



**ARK Rose
Primary Academy**

Prospectus





THE ARK SCHOOLS NETWORK

ARK Rose Primary Academy is part of ARK Schools.

ARK Schools is an education charity which runs a network of 27 high-achieving, non-selective schools in Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. ARK schools give children from all backgrounds an exceptional education and real choices about their future.

Each ARK school has its own distinctive character but they all share the same goal: to make sure every pupil does well enough to go to university or pursue the career of their choice. From the moment your child joins our school, we focus on laying the foundations for their future success.

WELCOME to ARK Rose Primary Academy

I am delighted to introduce you to ARK Rose Primary Academy, a two-form entry, mixed, non-denominational primary school for local children in Kings Norton and neighbouring areas.

We became an ARK academy in 2012. By joining ARK Schools, we became part of a network of schools that is characterised by its exceptionally high expectations for every child. We aim to provide an excellent education that lays the foundations for your child to be successful in primary and secondary school so that, at 18, they have the choice of going on to university or pursuing a rewarding career.

Like other ARK schools, we put English and mathematics at the heart of our primary curriculum and provide outstanding teaching and support. This way, we help every child to do as well as they possibly can.

ARK Rose is a happy, friendly school where children love to learn. We value good behaviour and courtesy, and we work closely with families to help them to help their children do well.

I hope this prospectus shows what ARK Rose can offer your child. I very much look forward to meeting you.

Penelope Webb

Headteacher





OUR VALUES

Our ambition is that every child at ARK Rose Primary Academy has a rich, rewarding and happy primary experience, learning the skills that will enable them to be successful in secondary school and beyond. We will do this by living our values in everything we do. Our values are:

Mutual respect

We honour each other's views, interests and backgrounds. We respect the authority of adults and we nurture and develop the needs and interests of all our children.

Personal discipline

ARK Rose Primary Academy sets high standards for behaviour as well as study. Teachers expect good work and excellent behaviour. Pupils, in turn, can expect inspirational teaching every day.

Commitment to do whatever it takes to excel

Like other ARK schools, we believe that all children can achieve great things. Our staff and pupils never give up, and never give anything less than their best.

THE SIX PILLARS

Like other ARK schools, we use the Six Pillars: an approach to teaching and learning that helps us to give our pupils an outstanding, life-changing education.

High expectations

We're explicit about our high expectations for every child from day one. With the right support and teaching, every child is capable of going on to university or a rewarding career. We show children what they can achieve and foster high aspirations through trips, visits and inspiring lessons.

Excellent teaching

We want every lesson to be stimulating and rewarding for every child. We work hard to recruit, train and support exceptional teachers.

Exemplary behaviour

We are a warm, happy, inclusive school. We treat each other with courtesy and respect. We praise and reward behaviour, effort and achievement.

Depth before breadth

A secure foundation in English and mathematics is essential for the whole curriculum. We aim to ensure that every child is proficient and confident in these subjects as early as possible.

More time for learning

Our school day is from 8.50am to 3.15pm. That gives us time to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil. Children can enjoy our breakfast club from 8am and others stay for after school clubs and activities.

Knowing every child

Good relationships reinforce a culture of excellent behaviour and commitment to learning. We want to know our pupils and their families well so that every child has the support they need to make excellent progress.

Our happy, diverse school community welcomes and values children from every background.





OUR CURRICULUM

Our primary curriculum is designed to prepare children for secondary school and for the national curriculum tests in English and mathematics at Key Stages 1 and 2. By catering to children's different strengths, abilities and interests, we aim to make sure that every child achieves their full potential.

English

We focus on speaking and listening, reading and writing using the *Read Write Inc.* programme. This is based on "synthetic phonics", which teaches children how combinations of letters make the different sounds in English, how to blend these to make words and how to decode words. Children have daily English and phonics lessons from reception onwards and lots of opportunities to read with an adult. We also provide parents with links to useful materials, so they can help children at home.

Mathematics

All ARK schools specialise in mathematics. Children have daily maths lessons, using the ARK Schools *Mathematics Mastery* programme. This builds essential knowledge and skills using objects and pictures, so that children can better understand concepts as well as numbers and symbols. Children master the subject rather than simply repeating routines. The programme reflects the curriculum of the world's highest performing countries for mathematics and has been highly praised by Ofsted.

Children also take part in maths investigations, workshops, activities and events during the year.

When pupils have strong foundations in English and maths, they can excel in other subjects too.



The primary curriculum is divided into three phases – **Foundation Stage** (nursery and reception), **Key Stage 1** (years 1 and 2) and **Key Stage 2** (years 3–6).

The Foundation Stage

Reception gives children the foundation for future learning. Children develop skills such as listening, speaking, concentrating, persistence and working with others. We plan learning and development around the needs and interests of each child, and we assess and review these regularly. There are three “prime” and four “specific” areas of learning in the national curriculum.

Prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Children have two literacy lessons – phonics and English – plus guided reading and two mathematics lessons each day. Children also learn science, personal, social and health education, art, music and PE. Children achieve many early learning goals through first-hand experience and structured play and develop their styles of learning through *playing and exploring*, *active learning* and *creating and thinking critically*. Learning in our outdoor space is also part of the Foundation Stage.

Assessment and progress

In the autumn term, we conduct a baseline assessment for each child. This establishes their starting point in their learning and development, and informs future planning. We record children’s experiences and attainment and assess their development and learning needs throughout the year and share this with parents.





Key Stages 1 and 2

The core curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2 comprises:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

Children also study these foundation subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Design Technology (DT)
- Computing
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)
- Religious Education (RE)



The core curriculum

English

In Key Stages 1 and 2, children continue with lessons in literacy, phonics and guided reading. In Key Stage 2 they have two literacy lessons (English grammar and spelling, and guided reading) each day.

- **Speaking and listening:** Pupils learn how to express themselves and listen to the opinions of others. Drama techniques provide opportunities for children to express themselves in different situations.
- **Reading:** We want every child to enjoy reading for pleasure and to find out information. Children read every day and are encouraged to become independent readers as they move through school.
- **Writing:** We aim to ensure that every child can write appropriately for a variety of situations. Handwriting is taught alongside spelling and phonics initially and as a distinct lesson in Key Stage 1, with a clear progression each year.

In year 1 all children do the **national phonics screening test**.

Mathematics

Children follow the **Mathematics Mastery** programme through both key stages, learning through practical and written activities to develop numerical skills and problem solving ability. We teach in three areas of study:

- **Using and applying maths**
- **Number and algebra**
- **Shape, space and measures**

Science

Science stimulates and excites children's curiosity about the world around them, linking practical experience with ideas. Children undertake experiments and investigations through which they acquire and develop scientific knowledge, skills and understanding through a series of topics.

Foundation subjects

We teach history, geography, design and technology, personal, social and health education, music, art and drama through a creative and themed approach as well as in distinct lessons.

Modern foreign languages

Children are introduced to languages in year 1 and take formal language lessons in French or Spanish from year 2 onwards.

Music

Children take part in a song-based curriculum beginning in reception, broadening to include instrumental learning during Key Stage 2. Children can also take part in the annual ARK Schools music gala.



Physical education and healthy living

Our pupils have regular PE lessons and active play is encouraged every day. Children learn athletics, dance, team and individual sports and competitive performance. Achievement is keenly celebrated and the ARK Schools primary sports day is an annual highlight. Children have swimming lessons from year 1.

Personal, social, health and citizenship education

PSHCE helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Children learn to articulate their feelings and the causes of their emotions and to develop coping strategies for certain feelings. They learn to set themselves goals and to make good choices about their health and well-being.

Religious education

We provide non-denominational Religious Education for all children including learning about the different religions observed by their classmates. In assembly we emphasise how our values relate to our school community and the world around us. Assemblies are non-denominational and we commemorate the major festivals observed by our pupils.



MAKING SURE EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS

ARK Rose Primary Academy is an inclusive school, committed to the success of every pupil. In the foundation stage we screen every child for language and communication abilities and needs. We also screen for dyslexia in year 1. Throughout school we keep careful track of pupils as individuals, regularly reassess each child's learning progress and review individual targets. If children have difficulty we intervene quickly and provide relevant support.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The academy follows the Government's "Revised Code of Practice" to identify, assess and support pupils with special educational needs. We provide tailored support through Individual Education Plans. Support may be given in a class, a small group or through withdrawal classes by a skilled team of teachers and learning support assistants.

Pupils who speak English as an Additional Language

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

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

A HAPPY, HEALTHY SCHOOL

ARK Rose Primary Academy is a safe, caring school where pupils are happy in each other's company.

Parents are our most important partners and we aim to know our pupils' parents and families well. Each family discusses and signs our home school agreement as we each commit to help every pupil get the best out of life at school.

Lunch and nutrition

Our pupils enjoy a healthy, freshly-cooked lunch from our on-site kitchen each day and healthy snacks at break times. We offer vegetarian and halal choices. Sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks and "fast foods" are not permitted in school.

Attendance and punctuality

Children are expected to attend school on time every day as missing school seriously disrupts learning. If a child is unwell we ask parents inform the school immediately – we will provide the child with support and catch-up material when they return.

Home learning

Homework extends pupils' independence and self-discipline. Primary pupils have regular reading and maths practice to do at home.

Uniform

We are proud of our smart school uniform which demonstrates our commitment to the school community. We encourage adults and children to be aware and proud of their appearance and presentation at school.





ADMISSIONS

ARK Rose Primary Academy is a non-selective, mixed, non-denominational primary school. We admit up to 40 reception pupils each year in two forms of entry. Applications must be made on Birmingham City Council's Common Application Form. You can find full details of how to apply on the council's primary admissions pages on its website (www.birmingham.gov.uk/) or you can apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk.

When we admit pupils, we prioritise children with statements of special educational needs. Then, if our academy is oversubscribed, we offer places to children in the following order of priority:

- “Looked after” or previously looked after children.
- Children of staff at the academy, where the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage as approved by ARK Schools. (Limited to one place in each form of entry in any year.)
- Children who, at the time of the admission, have a sibling, resident at the same address, who attends the academy.
- Children of staff at the academy where the parent has been employed in the academy for two or more years at the time the application is made. (Limited to one place in each form of entry in any year.)
- Children who live closest to the academy by straight line distance from their home to the main entrance.

The academy will keep a waiting list which is used to fill casual vacancies occurring if students leave during the year or withdraw from a place that has been offered.



CONTACT DETAILS:

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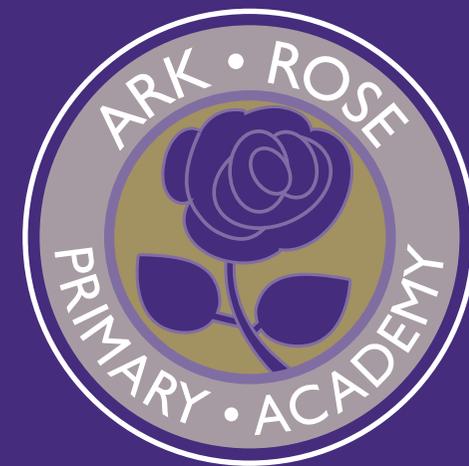
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Details correct at February 2014



AN **ark** SCHOOL