



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 totally 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 12 years ago and stepped up to the Principal Role five 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 a specialist PE, Spanish and a specialist music teacher – both 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 Gold Award three years running, as well as the Silver Music Mark.

Our maths leader is a specialist maths mastery teacher for the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. She engaged in a Department for Education exchange in 2020 and this resulted in us hosting two Shanghai Showcase lessons for over 200 teachers from across the county to observe and gain further teaching skills. She will continue to support 48 other schools within our MAT and across Staffordshire, as well as expertly leading our team when delivering maths mastery.

Our Early Years Team is outstanding and collectively has a wealth of experience. Mrs Podmore (EYFS leader), who has taught for 28 years in reception, has the biggest heart I know. 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 <http://sbmat.org/about/vision>. With 19 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 6 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.

Last academic year, 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

https://youtu.be/xEOscGmK_ns

My main priority this term is to keep our Meir Heath Family safe during these uncertain times. We would like to welcome you and your child to see our amazing school environment in person, so please help us to keep our school family safe by taking a lateral flow before you come for the visit. In the meantime please enjoy watching the film together.

You will see from the curriculum section of our website www.meirheathacademy.org that our topics are changed on a half termly basis for Y1 to Y6 and on a two to three week cycle for EYFS, and so too does their classroom environment. 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 'Proud Potters' topic – we really do have our own role play oatcake shop!



As prospective Meir Heath Academy family members, you will be able to follow us on Twitter @MHeathAcademy even though for added security we run this is a closed page for the public. This will give you a real flavour of our Meir Heath Magic.



We also have our own You Tube page, so feel free to have a nosey at that too – we have videos on there that we shared with our children so that they could see their classrooms and new teachers before they returned to school in September. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpP8PMpcCnU_qssep2dvJg

We have also attached an '**admissions to primary school help sheet**'. With sitting on the border of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, we find that this is particularly for 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

