



Meir Heath Academy

Principal: Mrs M Southern

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Dear Parents,

Choosing your child's primary school is one of the most important decisions that you will make as a parent. As a mum myself, I completely understand how significant this is and would therefore like to help you to gain a 'feel' of our school in order to support your decision making.

We call ourselves The Meir Heath Family. Once you join, you never want to leave. Many parents were students here themselves and wouldn't choose any other school for their child. Many of our teachers started as Newly Qualified Teachers and have never left - some teaching here for over 20+ years. I joined as the deputy headteacher 13 years ago and stepped up to the Principal Role 6 years ago following the retirement of the previous headteacher – I frequently share with the children and staff how lucky I am to have such wonderful staff and children – they make each day the perfect job for me! We are a truly happy and dedicated team.

We are unique – our Ofsted inspector (October 2019) as she concluded her visit said to me, 'I am not sure what it is here at Meir Heath, but there is something magical in the air.' Our Values are 'Happy, Hardworking and Caring' and this clearly shines through to all who visit. Personally, I would say that it is the love, care and passion that the whole team shares that gives us that magic.

I feel here at Meir Heath that we have the perfect recipe for an outstanding education. Our curriculum is ambitious and engaging, but at the same time delivered to maintain high academic standards and this can be seen by the results that we achieve. We have specialist teachers for PE, Spanish and music – both are real assets to our team, thus providing many opportunities to engage in community and after school events and clubs. We have an extremely busy sporting and musical calendar and this has led to the award of the Sports Platinum Award, as well as the Silver Music Mark.

Throughout the academic year we plan many parental involvement events where we invite parents into school, to work alongside their child/children. These events include creative sessions, go outdoor sessions, special person lunches (EYFS-KS1 parents) and Bee Active workshops. As well as this we also invite parents in to see nativities, plays and class assemblies. The feedback we receive from our parents about these events are always very positive and the children thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to share their learning with them.

Our Early Years Team is outstanding and collectively has a wealth of experience. Mrs Fisher (EYFS leader and Assistant Principal) was a former pupil at Meir Heath and has been a part of our teaching team for 16 years. She has the biggest heart I know and strives to deliver the school values in everything that she does. The team oozes warmth and are an epitome of the essential qualities early years practitioners should hold.

We are proud to be part of a Multi Academy Trust, and this within itself brings extensive benefits. We chose to join this Trust in 2017 as their focus is solely to provide excellence within primary education – their values mirror ours www.sbrmat.org/core-values. With 21 academy members ranging from Cheshire, Stoke and Staffordshire, there is a wealth of experience and many opportunities for networking. We have a dedicated central leadership who regularly visit and offer suitable support and challenge. The Trust has a teaching alliance and over the last 11 years has trained hundreds of graduate teachers. Within this alliance we have designated training and development officers who provide an outstanding continuing professional development package for our teaching staff – this unquestionably adds to our day-to-day excellence of teaching and learning.

We are also members of the Partners in Excellence for the Blythe Bridge Cluster of primary schools, working closely with Blythe Bridge High school. This too brings many benefits particularly collaboration, transition and sporting opportunities.

In 2021, we started the exciting journey to becoming an 'Apple School'. This means that all of our children from Y1 upwards are now taught using 1 to 1 iPads, and our teachers undergo regular, ongoing and up to date training from Apple Education Consultants – a huge change and investment for our school, but one which has transformed our learning and pupil engagement. The children love having their own iPad – this is not to say that we don't still use pen and paper, as we will not lose sight of the importance of the basic skills.



In order to allow you to share your tour of our school with other family members, I have created a film so you can see the vibrant learning environments that we prepare for the children. Please scan the QR code.



You will see from the curriculum section of our website www.meirheathacademy.org that our topics are changed on a half termly basis for EYFS to Y6. In EYFS to keep activities fresh, the indoor and outdoor provision within the classroom is changed weekly and is linked directly to the children's interests and the Development Matters curriculum. This is to ensure that we offer new and engaging opportunities. The children love seeing their environments transformed into their new topic theme. A favourite topic of mine is the 'Supertato' topic – the excitement on the children's faces when the characters from the book come to visit their classroom is wonderful to see!



As a Meir Heath Academy family member, you will be able to follow us on our Facebook page. More information will follow once your child joins in September 24.

We have also attached an '**admissions to primary school help sheet**' that can be found on our school website under 'how to apply for a place at Meir Heath Academy'. With sitting on the border of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, we find that this is particularly useful to help you to decipher which authority you need to apply to. If you have any further queries that we can assist you with or would like further guidance on how to apply online then please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs M Southern

Proud Principal of Meir Heath Academy



Proud members of The St Bart's Academy Trust