curiosity and creativity in our pupils.

We challenge all learners to achieve as individuals across a broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all we do. Our children are nurtured to show respect for themselves, others and the wider community by developing positive relationships built on our school values.

We place great emphasis on modelling and recognising positive values and building strong relationships of mutual trust and respect between staff, pupils, and parents. We support our staff to do their best work with high quality professional development focused on the academic and social needs of our children.

As a school, we are about to join Advantage Schools - a school trust that stands for the very best in comprehensive education. Advantage Schools, despite being a small trust, employs some of the best people working in education and has been involved in the development of lots of national initiatives and policies. Locally, they established the Bedford Primary Curriculum Hub, deliver the new National Professional Qualifications and the Early Career Framework, and offer significant bespoke training via the Advantage Schools Knowledge Exchange. The trust also runs a Behaviour Hub and an Attendance Hub. All of this will benefit our teachers, both in terms of professional development and long-term career opportunities.

I recommend reading the latest updates from our school on our website:  
<https://www.laburnumprimary.co.uk/>

I also welcome visitors to the school – please get in touch if you would like to come and see us at work!

Very best wishes,

**Ben Bardell**

**Head Teacher, Laburnum Primary School**



# ABOUT ADVANTAGE SCHOOLS

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***We believe that, given the right circumstances, all children are capable of extraordinary things.***

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We are a growing trust that prioritises providing a transformational education for the children and young people in our care. We seek to recruit great people with the knowledge and skills to support us in achieving this aim.

Our values are aspiration, honesty and respect, and we are creating a family of exceptional schools, within which pupils are empowered and supported to achieve extraordinary outcomes. Our pupils will leave our schools prepared for a fulfilling life, including the opportunity to go to a great university and pursue the career of their choice.

We achieve our goals through the recruitment and retention the best teachers and support staff, developing talent through sector-leading professional learning. We foster collaborative work, both across our trust and our extensive network of professional contacts, in order to ensure our staff are able to learn from and contribute significantly to the wider educational system.

We believe great staff make a great school, so we look after our colleagues well. We value hard work, but we do all we can to identify and eliminate unnecessary workload that could result in burnout. In return, we ask that our staff share our three key expectations:

#### **Commit to very high expectations of our pupils**

We believe *all* our pupils are entitled to a broad, balanced academic curriculum. We don't make assumptions, excuses, or lower the bar.

#### **Leaders who take responsibility**

Our leaders ensure that learning is desirable, demanded and achievable in our schools. Behaviour in our schools is managed by systems that everyone follows and leaders prioritise. Leaders are highly visible and look after their staff.

#### **Employ people that do their job, and do it well**

We value colleagues highly but we do not tolerate underperformance. We have professional candour and we support our colleagues to get better.

We are a small school trust committed to operating in the locality of Bedfordshire. We enjoy warm, supportive relationships between schools – with a healthy competitive edge. There are currently four other schools in our trust: two primary schools – Elstow School and Queen's Park Academy – and two secondary schools - Bedford Free School and Houstone School. Our schools and trust have an excellent reputation nationally – every year, we welcome hundreds of school leaders and others who come to us to learn about our work. Our schools are popular with families and are heavily over-subscribed.

For more information about our trust, see our website: [www.advantageschools.co.uk](http://www.advantageschools.co.uk)

# ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

*Working at the forefront of curriculum  
development.*



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### Our approach to education

At Laburnum Primary, our mission is to maximise the life chances of the young people in our care and our purpose is to educate our pupils, ensuring they are well prepared for their future. We conduct ourselves with integrity and candour, taking great pride in our school community and holding firm to the belief that everyone can achieve.

We will ensure the children in our school develop a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that they can build on throughout their education. We will place a strong emphasis on securing the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy, and will focus on developing an understanding of science, history, geography, music and the arts, all supported by a strong enrichment offer that is inclusive to all. We believe knowledge is fascinating, beautiful and worthy in its own right, and can be used to foster curiosity and creativity in our pupils. We emphasise the importance of kindness, civility, and inclusivity in a text-rich, teacher-led learning environment.

We know our pupils are novices in much of their learning, and that novices learn best through explicit and direct instruction rather than inquiry based or discovery learning. In our experience, this promotes the motivation of success, and enables high levels of pupil interest, inclusivity, participation and thought.

Our teachers break down learning, planning backwards from clearly defined curricular goals. We value formative assessment and responsive teaching, whereby we actively diagnose and act to address gaps, errors or misconceptions in pupils learning in a timely manner. We ensure learning is revisited regularly to help pupils remember. We know that doing this well requires strong subject knowledge, not just of the current unit but of the coherent picture of the wider curriculum in each subject area, so we ensure we have detailed curriculum plans and resourcing in place and invest time in subject specific professional learning.

We believe in supporting pupils to successfully achieve high standards of conduct, resulting in very high expectations, and a calm and consistent learning environment where pupils feel safe, valued and can thrive. We think this makes for a warm and happy school, but moreover enables us to give pupils the foundations they need to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Therefore, these are the aspects of our school we will prioritise enacting well, and focus on through professional development.

Our staff will work together to ensure we deliver on our promise to local families – that high expectations, superb behaviour and great teaching will be hallmarks of our school. You will benefit from our strong systems, processes and standards which will enable you to focus on the job you love – teaching.

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*"I am particularly grateful for the support and teamwork in our school."*

Teacher, Laburnum Primary School

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## Aspiration and professional development

We are ambitious for our school. Our aim is that pupils will break through any barriers and achieve their full potential, and we will do all we can to ensure our pupils are fully prepared for success in the next stage of their education.

We know that the quality of our staff is key to achieving our goals, so we have access to some of the best professional learning in the country, both through the [Advantage Schools Knowledge Exchange](#) and partnerships with organisations such as Ambition Institute. Our trust acts as a local delivery partner for the Early Career Framework and National Professional Qualifications, runs a Behaviour Hub and Attendance Hub, and offers school improvement services to other schools across the country. As a result, Advantage Schools attracts, retain and promote some of the best staff in the country, so you would find yourself working with a strong team of thoughtful and expert teachers and school leaders, whilst also benefitting from the full support of the central Advantage Schools Trust team.

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*“I have always felt supported and part of the team. I particularly enjoy the professional development opportunities available for all staff across the trust.*

ECT, Advantage Schools

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Informal and exploratory conversations are welcomed, and we strongly recommend visiting our school to see it in action if you can! Please contact the school on 01767 680 691 or email [office@laburnumprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@laburnumprimary.co.uk) to arrange.

If you are interested in working with us, you can see our latest vacancies and join our talent pool here:

<https://mynewterm.com/school/Laburnum-Primary-School/109477>

