



Larkfields Infant School Prospectus

East Midlands Education Trust



Welcome



This prospectus alongside a visit to our school aims to give you a comprehensive view of what your child will experience as a pupil in our care.

All the staff at Larkfields Infant School are experts in early education and as such we provide a truly unique educational experience for our children. We create a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment underpinned by positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Our curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that our children are ready for the next stage of their education as they move up to our linked Junior School. We ensure that children have positive attitudes towards their learning.

We aim to develop strong partnerships with all of our parents to ensure that every child succeeds.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Nichola Irwin, Head Teacher

'The cornerstone of this successful school is the relationships between staff and pupils.'

Ofsted 2017

'Pupils have a real sense of self belonging at this welcoming infant school. They say it feels 'like one big family.'

Ofsted 2023

What do our current parents say about our school?

PARENT VOICE

It's homely. I love the warmth from the staff.

Sports Days, Open Days, Trips (Matlock Farm Park)

I love that the school loves books. My child loves reading and this is something that school excels at...

The friendly vibes

I have two children and both experiences have been positive...

Staff are attentive. They take the time to get to know children as individuals.

Wrap around care at The Nest

It has a community feel

School have helped me as a parent (have gone out of their way) Not many schools would do this kind of thing...



WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT LARKFIELDS

Our Vision Statement

'At Larkfields Infant School we pride ourselves on creating a warm and welcoming environment where everyone belongs and thrives. We recognise that all children are unique, and we provide high quality and meaningful education to ensure every child has the opportunity to success and fulfil their potential.'

Our School Values

- Helping every child to thrive in a secure and caring atmosphere where standards of behaviour, social conduct and academic achievement are paramount
- Building upon and developing individuals' strengths and talents through a love of learning inspired by quality teaching
- Equipping each child with the skills and the positive disposition they need for lifelong learning through an effective curriculum
- Developing confident learners, who take responsibility for their own learning and are proud of their achievements
- Providing an inclusive environment that is healthy, caring and safe and promotes a healthy and active lifestyle
- Teaching the importance of moral values and providing the foundation for lifelong friendships
- Working in close partnership with the community to develop citizens who will lead happy and rewarding lives in an ever-changing modern Britain

School Hours

- Start of school 8.45am
- Key Stage 1 Playtime 10.15am-10.30am
- Lunchtime 12.00pm - 1.10pm
- End of School 3.30pm

Class organisation and Size

Each year group is divided into 2 classes of 30

- Reception - Robins & Puffins
- Year 1 - Woodpeckers & Kingfishers
- Year 2 - Swifts & Goldfinches
- Infant class sizes are not allowed to exceed 30 by law.

Starting School

Children will start their Larkfield's journey in the year that they turn five years old. This is known as the Foundation Stage and continues on from your child's nursery experience. Staff work closely with all our local nurseries to ensure the smoothest transition into school for your child and this process begins in April. Nursery and Pre School visits start in May followed by a programme of visits to the school for our new children to meet their teachers and new friends. The children can also experience some of the routines and familiarise themselves with their classroom. There are also opportunities during these visits for parents to meet each other and the staff. Parents are invited to an information evening and will receive a comprehensive pack of information about the school. Within these packs our children will also receive their starting school booklets. Our aim is to ensure that you and your child feel part of our school community before September.



In September we invite all families to meet with their class teacher in order for us to better understand you, your family and your child. We see this as an integral part of building relationships with you to help us to meet the needs of your child in a strong collaborative partnership.

The children start school in September on a week and half phased introduction. During the first few days of the school year your child will be part time. This allows us to double up staff and increase the adult to child ratio so that every child has a positive school experience. It also ensures that the children are not overwhelmed by the 60 children that start each year. In the second week the children will stay for lunch and go home at 1.30pm

If your child starts school part way through the year, we encourage families to visit our school. You will be given our starter pack with all the information you need. We will also invite you into school a few weeks after your child has started with the aim of getting to know you, your family and your child. The school council feel that it is important that children starting school part way through the year feel a sense of belonging quickly and therefore they have created a document instructing teaching staff and their peers on what to do in the first week that your child starts school to ensure they feel safe and have friends.



Curriculum

At Larkfields Infant School we have carefully constructed our curriculum to meet the needs of all children. We believe in providing a broad and balanced curriculum where children's talents and interests can be explored and developed. Our learning environments have been designed to allow children to access learning independently through playful and first-hand experiences which are appropriate for their age and development.

Our curriculum was designed to meet the requirements of the national curriculum, the needs of our children and our school values. Our curriculum enables children to develop rich knowledge and key skills across a broad range of subjects. It is evidence based and full of memorable experiences.

The holistic nature of our curriculum promotes the social and emotional aspects of development alongside the skills and mindset necessary for our children to grow into lifelong learner.

The 'Larkfields ABC's' drives the intention of our curriculum.

A- Achievement

B- Belonging

C- Confidence



Belonging

Achievement

Confidence

**S
T
A
R**

STAR Values

Nurture, Wellbeing and Mental Health

Relationships

Personal Development

PSHE and SRE

Progression documents

Knowledge and skills curriculum

Assessment

Interventions

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Inclusion

Language and Communication

Successful transitions

Behaviour

Safeguarding

Online Safety

Teaching and Learning Philosophy

SAFE—TEAM PLAYER—ACTIVE LEARNER—RESPECTFUL

Early Years



Our Early Years Curriculum is designed to ensure that children have the necessary skills and knowledge when they enter Year One. These are taught through direct instruction, teacher modelling and playful experiences. We believe children learn best through autonomy of their own play led learning and we therefore ensure that our classroom environment allows children to explore, create, interact and critically think.

The adults in our Early Years setting follow our children's lead and are highly experienced at helping to scaffold and model children's learning in a collaborative approach. Adults will observe children closely to determine next steps in learning and areas of strength.

Key Stage 1

In years one and two we base our teaching and learning around the National Curriculum expectations with a strong emphasis on our school values of achievement, belonging and confidence. Maths and English knowledge and skills are taught discreetly but are applied through many of the other subjects we teach.

Our foundation subjects are taught through a topic based approach where links are explicitly taught. Teachers design their lessons to support the development of skills and vocabulary alongside knowledge. We continue to use the principles of the Early Years and promote independence and critical thinking through playful experiences and authentic outcomes.



Our Outdoor Environment

We are very fortunate to share a large green space with our linked Junior School. This includes a small coppice of woodland, two large football fields, a nature area and a large allotment. All children have access to the outdoors as we believe this is an important aspect of mental wellbeing.

Teachers use our outdoor space to help enhance lessons and our Early Years children have the freedom to use the outdoors throughout the school day. We grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables which we sell to our school community at a very low cost to help support healthy living.



Inclusion

We are a community infant school with a family atmosphere and relationships at our heart. We foster a culture of inclusion and strive to ensure that all stakeholders feel a sense of belonging to our Larkfields family. We recognise the individuality and diversity of all people and work hard to ensure all our children can achieve their full potential. We are aware of the importance of transitions especially for very young children and provide tailored support around the transition into school, between year groups and on to the junior school, to meet the needs of all our children. We offer an evidenced based curriculum which is knowledge and experience rich. We adapt our ambitious, carefully sequenced curriculum through Quality First Teaching to meet the needs of all learners. Our staff follow a comprehensive programme of continuous professional development and have a wealth of experience. Staff understand the importance of making reasonable adjustments to enable all children to access the curriculum and to achieve.

Keeping Children Safe

Keeping your child safe is one of our prime responsibilities. This includes protecting them from abuse, online harm and bullying. We have robust procedures in place to keep children safe. In line with legislation, staff, governors, volunteers and contractors are checked for their suitability to work with or be near to children.

Race Equality

We respect the values of the linguistic and religious diversities which exist within our community. We are committed to challenging attitudes that promote racial discrimination ensuring respect for all.



School Uniform

Our school uniform is gold and bottle green.

Our school uniform is a :-

- Bottle green jumper or cardigan
- Gold polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- Grey socks
- Bottle green or grey tights
- Black shoes

In the summer a green/white or yellow/white summer dress can be worn

PE kits

- Black shorts with no pockets
- White round necked t-shirt
- Black plimsols

Uniform can be ordered from our online supplier Just SchoolWear - www.Just-SchoolWear.co.uk

or purchased at major retailers, please ensure the colour is correct when purchasing externally.

Bookbags can be purchased from the school office.

We have a supply of second hand uniform available for as little as £1. Please ask in the school office, if you wish to purchase any of these items.

School Meals

All children in infant education are provided with a free school meal. We prepare delicious hot meals on site in our newly refurbished kitchen, in addition we also provide cold lunches with a choice of sandwich filling. Your child will bring home an order form covering dates of the half term. This form will need to be filled in by circling which days you would like your child to have a hot meal or sandwich option and returned to school.

The latest menu can be found on the school app in 'documents'. Children can bring their own packed lunch. This needs to be placed in a named lunchbox, they do not require a drink, as water is provided. We ask that your child's packed lunch is healthy and does not contain treats every day. In addition, we are a nut free school and we do not allow chocolate bars.

Lunchtimes are supervised by our experienced Midday Supervisors. Each class has their own named supervisor who forms relationships with the children and gets to know them. In the dining hall they will encourage your child to try new foods and support them using a knife and fork. Outside they teach children how to play traditional games and are experienced at fostering new friendships and encouraging play.



The Nest (breakfast & after school club)

The Nest is our onsite before and after school club. The club operates from 7.30am until the start of school and 3.30pm until 6pm at night. Children are offered a healthy breakfast option which ranges from a choice of cereals, toast, fruit, yoghurt and a fruit juice drink. An afternoon snack is provided at the end of the school day which changes each day but can be anything from a sandwich, a pizza bagel, wraps or fish fingers. We offer a variety of fun activities both in the morning and after school for the children.

After School Clubs

We offer a range of after school clubs that are led by both outside providers and teaching staff. There are a number of sports activities, dance, story club, yoga and nature club.

