

Briscoe Primary School & Nursery



Prospectus



Felmores End, Pitsea, Basildon. SS13 1PN

T: 01268 727751
W: www.briscoe-pri.essex.sch.uk
E: briscoe.admin@heartsacademy.uk



HEARTS ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome to Briscoe Primary School & Nursery

We are very pleased to welcome you to Briscoe Primary School & Nursery – a school where children come first. Our school provides a happy, caring and safe learning environment for all within a moral-led context where children and adults feel valued and grow in confidence and independence.



Our school is governed by the HEARTS Academy Trust, a group of four Essex schools that share expertise to raise the attainment of all pupils within those schools and beyond. With links to the Trust our children are given lots of opportunities to achieve the highest possible standard of work.



Our school philosophy and ethos can be summed up by the word **HEARTS**

- H** Happiness
- E** Esteem
- A** Achievement
- R** Respect and Responsibility
- T** Truth
- S** Service and Spirituality

HEARTS Trust is committed to providing a happy, caring and safe learning environment for all within a values led context, where everyone feels valued and grows in confidence and independence.

We promote **happiness** through a creative, exciting and practical curriculum, which generates a love of, and interest in, learning, resilience and hope which supports us through challenging times.

Great value is placed on pupils' self **esteem** which is developed through a positive and motivated attitude to learning, a healthy lifestyle, good social skills, self-discipline and a positive self-image.

We promote the highest standards of **achievement** in all areas of the curriculum and help all pupils to fulfil their potential regardless of gender, race or ability.

We foster **respect** and **responsibility** for all by establishing good relations between the school, home and community. Pupils are taught respect for themselves, others and the environment. They are also taught to take full responsibility for their own choices and responsibility for themselves and their community.

We encourage **truth** and honesty in all aspects of school life – relationships, work and the curriculum and learn to trust and accept others' individuality and uniqueness.

We develop **spirituality and service** so that calm, reflective times which support deep thought are part of school life and beauty is appreciated. We promote a service culture that reflects our duty to support and show compassion to all members of the community and not just ourselves.

Our aims are to:

- Develop children's physical, intellectual, creative, emotional and social skills
- Build children's confidence and encourage their independence
- Establish good home/school relationships
- Provide a happy and stimulating learning environment
- Build on existing skills and experiences, ensuring progression and continuity in children's learning
- Offer a broad and balanced curriculum through a variety of teaching approaches
- Meet the needs of individual children
- Provide a calm, happy, safe and stimulating environment to facilitate the transition to school life
- Provide access to adults who will stimulate, challenge, extend and motivate them creatively and with sensitivity
- Encourage positive attitudes towards learning
- Develop communication skills
- Acquire knowledge, skills and concepts from direct, practical experience and sensory exploration
- Experience success, achievement and a sense of self worth
- Develop children's ability to work and play harmoniously together

Our objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for children to develop their fine and gross motor skills
- Provide a secure environment where the children can develop a positive self-image, learn to co-operate and share with others
- Provide a stimulating and well organised classroom
- Provide opportunities for the children to develop good relationships with peers, teachers and other adults in school
- Provide activities which enable the children to work towards independence
- Provide opportunities for children to succeed and to increase in confidence
- Provide tasks which reinforce and extend previous experiences
- Continually assess children's progress and use this information in future planning
- Select appropriate teaching methods by considering the needs of the child and the type of activity
- Offer children a wide range of experiences, some being linked to specific topics
- Encourage children to be aware of the needs of others, to be kind and thoughtful, to develop good manners and to behave appropriately in all situations
- Encourage an awareness of the need for a good standard of personal hygiene
- Provide an environment where parents feel welcome and encouraged to play an active role in their child's education

Our Curriculum

The school runs a House system which encourages community loyalty, improved circles of friendship and responsibility. House events include sports, quizzes and a house point system which is celebrated weekly.



This sense of community develops pride, respect and care. The curriculum is based on the key mission statement of happiness, building self-esteem and confidence, achievement being celebrated across a range of curriculum areas, respect and responsibility, truth in relationships and behaviour, and spirituality and a reflective attitude to everything, including our mistakes and errors. This expectation of self-reliance and high achievement across a range of areas and not simply basic skills supports the development of high self confidence in all pupils and thus a relentless approach to improvement by all.



The curriculum is based on exciting themes, visits and expert visitors with a strand of questioning and thinking running through all learning. The full range of primary subjects are taught and includes Spanish, global education, formal general knowledge lessons

which develop vocabulary and knowledge of key themes in the humanities. Additionally we teach specific topics which prepare vocabulary for new topics.

English



Reading is taught carefully and systematically to all children so that they develop the skills they will need to read with fluency and understanding. There is a well-established and growing collection of poetry, fiction and non-fiction books which have been carefully selected and interlinked to give the maximum amount of help and enjoyment.

Children are encouraged to take books home to read to their parents, forming a vital link between home and school.

Writing – children are encouraged to write freely and creatively, and are taught to spell and punctuate. They are encouraged to discuss ideas and communicate clearly with others through speech, drama and writing.

Maths

A large part of mathematical work involves practical activities. Number work is regarded as important and is linked with work in measurement, shape, data handling and graphical representation.



ICT



The children are encouraged from the earliest opportunity to gain hands on experience to encourage familiarity and confidence. Computers are used for graphics, collation of data and desk top publishing. The children are able to develop their own writing by refining and redrafting, often producing copies of work which can be used for display, or made into books.

Pupils have access to ICT through wireless technology in the form of laptops and i-pads.

History and Geography

Children are encouraged to develop skills in these subjects through a cross curricular approach. Children cover broad areas of experience and the development of study skills, independence and co-operation is encouraged. Children's natural curiosity is stimulated, they are encouraged to think critically and develop a methodical approach to solving problems.

Art



Children are encouraged to look at things carefully and develop an awareness of colour, pattern and shape. They have access to a wide range of materials including paints, pastels and crayons. They explore a variety of techniques such as printing, collage and sketching, and examine the works of famous artists.

Physical Education

PE encourages and stimulates healthy growth and development. The hall is well equipped with large apparatus which the children use regularly, as well as a variety of small apparatus.

Through the PE curriculum, children are given the opportunity to develop skills, which lay the foundation for sporting activities e.g. running, jumping, ball skills and group/team and competitive activities.

Music

Children have opportunities to listen to and enjoy music, to take part in singing, compose their own music, and to play a variety of instruments. They may make their own instruments and use instruments from all over the world.



The Arts

We place great emphasis on development in the arts. Children are given opportunities in class, in special weeks through clubs and visiting specialists to develop skills in the arts.



We currently employ a specialist dance/drama teacher for one day a week, who takes all children on rotation and works on a variety of dance and drama skills.

Religious Education

There is a school RE policy and scheme of work which is based on the agreed Essex County Council syllabus for RE. RE is for the most part taught through reflective Holy space sessions.

It is our aim to provide children with a religious education based principally on Christian beliefs and values and to encourage them to understand and respect the beliefs of others. We are aware that some pupils, parents and staff may hold deep beliefs, while others hold none at all. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or some RE lessons if they wish to do so and requests should be made in writing in the first instance.

Collective Worship

This usually takes place as part of the morning assembly, which is a shared experience. It includes Bible and other religious stories, moral issues and awareness of other faiths. The children listen to music, sing hymns and say prayers. There is a time for reflection. Parents and Carers are invited to regular sharing assemblies.

Choosing your School

Our school provides pre-school (The Orchard) and nursery education for children from the age of two. Whilst not compulsory pre-school education is often a great benefit to children. Attendance at our nursery does not guarantee admission to the school. Parents and Carers of children who are attending our nursery must apply for a place at the school if they want their child to attend the Reception class. The application will be considered against the published admission criteria for the school.



There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admission area. In the event of oversubscription, places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

1. Looked after Children and previously looked after children
2. Children with a sibling attending the school
3. Children living in the priority admission area
4. Remaining applications

School places from September 2017 will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

1. Looked-after children and previously looked-after children
2. Children with a sibling attending the school
3. Children currently attending the school's pre-school (Orchard) or Nursery, who are in receipt of the early years pupil premium
4. Other children who are in receipt of the early years pupil premium/pupil premium
5. Children living the priority admission area
6. Remaining applications

In the event of oversubscription within any of the given criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority.

Exceptional medical circumstances (supported by medical evidence) may override the above criteria (other than looked after children). Please visit our website for our full admissions policy.



Our People

Our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Debbie Rogan, is a proven National Leader in Education committed to enhancing and enriching the lives of children, staff, parents and carers at Briscoe Primary School & Nursery by transforming the learning opportunities and encouraging children to 'aim high'.

We cannot overstate the value which we place on warm and regular contact with our parents, both for the education and care of individual children, and for our school as a whole. Every staff member at Briscoe is dedicated to helping each child realise his or her full potential. Our staff act as mentors for the pupils and relationships are developed that help pupils grow into intelligent, informed and responsible learners.

We offer a good staff pupil ratio in classes across the school and all of our team are committed to providing the very best for your child.



Governance

The HEARTS Academy Trust has four Trustee Members who oversee Trustee appointments. There are six Directors, drawn from the industry, education and community; Directors make strategic decisions about the HEARTS Academy Trust that facilitate improvements and growth across the Trust. Each school has a Local Governing Body that meets every half term.

School Uniform

At Briscoe all children wear the full school uniform:

- It helps us feel proud of belonging to Briscoe Primary School and Nursery
- It reminds children that they are coming to school ready and prepared to work
- It leaves expensive leisure clothes for after school and the weekend

Grey trousers, pinafore dress or skirt
Sky blue shirt or polo shirt
Navy blue sweatshirt or fleece (with logo) or plain navy jumper/cardigan
Blue gingham dress or grey shorts in the summer

- Children are required to wear black shoes (no boots)
- For the safety of children no earrings or other jewellery will be permitted **under any circumstances**
- All uniform must be clearly marked with your child's name

PE

All pupils take part in PE lessons. Children will need a white t-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls in a drawstring bag.



The School Day

School starts at 8.50 am (children are not allowed to go into their classrooms before this time) and we offer a breakfast club that opens from 8.00 am.

School starts	8.50 am
Break for KS1	11.00 am – 11.15 am
Break for KS2	11.15 am – 11.30 am
Lunch for Reception	12.15 pm – 1.15 pm
Lunch for KS1/KS2	12.30 pm – 1.30 pm
End of school for Reception/KS1	3.10 pm
End of school for KS2	3.15 pm

Extra-curricular Activities



The school prides itself on its fantastic range of out of school hour opportunities. We offer a wide and varied timetable of before school, after school and lunchtime clubs. All age groups are able to take part in sports, academic or cultural clubs on a termly basis. Clubs include drama, yoga, ballet, football amongst many others.

Inclusion

Our school is an inclusive school and does its best to support all of our children including those with learning, medical or behavioural difficulties and those children who are gifted or talented. We have policies in place to identify children who may require extra support or have additional needs.

Details of the school's Inclusion Policy and the local offer are on Briscoe's website at www.briscoe-pri.essex.sch.uk.

Community

The school is at the heart of the local community and we encourage the children to appreciate their surroundings, to make a positive contribution and become positive citizens. Our early years pupils enjoy visiting Poplar House for elderly residents and the local park, learning more about the area and the valuable people within it.

We encourage parents, local residents and other community members to come into the school to share their skills, knowledge and talents with the children. Recent visits have included the fire service, police officers and a nurse.

To increase the children's understanding of the world around them, the school has a partnership with the Mukangu Primary School in Kenya. This means that the children can learn about a completely different culture and way of life and provides huge learning opportunities.

House System

We have four houses and every child becomes a member of a house when they join our school. The houses are named after four inspirational athletes.



Ellie Simmonds
Mo Farrah
Steve Redgrave
Jessica Ennis-Hill

We hold regular house meetings giving children the chance to mix with fellow house members across the school. Children earn house points in school and each week the winners are announced in assembly.

Children also compete within their houses at the annual school sports day.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We value parental input with regard to their children's welfare and education. To ensure that the relationship between home and school remains strong, we have the following communications throughout the school year:

- Autumn Term** Consultation evening to discuss how your child has settled into school and their goals for the year.
- Spring Term** Consultation evening to discuss your child's progress.
- Summer Term** Open afternoon for you to visit your child's classroom and look at the work they've done throughout the year.

Parents/Carers will also receive a termly written report.



Assessments

At Briscoe we recognise that talking to children about their work and ideas and marking their books provides one of the most effective means of assessing children's progress. We also involve parents and carers in reviewing our policy every 2 years. We set challenges with children so that they have high expectations. The termly written report includes targets for each child.

Homework

Homework provides an opportunity for the children to develop an independent approach to learning. We give all of our children homework as a means of supporting their learning in school.

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable on a day-to-day basis. The most appropriate homework for young children is practical and fun. Teachers are, however, delighted to see things that pupils have completed at home. They monitor pupils' completion of homework through reading records and spelling assessments. The key criteria for assessing the effectiveness of the policy is to what extent the policy is contributing to the progress pupils make at school and their attitude to their learning.



We believe in the strength of working in partnership with parents and carers. We want you to praise your child's efforts and value them, enjoy extending your child's learning and support and encourage them whenever possible.

The school will feedback to parents by showing work completed by your child at home in assembly, teachers commenting on your child's work including stickers and showing their work to other staff and children and by awards, certificates and thank you notes.

Homework must not be a chore or a source of conflict between parents and children. The children have a long and very busy day at school and it is important that parents are aware of this.

Absence from School

We expect all children to have at least 96% attendance. The government considers attendance below 90% to be poor and this affects progress in school.

We realise that children will be ill, from time to time. Please keep the school informed of any illness or medical appointments that prevent them from attending school. The school office is open from 8.30 am but messages can be left on the answerphone at any time.

It is very important that children arrive for school on time and suitably equipped for school. School starts at 8.50 am. When children are late they take longer to settle into lessons and disrupt the learning of other children. We monitor the punctuality of all children. Any child arriving after 9.20 am will be coded as being absent for the whole morning.

At Briscoe we celebrate excellent attendance with a range of individual and class incentives. We believe that every child has the right to attend school and achieve their potential.

We are not permitted by law to authorise any holiday leave. You may apply to the school for leave of absence if you believe there are exceptional circumstances (eg a funeral). If the absence is not authorised and a holiday is taken, the case will be referred to the Education Welfare Service who may issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 day) to each parent for each child taken out of school.





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