West Didsbury CE Primary School



Belonging
Believing
Becoming









The dynamic leadership of the Executive Head teacher and Assistant Head along with the collective commitment of staff, governors, parents, carers and pupils, has created a school that parents describe as ' something special'.

OFSTED report Summer 2018

Welcome to our brand new school

Encouraging independent learning is key to helping little minds become big thinkers and we view it as a privilege to help pupils reach their true potential.

St James & Emmanuel Academy Trust

Didsbury CE Primary School | West Didsbury CE Primary School | St Wilfrid's CE Primary School

West Didsbury CE Primary is part of the established St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust, alongside Didsbury CE Primary School and St Wilfrid's CE Primary School and we work collaboratively to provide pupils with an outstanding education, high quality teaching and a warm and inclusive learning environment.

We are at the heart of a close-knit community, which includes our amazing pupils, parents who really get involved, dedicated and experienced staff and St James and Emmanuel churches.

We opened our doors in 2015 and we're currently growing with each Reception intake. We have big ambitions for our little school and all of our pupils, and will have every year group filled by 2021.

As you would expect from a small school, we know all of our pupils by name and their academic, creative and spiritual development is at the heart of all we do. Whilst our modern curriculum forms the backbone of learning, we know the importance of friendly faces and a helping hand. Our children are guided, supported, nurtured and challenged to reach their full potential.

Building our brand new school has allowed us to work with architects to plan exactly the sort of environment in which children can learn without limits. As well as light and spacious classrooms that are perfect for stimulating learning, we've created a new creative design studio and exciting outdoor learning spaces.

Encouraging independent learning is key to helping little minds become big thinkers and we view it as a privilege to help pupils reach their true potential.

Come on board!

Hannah Large, *Head of School*
Matt Whitehead, *Executive Head*

Ethos and aims

To grow a diverse and creative educational community, where we encourage *belonging*, nurture *believing*; together *becoming* responsible members of God's world.

Based on Mark 4:30-32

The staff make the parents and children feel so welcome.

Reception parent 2015

Belonging

- To each other in mutual support, respect and trust
- To the community of Didsbury, committed to playing an active role in providing outstanding local primary schooling
- To the Diocese of Manchester, as part of a family of 191 distinctive Church of England schools
- To the world in which we live, caring for the whole creation regardless of race, religion or background

Believing

- In our gifts and abilities, as each child is unique and valuable
- In our potential, as each child will be challenged and nurtured
- In our Christian faith, as each child will be guided by our church ethos and values

Becoming

- Responsible and productive – a force for good in society
- Engaged and pro-active – ready to change and challenge the world around us
- Aware of our vocation, with a growing sense of purpose and preference
- Well-rounded and self-aware, through an holistic and broad-based education





Little minds, big thinkers!

From little acorns grow mighty oaks and our role is to spark interest, ignite a lifelong love of learning and foster an environment in which children feel comfortable to ask all kinds of questions.

Our Early Years curriculum focuses on exploration, experiment and investigation within a safe environment where children can question, acquire new skills and knowledge and gain a sound understanding of the world around them.

Our rich and balanced curriculum introduces our youngest children to personal, social, emotional and physical development, communication and language through literacy, mathematics and expressive art and design. Going at their individual pace ensures that they gain the most from their learning so that they are ready to tackle the next steps on their education journey.

We believe in an enriched curriculum so much of the learning goes on outside in our fantastic outdoor space with giant constructions, dens, messy maths, music and so much more. We believe in high quality first teaching and enabling environments in which children can take risks and become effective learners. We therefore have a good adult child ratio to enable great learning to happen.

> *The help, support and teaching is first class in our opinion.*
>
> Year 1 parent summer 2018

Growing together

We work hard to deliver academic, spiritual and creative development within the curriculum and support children to apply their knowledge in different subjects and situations.

Working in small groups, children benefit from peer-to-peer learning under the watchful eye of their class teacher. Groups are organised in both mixed ability and similar ability depending on the learning objectives for a given session. Pupils are also given the opportunity to take part in independent learning.

At the heart of children's learning here is the mastering of new skills and applying new knowledge in a safe environment. Children are encouraged to develop their love of learning by working at their own pace. Our staff are trained to spot those with capacity for greater depth learning and those who may need extra support and to provide the guidance that they require.



Developing and using new skills

KEY STAGE 1 (YEARS 1 & 2)

Our experienced teaching staff develop learning challenges and activities that stretch pupils – whatever their ability - and encourage them to reach the highest standards.

In Year 1 and 2, children build on their learning from Reception and develop deeper understanding and skills in reading, writing, phonics, spelling, punctuation, grammar and maths. We follow the national curriculum for all areas of learning within literacy and numeracy. This is enriched, complemented, and entwined with a wider curriculum of humanities, digital learning, physical development and creativity.

"I am so proud to be a governor in this wonderful school where every member of staff works as a team … living out the fabulous ethos and values of our school.

Governor summer 2018



A deeper love of learning

KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3 – 6)

Key Stage 2 pupils follow the National Curriculum with learning centred on a deeper knowledge and understanding of core subjects. These include: English, maths, science, design and technology, history, geography, art and design, music, computing, modern foreign languages, religious education (RE), personal, social and health education (PSHE) and physical education (PE), including swimming.



FOREST SCHOOL

In our Forest School area our children extend their learning within the context of the natural world. Through a programme of discovery, they learn to take risks, work collaboratively and develop new skills. Our forest school fosters confidence, independence and creative thinking.

The care and support my son has received this year and the incredible progress he has made in the year is amazing.

Year 2 parent summer 2018

Beyond the curriculum

For children interested in taking part in after school activities we have a wide variety of choices from drama, singing, art, street dance, sports clubs and even Zumba!

Children benefit from a fully staffed Breakfast and After school club, allowing them time to relax before and after school and giving busy parents an extra hour or so.

We're also proud that our pupils and parents understand the importance of charity and as a school we partner with local, national and international charities including No Barriers, Children in Need and Sport Relief.

Behaviour

Our positive expectations are based around the school 'SMILER' system...

- Speak politely to everyone
- Move sensibly and quietly around the school
- Instructions should be carried out first time
- Look after other people's property carefully
- Everybody should be treated with care and kindness
- Remember to be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment

...and the class golden rules:

- Be kind and gentle
- Listen carefully
- Look after our things
- Always do your best
- Follow instructions first time





Staff work hard to develop excellent relationships with pupils.

Reception parent summer 2016

Caring for your child

We take very seriously our responsibility for the all round development of each and every child, and have robust systems in place to ensure their development needs are met whatever they might be.

SAFEGUARDING

We have strived to create a safe learning environment for all of our pupils and staff so everyone at our school feels safe, valued and confident that they will be listened to if they have any concerns.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe whilst accessing the Internet. Children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response. If you would like to know more about our policy or procedures for Safeguarding, please speak to our designated Safeguarding Leads. Details can be found in the school office or on the school website.

In recognising our responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection, as a school we:

- have clear staff recruitment and selection procedures, ensuring that all staff (including volunteers) who have unsupervised access to children, have been appropriately checked for their suitability through the DBS procedure;
- aim to raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe;
- develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse;
- support children who have been abused in accordance with his/her Child Protection Plan;
- establish a safe and nurturing environment free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

CATERING FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN

We believe that every child is unique and special, and we are committed to developing cultures, policies and practices that are inclusive. We have systems to identify when children have barriers affecting their learning and tailor specific interventions to enable pupils to overcome their barriers. This practice of personalising learning applies to all pupils across the learning spectrum, including pupils who are identified as academically more able.

Where children are identified as needing additional learning or behavioural support, the school adheres to the 2014 SEND Code of Practice. Each child's needs are individually and appropriately catered for and relevant outside agencies are involved in providing guidance and support.

If a child is identified as requiring additional help, we identify and put into place strategies to support their learning and development, which are discussed with parents. Our robust systems of identification and support ensure that pupils notice a positive impact on their progress.



Our school community

As a faith school our links with the church are strong and form the basis of our pastoral teaching and learning.

This includes religious education within the curriculum, collective worship, strong links with the St James and Emmanuel churches in Didsbury and regular community contact with parishioners.

Our community links are strengthened further by our active PTA and our supportive parents and carers. Our PTA is involved in organising many school events including coffee mornings, discos and family fun days.

As a school that wishes to grow, we rely on our strong Board of Governors to challenge senior leaders and staff to maximise learning for children.

> *'The school benefits from a very strong community spirit, and I am delighted that this is benefitting my child.'*

Year 1 parent summer 2018

Admissions

Pupils are admitted to reception in the September of the academic year in which they turn five.

West Didsbury CE Primary School is a two-form entry primary school with 60 Reception places available each year. As a Church of England School we admit up to 30 ‘faith applicants’: children of the Christian faith who regularly attend a Christian Church, which is part of ‘Churches together in England.’ Priority will be given to children who worship at St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury; Christchurch, West Didsbury; St Christopher’s, Withington or St Nicholas’, Burnage. This will be established by a church leader’s reference.

At least 30 places will be available for children who live in the community and their admission will be based on geographical criteria rather than on their faith.

In both criteria, children with a statement of special educational needs naming West Didsbury CE Primary School, or looked after children, will be admitted first.

Applications for a place at our school should be made in the January before you wish your child to start at West Didsbury CE Primary School.

TO APPLY FOR A PLACE YOU NEED TO DO TWO THINGS:

1. Apply directly to the school using the admissions form that you can download from our website. Don’t forget to fill in the additional faith leader’s form if applying for a place based on faith.

2. Remember to also apply online through Manchester City Council’s primary school admissions process. Please contact the council directly if you have not received details of this process.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

If you would like to enrol your child at another age group please apply online through Manchester City Council’s primary school admissions process, or ideally ring us to make an appointment to take a look round.



I just want to say how wonderful I think this school is. My son is having such a good time and there is a lovely buzz and atmosphere’.

Reception parent 2015

West Didsbury CE Primary School



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