



The Ferrars Academy



We Learn and Grow Together at
The Ferrars Academy

A Warm Welcome to The Ferrars Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your interest in The Ferrars Academy.

On behalf of our school community, I would like to welcome you to our very happy and friendly school. Our prospectus is designed to give you a flavour of life at the Academy. Choosing your child's school is a very difficult decision, we would like to extend a warm welcome and invite you to visit us in person as this is the best way to find out about our school. Alternatively visit our website at your leisure.

Starting school or nursery is often a young child's first steps away from the family environment and we are very aware of the responsibility of our task. At Ferrars we are very fortunate to have a dedicated and talented team of staff and governors who are all committed to providing your child with rich learning experiences. We have modern facilities which enhance the opportunities we offer the children and we also provide a wide range of enrichment activities. Being a school that solely caters for children in their early years of education, we feel that we are particularly able to focus on the specific needs of these vitally important years.

At The Ferrars Academy, we aim to do the very best for your child. We work hard to provide the environment, help, resources, discipline and opportunities that will enable your child to fulfil both your hopes and their potential. We believe that a child's success in education comes from a partnership between home and school and we look forward to working with you in a spirit of respect and co-operation throughout your child's time here.

Miss Sarah Green - Principal



Aims of Our School

We aim to:

- provide an environment where children are valued as individuals for we believe that children learn most when they feel secure;
- encourage children to develop pride, independence and confidence in themselves and their work;
- help children develop self-discipline and respect for each other and the environment around them;
- promote an atmosphere where children can develop their own abilities but also appreciate that co-operation and tolerance are essential for good working relationships;
- create an atmosphere which encourages sharing and caring; promotes good citizenship and community values;
- encourage a healthy lifestyle by promoting healthy living, good diet, exercise and emotional well being;
- develop a growth mindset in all pupils.



Philosophy and Aims

At The Ferrars Academy, we wish to encourage and foster the development of each child intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally within a caring and secure atmosphere. We endeavour to ensure that our school is a caring community and our children are sensitive to the needs of others; a community in which all members have a sense of fairness and justice and that the contribution of each member is valued.

This, we believe will lead to a high standard of behaviour and the promotion of good manners and courtesy not only during the time children spend at the Academy but throughout their life ahead.



Independent Learners

Friendship

Determination

Courage

Co-operation

Respect

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School Uniform

We expect our children to wear the following uniform: (you can purchase these from many local supermarkets)

Boys

Grey trousers
White polo shirt
Bottle green sweatshirt
Black school shoes

Girls

Grey skirt / trousers
White polo shirt
Bottle green sweatshirt / cardigan
Yellow / white or green / white checked dress (summer only)
Black school shoes

Bottle green school book bag

PE KIT

All children should have green shorts, green tracksuit bottoms, yellow t-shirt, trainers or plimsolls. Please note, jewellery / earrings are not permitted to be worn.

Admissions

If you are considering sending your child to The Ferrars Academy we encourage you to visit the school to see how happy and vibrant it is. If you would like an opportunity to visit us, please telephone or email the school to arrange a visit. Alternatively feel free to make a visit on one of our 'Open Days'.

If your child is of nursery age you can apply direct to the school. If your child is of school age and you make the decision to apply for a place here at The Ferrars Academy, you will need to apply to the Local Authority Admissions Team. They will then work with us to secure your child a place as soon as possible. We are a very popular school which has limited availability for mid-year admissions. Waiting lists are managed by the Local Authority Admissions Team.

The school day

The school day begins at 8:45am

The school day in Reception ends at 3:10pm

The school day for Key Stage 1 ends at 3:15pm

Staff are always available to see you briefly at the end of the day to deal with queries.

About our Academy

The Ferrars Academy is a vibrant and inclusive setting situated within the Lewsey Park community. At Ferrars we work together to offer a safe and nurturing environment, in which all children can 'learn and grow together'.

Our creative and engaging approach to teaching ensures that all children are keen to participate in the school day! Facilities such as our modern ICT Suite, Design and Technology room and pond area also help to guarantee that lessons are varied and stimulating.

Within our school we promote a culture of mutual respect; our pupils are valued as individuals and this encourages a positive and happy atmosphere. This is a philosophy that we hope that our children carry with them into the wider community.

It is our core principle that learning should be meaningful and relevant to the child. As such we offer our pupils the chance to enjoy many educational visits and to participate in inspiring workshops, themed days and weeks, such as: Healthy Living Week, Science Week, World Book Day and No Pens Day.

We believe greatly in celebrating the achievements of our pupils, and we ensure that all children have opportunities to enjoy success. We take pleasure in the chance to share these successes with parents, carers and friends during celebration assemblies and through our famous Ferrars productions!

At Ferrars, we have an enthusiastic and dedicated team of staff who are committed to raising the already high standards in teaching and learning, across the school. We believe that in order to do this it is necessary for a school to work in close partnership with families and with the wider community.

We are fortunate to have a very dedicated Family Support Team. They run a number of interesting courses and support groups based on parents and pupil needs. They are always on hand with a listening ear, and a cup of tea!

At Ferrars we do not overlook the importance of helping children to develop positive social skills. We aim to provide opportunities for co-operative work and play throughout the school day as well as during our extra-curricular clubs. We run a diverse range of clubs throughout the academic year, including: art, ICT, gardening, music, drama, cookery and a variety of sports clubs; so there really is something for everyone!

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is a group of people from the local community who want to support our school and help us provide a good education for the children entrusted to our care. Governors have responsibility for policy, finance and school standards.

The full Governing Body meet once every half term to look in detail at the development and management of the Academy.

Complaints

Obviously we hope that issues can be resolved by speaking directly to your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team however in the unlikely event of you feeling unsatisfied with the Academy you are entitled to make a formal complaint.

This formal complaint needs to be made in writing to the Chair of the Governing Body. Personal details are not given out however the school office will forward any correspondence to the Chair.



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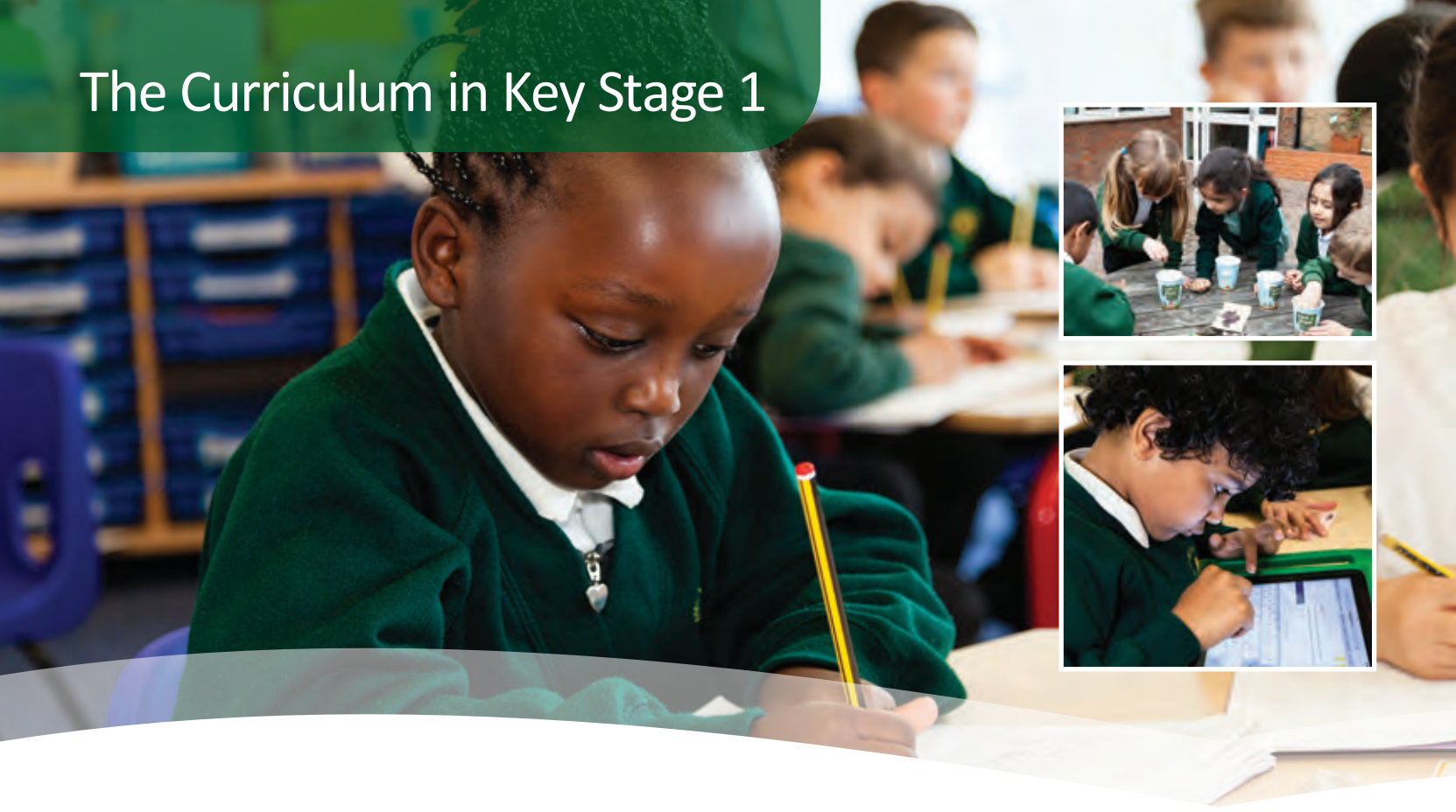
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English

Children have a very broad and balanced English curriculum. We believe the ability to read is essential in order to access all other knowledge. Opportunities are provided to promote the development of speaking and listening. Across the school children receive daily phonic sessions and literacy lessons. We also focus weekly on specific elements relating to Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Activities to promote creative writing opportunities are incorporated into the curriculum on a regular basis. We also believe many of our enrichment sessions support the development of literacy across the school such as theatre trips, drama workshops and puppet shows.

Mathematics

We encourage our pupils to enjoy mathematics by providing them with opportunities for investigation and challenge. Our pupils explore the areas of number, shape and space and data handling and where possible this is linked to other curriculum subjects. They also learn to work with units of measure such as time, length and weight. We have designed the curriculum in order for the children to apply their skills in 'real life' contexts such as spending money at the local shops and cooking. We encourage independent and active learning to enable your children to develop their thinking skills.

Computing

We are fortunate to have been able to invest significantly in technology equipment and are able to deliver a high quality computing curriculum. Children also use technology to enhance their learning across the curriculum.

Science

The science curriculum focuses closely on investigation skills. Science activities and lessons are structured using a range of equipment safely. Children are encouraged to work on tasks consecutively to develop the skills of observing, investigating, questioning, reasoning, hypothesising, discussing and recording.

Physical Education

Each class has weekly timetabled slots to deliver the PE curriculum. In addition to this each class in Key Stage 1 also experiences weekly additional curriculum sport led by a sports coach. We incorporate various 'taster days' throughout the year to enable pupils to experience more unusual sports such as martial arts, trampolining, fencing and skateboarding. We pride ourselves on the quality of our PE provision and participate in a wide range of inter school competitions including gymnastics, athletics, football and street dance.

Thematic teaching

All foundation subjects are taught through themes. Each theme is launched by a 'Wow Day'. Such days offer experiences and help to engage the children in the new topic and their learning. The children frequently visit places such as museums, farms, forests and many more. Alternatively a drama company or artist may visit school to help introduce the theme. The learning concludes with a 'Fantastic Finish'. Parents are often invited to participate in these sessions and get to share in the learning journey their child has made.

Nursery Provision

Your child can be admitted to our nursery once they are three years old. We offer both the 15 hour (morning or afternoon sessions) and some 30 hour (all day sessions of free funded Government places). The nursery is managed by an experienced and enthusiastic team of staff consisting of qualified teachers, qualified nursery practitioners and assistants. Your child will be supported by all staff but will be allocated a key worker who will support and teach them in small groups. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors with a range of fun activities being planned to enrich and expand your child's learning, whilst taking account of their personal interests.

Reception Unit

On leaving nursery many children are admitted into our Reception unit. This unit is located within the main Academy building.

The children are divided into three separate classes and are again supported by a team of qualified teachers, qualified early years practitioners and assistants.

Early Years Environment

Both the Nursery and Reception Unit offer large spaces which support whole class, small group and individual activities. Both areas are colourful and stimulating inviting curiosity and independent learning. In addition to the well resourced indoor learning spaces, we have fantastic outdoor environments. The children have access to paved areas, astro turf and real grass.



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Ensuring enjoyment and achievement

Healthy schools

We aim to ensure that children are encouraged to lead healthy lifestyles.

- Children receive free milk until their fifth birthday under the Government's free milk initiative. We also purchase this for Key Stage 1.
- Children in Reception and KSI receive free fruit as a part of the Government free fruit scheme. This is also provided to Nursery pupils.
- Children's lunchboxes are monitored and advice given to parents where required.
- Children are encouraged to bring water bottles into school and are allowed to freely drink water throughout the day.
- School meals are provided by Luton Borough Council catering service. All children in school are entitled to a free school meal, which we encourage.
- Various healthy eating workshops are run during the year for parents.
- Once a week on a Friday we hold Breakfast stop. This session allows families to come and enjoy breakfast together. These sessions help reinforce the importance of starting the day with a proper meal and encourage our children to try different foods.
- Healthy lifestyles are promoted through the curriculum and a range of workshops looking at diet, exercise and routines for hygiene.

The academy promotes a healthy living policy.

Special Educational Needs

We believe that all children should have access to a broad and well balanced curriculum in order to reach their potential. The Academy also recognises the importance of working with parents and as such will regularly inform them of any concerns regarding their child. When appropriate, advice and support will be sought from external advisors such as Learning support, Educational Psychologists, Visual/Hearing Impairment Services, Behaviour Support and Speech and Occupational Therapists.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is taken very seriously at The Ferrars Academy. Rigorous procedures are in place to ensure your child is safe and comfortable. Their welfare is our primary concern. The designated child protection officer is the Principal. All staff are kept up to date with current procedures and practice.

There may be rare occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you but rest assured our concern is always for the best interests of your child.

Attendance and Punctuality

We ask that families telephone or send in a message giving reasons for absence as soon as possible on the first day of absence.

We also ask that children arrive on time each morning as it can unsettle our young children when they miss the initial input of the day. Similarly we expect children to be collected promptly at the end of the day as being left at school can also be distressing.

Extra Curriculum

As an academy we see enormous value in providing extra curricular activities. We run a wide variety of afterschool clubs including gardening, craft, French, karate and cooking. We also run activities at the weekend and evenings for pupils and the wider school community. Such events include the summer fete, movie night and ice skating.

School Council

The Ferrars Academy has a thriving school council. Representatives from each class are voted onto the school council by their peers. The School Council meet and work on agreed projects of interest. They regularly meet with the Senior Leadership Team and have made changes to the children's toilets, lunchtime meals and wet playtimes to name a few.

Digital Leaders

Our academy selects children who excel in ICT to become digital leaders. They support work across the year groups and hold drop in sessions for pupils, staff and parents to develop their skills. They also help to promote e safety across the school.

Eco-warriors

As part of our efforts to become increasingly sustainable we also have a team of eco warriors. These children have termly projects to work on, including monitoring waste in school, and recycling.

Learning Leaders

Our high achieving children are identified by staff for their strengths across the curriculum and participate in 'Learning Leaders'. They undertake a range of enrichment projects that broaden and enhance the children's skills / knowledge in different areas of the curriculum.

Online Safety Ambassadors

Children in Years 1 and 2 who show an interest in computing form a committee who are responsible for discussing issues regarding Online Safety and implement the impact of Online Safety initiatives.



Sport Premium

The Sports Premium has enabled our children to have access to a range of exciting sports. Many workshops take place including karate, dance and cricket. Year 2 children have also been fortunate to have swimming sessions.

Pupil Premium

As you may be aware the Government now provides additional funding for those children who are eligible for free school meals. This funding is allocated to individual schools and is referred to as 'The Pupil Premium'. This money is used to support teaching and learning and can support pupils in reaching their full potential and their improved attainment.

At The Ferrars Academy we use the Pupil Premium funding in the following ways:

- to run specific intervention groups
- to purchase resources
- to contribute towards additional staffing
- to provide enrichment activities
- small group work
- adult learning
- outdoor learning
- nurture strategies



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Working with Families

Our Family Support Team

We feel it is incredibly important to involve the entire family in helping to develop the whole child. We are very fortunate to have a very capable and approachable Family Support Team.

Our Family Support Team works with families in a range of ways. We offer a series of timetabled weekly activities including Stay and Play, Family Fun Workshops, Make and Take and Helping Hands. The team provides support for families having difficulties; they also run a range of parent groups and family learning sessions. They are always available on a 'drop-in' basis, or appointments can be made to fit in around your schedule.

Our website offers more detail on each of these sessions.

Support / Signposting

Our Family Support Team staff are available to offer a friendly ear when needed and on hand to give advice on issues affecting the family. This could be concerns such as eating issues, behaviour at home, structuring bedtimes or could be more serious issues concerning household budgeting or finance, substance abuse or domestic violence. Staff are able to signpost families to appropriate support groups and other agencies.

Activities during the school day

We provide a range of sessions during the week to help build links between home and school. Twice a week we run incredibly popular Stay and Play sessions for under threes.

Out of school activities

We hold a variety of after school sessions for parents and children such as seasonal craft workshops, bowling trips, family picnics and games clubs. In addition, we also organise Family Day trips at the weekend; places we have visited include London, Brighton, Great Yarmouth as well as wildlife parks and theme parks.



Thank you for taking time to read our school prospectus.

We hope this has given you a flavour of what The Ferrars Academy can offer your child and their needs. We look forward to working with you.



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If there is anything else you would like to know, please ask!





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